DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES Office of the Secretary

Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20201

Request No. 2018-00042-C-OS
***Equity Forward v. HHS*, Civil No. 18-0241 (D.D.C.)**

August 31, 2018

Mary Alice Carter
Equity Forward

Dear Ms. Carter:

This letter is a first interim response to your December 11, 2017, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request submitted to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Administration for Children and Families (ACF).

Specifically, you requested access to and copies of certain correspondence involving the following officials and employees within HHS:

- Scott Lloyd
- Maggie Wynne
- Jonathan White
- Curi Kim
- Judith Haron
- Anna Marie Bena
- Scott Logan
- Tricia Swartz (Associate Deputy, ORR)
- Jallyn Sualog (Director of Children Services)
- James De La Cruz (Houston Field Supervisor)
- Dr. David Teuscher (Region 6 Director)

Specifically, we request access to and copies of all correspondence sent by, sent to, or carbon-copying ("CC") any of these individuals during the months of March, May, September or October 2017, which includes any of the following keywords or phrases:

- "pregnancy"
- "pregnant"
- "ORR director"
- "abortion"
- "ru-486"
- "CPC"
- "ultrasound"
- "rape"
- "nonconsensual"
- "Gestational"
- "judicial bypass"
- "life affirming"
- "unborn child"

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• "spiritual counseling"
• "options counseling"
• "WTF"
• "Terminating"
• "terminate"
• "termination"
• "Pregnancy notification"
• "Pregnancy notivations"
• "Scott is"
• "Scott said"
• "from Scott"

Your request was forwarded to this office to conduct a search for records from custodians Maggie Wynne, Judith Haron and Dr. David Teuscher.

For this first interim response, the HHS Office of the Secretary has processed 796 pages of potentially responsive records captured in the agency's search of Judith Haron's records and 155 pages of potentially responsive records captured in the agency's search of Maggie Wynne's records. After a careful review of these pages, I have determined to release 75 pages to you in their entirety, and I am further releasing 44 pages in part, with portions redacted, pursuant to Exemptions (b)(5) and/or (b)(6) of the FOIA (5 U.S.C. §§ 552(b)(5) and/or (b)(6)). I have also determined to withhold 698 pages in their entirety, pursuant to Exemption (b)(5) of the FOIA (5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5)). Additionally, I determined that seven (7) pages were non-responsive to your request. Finally, I have determined that 121 pages should be sent for consultation to other government agencies to review their equities and return to this office for final response to you.

Lastly, I have determined to refer two (2) pages to the Department of Justice, one (1) page to the Department of State, and three (3) pages to ACF for those offices to respond directly to you. Contact information for those offices is provided below:

Chief, Initial Request Staff
Office of Information Policy
Department of Justice
Suite 11050
1425 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530-0001
Phone: (202) 514-FOIA

U. S. Department of State
Office of Information Programs and Services
A/GIS/IPS/RL
SA-2, Suite 8100
Washington, D. C. 20522-0208
Phone: 202-261-8484

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Administration for Children and Families
FOIA Office
330 C Street, SW, 4th Floor
Washington, DC 20201
Phone Number: 1-888-747-1861
Email Address: FOIA@acf.hhs.gov

FOIA exemption (b)(5) protects inter-agency or intra-agency memoranda or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency. This exemption protects documents that would be covered by any privilege an agency could assert in a civil proceeding. These privileges include, among others, the deliberative process privilege, the attorney-client privilege, and the attorney work-product privilege.

FOIA exemption (b)(6) permits a Federal agency to withhold information and records about individuals in "personnel and medical files and similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." The definition of "similar files" has historically been broadly interpreted to include a wide variety of files, and the United States Supreme Court has held that Congress intended the term "similar files" to be interpreted broadly, rather than narrowly. I have analyzed these records and find they meet the threshold requirement of this exemption. Additionally, I have reviewed and weighed the public interest in disclosure of this information against the privacy interest in nondisclosure, and found that the privacy interest outweighs the public's interest in disclosure.

We will continue to review the remaining records as efficiently and expeditiously as possible, consistent with our available resources and the Order of the Court. Should you have questions or concerns regarding the Department's response and\or the processing of your request, any such issues should be communicated to your legal counsel and Department of Justice Attorney representing the Department in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Michael S. Marquis
Director
Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts Division

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Willoughby, Michelle (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 3:50 PM
To: Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); McGuffee, Tyler Ann (HHS/ASL); Morse, Sara (HHS/ASL); Whitley, Edward (HHS/ASL); Kemper, Laura (HHS/ASL); Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Aramanda, Alec (OS/ASL); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Duncan, Constance (HHS/ASFR); Smith-Simpson, Jacqlyn (HHS/ASFR); East, Janet (HHS/OASH); Stallion, Vivian (HHS/OS); Atkinson, Leslie (HRSA); Sealy, Camille (HRSA); ASAIO Staff; Barcus, Lea (PSC/OD); Earles, Vertrice (HHS/ASA) (CTR); Chletsos, Lori (PSC/OD) (CTR); Becton, Reginal (OS/ASA/OHR/SPD); Major, Christine (HHS/ASA); Murphy, Julie (OS/ASA); Higgins, Lauren (NIH/OD) [E]; Tatem, Anne (NIH/OD) [E]; Vo, Thuy (NIH/OD) [E]; Ginieczki, Boyce (AHRQ/IOD); Perry, Wendy (AHRQ/OC); Craig, Nina (IHS/HQ); Hodson, Corbrett (IHS/HQ); Tracy, June (IHS/HQ); Davis, Ms. Cynthia (ACF); Logan, Scott (ACF); Sulton, Jae (ACF); Adams, Claudia (HHS/OS); Brockett, Sharon (HHS/OCR); Householder, Donna (HHS/OS); Lawson, Heather (HHS/OCR); Morgan, Sherri (OS/OCR); Leavelle, Cannon (OS/ONC); Stauffer, Rachel (OS/ONC); Brady, Kevin (CMS/OL); Talbert, Ada L. (CMS/OL); Wikelius, Kristin (CMS/OL); Altman, Brian (SAMHSA); Lampasone, Kara (SAMHSA); Rice, Peggie (HHS/ASFR); Slothouber, Doug (SAMHSA); Klingbeil, Martin (CDC/OD/CDCWO); Schattner, Aimee (CDC/OD/CDCWO); FDA incoming control box; Broehm, Jason E. (CDC/OD/CDCWO); Rogers, Barbara A. (CDC/OD/CDCWO); ASPEClearances (OS/ASPE); Mason, James (HHS/IEA)
Cc: Friedman, Richard (HHS/OGC); Malliou, Ekaterini (OS/IOS); Davis, Jeffrey (HHS/OGC); Nelson, Thayer (HHS/OGC); Blackwell, Edith (HHS/OGC); Johnson, Linda (OS/OGC); Hayes, Sean (HHS/ASL); Bird, Catherine (OS/OGC); Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC); Stimson, Brian (HHS/OGC); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); Cleary, Kelly (HHS/OGC); Johnson-Webb, Mechelle D (IHS/HQ); Slacter, Ann R (IHS/HQ); Vanderwagen, Luke (IHS/HQ); Fisher, Barbara (HHS/OGC); Barry, Daniel J (HHS/OGC); OS GCGL, EMAIL (HHS/OS); Huff, Bonita (HHS/OGC); Schuham, Aaron (HHS/OGC); Wiggins, Audrey (HHS/OGC); Haron, Judith (HHS/OGC); Jeffries, Elizabeth (HHS/OGC); Terry, Minnie (HHS/OGC); Benor, David E.(HHS/OGC); Naimon, David (HHS/OGC); OGC PH and S BRANCH CONTROLS; Kocher, Paula L. (CDC/OCOO/OGC); OGC CDC Branch Controls (CDC); PHD NIH Branch Controlled Correspondence (NIH/OD); OIGClearances@oig.hhs.gov
Subject: Reply by 10AM, 10/19:VA Test:HVAC Health Bills
Attachments: H.R. 1133.pdf; H.R. 2123.pdf; VA Legislative Proposal - Veteran Coordinated Access and Rewarding Exper....docx; DRAFT, to establish a permanent Veterans Choice Program.pdf; DRAFT, to modify VA's authority to enter into agreements with State Home....pdf; VA- CARE Legis- HVAC- 102417- DRAFT.DOCX

TO:	L(H)	L(HS)
	ASFR	OCR
	ASH	ONC
	IOS/OS	CMS
	HRSA	SAMHSA
	ASA/PSC-OHR	CDC
	NIH	FDA
	AHRQ	ATSDR
	IHS	ASPE

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

ACF IEA

FROM: Office of the General Counsel/Legislation Division

SUBJECT: VA Testimony on HVAC Health Bills

(NOTE: Attached for your review, please find VA draft testimony (15 pp.) for an October 24th hearing, before the House Veterans Affairs Committee, regarding VA health care, and five specific bills pending before the Committee:

* H.R. 1133 – Veterans Transplant Coverage Act, would allow VA to performance a live donor transplant produce for an eligible veteran recipient even when the donor is not eligible for VA care. Position: Supports, subject to additional resources.

* H.R. 2123 – Veterans E-Health and Telemedicine Support Act would, among other things, permit licensed health care professionals to practice in any jurisdiction if they are practicing via telemedicine. Position: Supports.

* H.R. ____ - the Administration's recently transmitted Veterans CARE Act. Position: Strongly Supports.

* H.R. ____ - Committee draft bill to replace the Choice Act. Position: VA appreciates that Committee's attention to this subject, and notes a number of important similarities and differences in relation to the Administration's proposal.

* H.R. ____ - Committee draft bill regarding Agreements with State Homes, Graduate Medical Education Expansion, and Other Matters. Position: VA notes similarities with the Administration's CARE Act. Where the provisions are identical, VA supports. Where the provisions differ, VA states a preference for the Administration's verbiage.

NOTE: The testimony includes previously cleared text as noted in the margins. For your convenience, new material is shown in yellow highlighting.)

The Office of Management and Budget has asked for the Department's views on this testimony.

In order that we may respond promptly to this request, please give your comments as soon as possible but no later than **10:00 A.M., THUSDAY, OCTOBER 19** to **both (1) RICHARD FRIEDMAN** of this Division **and (2)** cc: our general e-mailbox (email.gcl@hhs.gov) (Microsoft Outlook users, select: OS GCL, EMAIL from the Global Address List).

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To ensure that the Department's comments are given full consideration, please observe the following guidelines in providing your office's comments:

- Are there provisions of this bill that would conflict with Department or Administration policy, and how?
- Are there provisions that would pose difficulties for the operation or management of HHS programs, and how?
- Are there any other significant issues that you can identify?
- If you recommend specific changes, supply reasons and explanations, if the reasons are not obvious.

If you have any questions, call the GCL staff attorney named above, at 202-690-7766, or our Legislative Reference Service, at 202-690-7750.

Attachments

cc: OIG
GC/IO
GC/CMS
GC/GLD
GC/CR
GC/CFA
GC/PH
GCL (Nelson)
IOS/OS

Michelle Lawrence Willoughby
Office of the General Counsel/Legislation Division
Legislative Reference Service
202.690.7750 fax 202.690.7309
Michelle.Willoughby@hhs.gov

This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED and/or PRIVILEGED, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Twomey, Joyce (OS/OGC)
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 1:38 PM
To: Keith, Robert (HHS/OGC)
Cc: Haron, Judith (HHS/OGC); Jeffries, Elizabeth (HHS/OGC)
Subject: CFAD - FY2017 Q4 Certification Report Run
Attachments: CFAD Super Report Office Summary FY2017 Q4 Reports 20171016.pdf; CFAD Super Report FY 2017 Q4 20171016.pdf

Hello Bob,

Attached please find the FY2017 Q4 certification reports for your office.

Please send your certification to me by October 27.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

Thanks,
Joyce

Joyce Twomey
(202) 260-6160 (office)
(202) 969-3821 (office)
(b)(6) (mobile)

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: O'Rourke, Megan E. (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Wednesday, October 04, 2017 10:39 AM
To: Fuma, Julia (HHS/OGC); Haron, Judith (HHS/OGC); Mestre, Lisette (HHS/OGC); Polich, Jeffrey (HHS/OGC); Tossell, Elizabeth (HHS/OGC); Woolford, Llewellyn (HHS/OGC); DeSarbo, Lynne (OGC/CFAD); Williams, Jennifer H. (OS/OGC); Kozak, Maryalice (HHS/OGC); Park, Rachel H. (HHS/OGC); O'Grady, Noreen (HHS/OGC); Shear, Erin (HHS/OGC); Napier, Carol (HHS/OGC); Bradfield, Christine A. (HHS/OGC); Morgan, Deborah (HHS/OGC); Lee, Chung-Han (HHS/OGC); Mallin, Harry B. (HHS/OGC); Cannick, Wanda (OS/OGC); Butler, Randall (OS/OGC); Licht, Althea (HHS/OGC); Brander, Steve (HHS/OGC); Rozendale, Dirk (HHS/OGC); Stewart, Patrick (OS/OGC); Johnson, Femi M (HHS/OGC); Berlet, Robert (OS/OGC); Keller, Steven (HHS/OGC); Maxwell, Christopher (HHS/OGC); Cordova, Margaret (HHS/OGC); Keller, Steven (HHS/OGC); Dorn, Alan S. (HHS/OGC)
Cc: OS - OGC Regional Counsels; Keith, Robert (HHS/OGC); Terry, Minnie (HHS/OGC); Jeffries, Elizabeth (HHS/OGC); Davis, Jeffrey (HHS/OGC); O'Rourke, Megan E. (HHS/OGC)
Subject: UPDATE: 2017 OGC-ACF Practice Group Meeting - Oct. 11 & 12 Austin, TX
Attachments: Agenda for 2017 OGC ACF Practice Group Training (final).pdf; Bus100.pdf

Greetings –

Our conference in Austin is quickly approaching, so here are some final details. The final agenda is attached. The conference venue is the **Trinity Room** at the Hilton Garden Inn, downtown located at 500 N Interstate 35, Austin, Texas, 78701. Please take the time to read through this entire email and let me know if you have any questions.

TRANSPORTATION

- As always, please try to share cabs or ubers/lyfts from the airport when possible, or if your flight schedule allows there is a bus route that will take you from the airport and stops about 0.3 miles from the Hilton Garden Inn and costs $1.25 one way. The schedule is attached (from https://www.capmetro.org/). The closest bus stop is #2 on the map (4th and Trinity) and the Hilton Garden Inn is shown on the inset on p.1.

BREAKFAST and COFFEE

- There is complimentary coffee available at the Hilton Garden Inn in the morning in both the lobby and the 18th Over Austin Restaurant and Lounge. The hotel serves breakfast on the 18th floor for $13.95.
- Mid-day there is a Starbucks machine in the pantry along with other drinks, snacks, sandwiches, etc. Also for people staying in guestrooms there is a Keurig in each room.
- For people who may want to leave the hotel and walk around a little Easy Tiger Bakery and Beer Garden is adjacent to the Waller Creek Boardwalk just steps away.

WEDNESDAY MORNING

- The joint session with the AAHHSA conference starts at 8:30am at the Omni Hotel in downtown Austin, 700 San Jacinto Blvd, Austin, TX 78701. You do not need to be registered for the AAHHSA conference to attend this session. The session will be in the *__Austin Room__*
- Please allow *at least* 15 minutes to walk from the Hilton Garden Inn to the Omni Hotel.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

- You likely won't have your folders/printed agendas until we return to the Hilton Garden Inn for our 10:30 session, so please make a note of the times and location or print a copy of the agenda and this email to bring along.

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- There will be an optional happy hour on Wednesday at the Easy Tiger Beer Garden adjacent to the hotel. Additionally, we plan to reserve a table or two at Coopers Pit BBQ for dinner on Wednesday for those that want to join. And if they haven't flown south yet, we may try to incorporate some bat viewing at the Congress Avenue bridge.
- Please let Jeff Polich know if you think you'd be interested in BBQ for dinner so he can get a rough estimate on numbers. Jeffrey.Polich@hhs.gov

CONFERENCE MATERIALS

- You will have folders with the agenda and a limited amount of printed material. All other materials have been uploaded to the S drive in the folder titled "ACF-OGC conference materials"

MISCELANEOUS

- Dress code is business casual. At this point the weather forecast is calling for highs for 78 and lows of 57.

See you next week in Austin!

Megan E. O'Rourke
Attorney
Children, Families, and Aging Division

Office of the General Counsel
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 Independence Ave, SW, Washington, DC 20201
(Tel) 202.205.4627 (Fax) 202.690.7320
megan.orourke@hhs.gov

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From: O'Rourke, Megan E. (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:39 PM
To: Fuma, Julia (HHS/OGC); Haron, Judith (HHS/OGC); Mestre, Lisette (HHS/OGC); Polich, Jeffrey (HHS/OGC); Scott, Marie (HHS/OGC); Tossell, Elizabeth (HHS/OGC); Woolford, Llewellyn (HHS/OGC); DeSarbo, Lynne (OGC/CFAD); Williams, Jennifer H. (OS/OGC); Kozak, Maryalice (HHS/OGC); Park, Rachel H. (HHS/OGC); O'Grady, Noreen (HHS/OGC); Howell, Diane C. (HHS/OGC); Shear, Erin (HHS/OGC); Napier, Carol (HHS/OGC); Bradfield, Christine A. (HHS/OGC); Morgan, Deborah (HHS/OGC); Lee, Chung-Han (HHS/OGC); Mallin, Harry B. (HHS/OGC); Cannick, Wanda (OS/OGC); Butler, Randall (OS/OGC); Licht, Althea (HHS/OGC); Brander, Steve (HHS/OGC); FudgeBernal, Tangla L. (HHS/OGC); Rozendale, Dirk (HHS/OGC); Stewart, Patrick (OS/OGC); Johnson, Femi M (HHS/OGC); Berlet, Robert (OS/OGC); Keller, Steven (HHS/OGC); Maxwell, Christopher (HHS/OGC)
Cc: OS - OGC Regional Counsels; Keith, Robert (HHS/OGC); Terry, Minnie (HHS/OGC); Jeffries, Elizabeth (HHS/OGC)
Subject: TRAVEL INFO: 2017 OGC-ACF Practice Group Meeting - Oct. 11 & 12 Austin, TX

All,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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Cc: OS - OGC Regional Counsels; Keith, Robert (HHS/OGC)
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I do not have all attendee names from regions 6, 9, or 10 so if the Chiefs in those regions could let me know which attorneys you are sending by next week, that would be appreciated.

Planning a conference so early in the fiscal year has presented some challenges, but as of now we are an approved conference and you can book your hotel. The conference venue is the Hilton Garden Inn, downtown Austin. We have a block of rooms there at the government rate and you can book your room using the link below.

*Note that if the government shuts down or there is any other unanticipated disruption to funding the conference will be rescheduled.

Hotel Reservations

- Book your hotel room ASAP as the our group rate expires on **Sept 15, 2017**
- We will circulate travel and budget information along with a CAN within the next few days so you can start booking flights.
- If you can no longer attend the conference and no one else from your region is able to use the spot, please let me know asap so we can open the spot to someone else .

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We will continue to provide updated information as the meeting date nears and are looking forward to seeing you in October!

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From: GarzaPLLC [mailto:rochelle@garzapllc.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 5:12 PM
To: requests.DUCS@acf.hhs.gov
Cc: Ricketts, Jennifer D (CIV) <jrickett@CIV.USDOJ.GOV>
Subject: URGENT UAC Records Request

Good Afternoon,

Please see the attached authorization of release of records and state court order appointing my representation of the minor child.

I appreciate a quick response.

Sincerely,

Rochelle Garza
Attorney

Garza & Garza Law, PLLC
1200 E. Harrison St.
Brownsville, Texas 78520
Tel: (956) 544-1111
Fax: (956) 544-1108

This transmission (and/or the documents accompanying it) may contain confidential information belonging to the sender which is protected by the attorney-client privilege. The information is intended only for the use of the individual or entity named above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited.
If you have received this transmission in error, please immediately notify my office by telephone (956) 544-1111 to arrange for termination of the transmission.

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Willoughby, Michelle (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 3:33 PM
To: Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Global Health (HHS/OGA); Altman, Brian (SAMHSA); Lampasone, Kara (SAMHSA); Rice, Peggie (HHS/ASFR); Slothouber, Doug (SAMHSA); Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); McGuffee, Tyler Ann (HHS/ASL); Morse, Sara (HHS/ASL); Whitley, Edward (HHS/ASL); Kemper, Laura (HHS/ASL); Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Aramanda, Alec (OS/ASL); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Duncan, Constance (HHS/ASFR); Smith-Simpson, Jacqlyn (HHS/ASFR); East, Janet (HHS/OASH); Stallion, Vivian (HHS/OS); Klingbeil, Martin (CDC/OD/CDCWO); Schattner, Aimee (CDC/OD/CDCWO); Atkinson, Leslie (HRSA); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Sealy, Camille (HRSA); Broehm, Jason E. (CDC/OD/CDCWO); Rogers, Barbara A. (CDC/OD/CDCWO); Davis, Ms. Cynthia (ACF); Logan, Scott (ACF); Sulton, Jae (ACF); ASPEClearances (OS/ASPE); ASPR Legislation (OS/ASPR); Vandegrift, Serina (OS/ASPR/COO); FDA incoming control box; Barry, Daniel J (HHS/OGC); OS GCGL, EMAIL (HHS/OS); Kocher, Paula L. (CDC/OCOO/OGC); OGC CDC Branch Controls (CDC); Brady, Kevin (CMS/OL); Talbert, Ada L. (CMS/OL); Wikelius, Kristin (CMS/OL); ASAIO Staff; Barcus, Lea (PSC/OD); Earles, Vertrice (HHS/ASA) (CTR); Chletsos, Lori (PSC/OD) (CTR); Becton, Reginal (OS/ASA/OHR/SPD); Hoffman, Darrell (HHS/ASA); Major, Christine (HHS/ASA)
Cc: Hertzog, Christian (HHS/OGC); Friedman, Richard (HHS/OGC); Nelson, Thayer (HHS/OGC); Davis, Jeffrey (HHS/OGC); Malliou, Ekaterini (OS/IOS); Sherman, Susan (HHS/OGC); Ray Gorrie, Jennifer (HHS/OGC); Blackwell, Edith (HHS/OGC); Johnson, Linda (OS/OGC); Bird, Catherine (OS/OGC); Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC); Stimson, Brian (HHS/OGC); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); Benor, David E.(HHS/OGC); PHD NIH Branch Controlled Correspondence (NIH/OD); Naimon, David (HHS/OGC); OGC PH and S BRANCH CONTROLS; Haron, Judith (HHS/OGC); Jeffries, Elizabeth (HHS/OGC); Terry, Minnie (HHS/OGC); Fisher, Barbara (HHS/OGC); Bess, Demetrice (FDA/OC); General mail box; Shillingford, Mahala (FDA/OC); Cleary, Kelly (HHS/OGC); OIGClearances@oig.hhs.gov
Subject: Reply by 1PM, 10/2:DoD Conf Position Papers:National Defense Authorization Act, FY 2018 (HR 2810)
Attachments: Copy of Copy of 2018 Appeals Interagency Review.rf.xlsx; DoD_NDAA_Language_ATL-018.docx; DoD_NDAA_Language_OGC-001.docx; DoD_NDAA_Language_PR-005.docx; DoD_NDAA_Language_PR-011.docx; DoD_NDAA_Language_PR-016.docx; DoD_NDAA_Language_PR-019.docx; DoD_NDAA_Language_PR-048.docx; DoD_NDAA_Language_PR-052.docx; DoD_NDAA_Language_PR-054.docx

TO:	L(H)	L(HS)
	ASFR	ASPE
	OGA	ASPR
	ASH	FDA
	CDC	GC/GLD
	IOS/OS	GC/PH-CDC
	HRSA	CMS
	ATSDR	ASA/OHR
	ACF	SAMHSA

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

FROM: Office of the General Counsel/Legislation Division

SUBJECT: DEFENSE Conference Position Papers on the National Defense Authorization Act, FY 2018

(NOTE: Please review and provide edits/comments on the attached 9 DOD position papers (appeals) on the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2018. Per OMB, if cleared, these would be transmitted to the conferees on H.R. 2810.

To assist you in identifying appeals of interest to you, this email contains an Excel spreadsheet that lists the appeals along with potential interagency interest that OMB/LRD identified during our preliminary review. You are welcome to review position papers not flagged for your agency.)

The Office of Management and Budget has asked for the Department's views on these position papers.

In order that we may respond promptly to this request, please give your comments as soon as possible but no later than **1:00 P.M., MONDAY, OCTOBER 02** to **both (1) THAYER NELSON (TRICARE matters)/CHRISTIAN HERTZOG (child abuse/child support matters)/RICHARD FRIEDMAN (all other matters)** of this Division **and (2)** cc: our general e-mailbox (email.gcl@hhs.gov) (Microsoft Outlook users, select: OS GCL, EMAIL from the Global Address List).

To ensure that the Department's comments are given full consideration, please observe the following guidelines in providing your office's comments:

- Focus on substance -- we generally refrain from making editorial/stylistic comments on other agencies' documents absent errors that would be embarrassing.
- Supply specific recommended changes in the document, in track-changes format where possible; avoid general observations about the document's topic.
- Supply reasons and explanations for all recommended changes, if the reasons are not obvious.

If you have any questions, please contact the GCL staff attorney named above, at 202-690-7747(Nelson)/ 202-260-6183 (Hertzog)/202-202-690-7766(Friedman), or our Legislative Reference Service, at 202-690-7750.

Attachments

cc: OIG

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

GC/IO
GC/PH
GC/FD
GC/CMS
GC/CFA
IOS

Michelle Lawrence Willoughby
Office of the General Counsel/Legislation Division
Legislative Reference Service
202.690.7750 fax 202.690.7309
Michelle.Willoughby@hhs.gov

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Subject: TRAVEL INFO: 2017 OGC-ACF Practice Group Meeting - Oct. 11 & 12 Austin, TX
Attachments: Agenda for 2017 OGC ACF Practice Group Training (v5).docx

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Megan E. O'Rourke
Attorney
Children, Families, and Aging Division

Office of the General Counsel
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 Independence Ave, SW, Washington, DC 20201
(Tel) 202.205.4627 (Fax) 202.690.7320
megan.orourke@hhs.gov

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Fuma, Julia (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2017 11:22 PM
To: Terry, Minnie (HHS/OGC); Jeffries, Elizabeth (HHS/OGC)
Cc: Haron, Judith (HHS/OGC); Scott, Marie (HHS/OGC)
Subject: can you convert the attachments to these e-mails to PDFs.
Attachments: (b)(5)

Hi Minnie and Liz,

Can either of you convert the attachments in the following e-mails into PDFs for me? (You do not have to convert the e-mails themselves, just the attachments in them). Probably the easiest way to do it is to print out and scan.

If you have questions, you can give me a call at 267-408-8240, or if I do not pick up, I will ask Marie to help.

If you can get it done by 11:30 AM, I would greatly appreciate it.

Julia

Julia Fuma
Attorney
Office of the General Counsel
Children, Families and Aging Division
U.S. Dep't of Health & Human Services
202-690-7791
Julia.fuma@hhs.gov

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: O'Rourke, Megan E. (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2017 3:05 PM
To: Haron, Judith (HHS/OGC)
Subject: Our conference - bond hearing/orr session
Attachments: Agenda for 2017 OGC ACF Practice Group Training (v5).docx

Judy,

I have you down for 1 hour on Thursday morning for ORR related material. I originally thought this would be a mini-bond hearing training, but depending on how things are going in ORR there may be other things you'd like to discuss. I'd note that this is in addition to the CFAD panel on Wednesday morning. Given that, would you be able to give me a sentence or two on the "objective" of your session? I'm attaching the latest draft agenda so you can get a sense of what other objective statements look like.

Thank you!

10:00-11:00 **Office of Refugee Resettlement - Bond Hearings**
Judy Haron, Deputy Associate General Counsel, CFAD

Objective:

Megan E. O'Rourke
Attorney
Children, Families, and Aging Division

Office of the General Counsel
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 Independence Ave, SW, Washington, DC 20201
(Tel) 202.205.4627 (Fax) 202.690.7320
megan.orourke@hhs.gov

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Willoughby, Michelle (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2017 1:27 PM
To: Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); McGuffee, Tyler Ann (HHS/ASL); Morse, Sara (HHS/ASL); Whitley, Edward (HHS/ASL); Kemper, Laura (HHS/ASL); Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Davis, Ms. Cynthia (ACF); Logan, Scott (ACF); Sulton, Jae (ACF); ASAIO Staff; Barcus, Lea (PSC/OD); Earles, Vertrice (HHS/ASA) (CTR); Duncan, Constance (HHS/ASFR); Smith-Simpson, Jacqlyn (HHS/ASFR); ASPEClearances (OS/ASPE); ASPR Legislation (OS/ASPR); Vandegrift, Serina (OS/ASPR/COO); Klingbeil, Martin (CDC/OD/CDCWO); Schattner, Aimee (CDC/OD/CDCWO); Haron, Judith (HHS/OGC); Jeffries, Elizabeth (HHS/OGC); Terry, Minnie (HHS/OGC); Atkinson, Leslie (HRSA); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Sealy, Camille (HRSA); Mason, James (HHS/IEA); East, Janet (HHS/OASH); Stallion, Vivian (HHS/OS); Adams, Claudia (HHS/OS); Brockett, Sharon (HHS/OCR); Householder, Donna (HHS/OS); Lawson, Heather (HHS/OCR); Morgan, Sherri (OS/OCR); Altman, Brian (SAMHSA); Lampasone, Kara (SAMHSA); Rice, Peggie (HHS/ASFR); Slothouber, Doug (SAMHSA); Craig, Nina (IHS/HQ); Hodson, Corbrett (IHS/HQ); Tracy, June (IHS/HQ); Global Health (HHS/OGA)
Cc: Malliou, Ekaterini (OS/IOS); Davis, Jeffrey (HHS/OGC); Brown, Joshua H. (HHS/OGC); Hertzog, Christian (HHS/OGC); Friedman, Richard (HHS/OGC); Sherman, Susan (HHS/OGC); Ray Gorrie, Jennifer (HHS/OGC); Blackwell, Edith (HHS/OGC); Johnson, Linda (OS/OGC); Bird, Catherine (OS/OGC); Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC); Stimson, Brian (HHS/OGC); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); Johnson-Webb, Mechelle D (IHS/HQ); Slacter, Ann R (IHS/HQ); Vanderwagen, Luke (IHS/HQ); Huff, Bonita (HHS/OGC); Schuham, Aaron (HHS/OGC); Barry, Daniel J (HHS/OGC); OS GCGL, EMAIL (HHS/OS); Benor, David E.(HHS/OGC); Naimon, David (HHS/OGC); OGC PH and S BRANCH CONTROLS; Kocher, Paula L. (CDC/OCOO/OGC); OGC CDC Branch Controls (CDC); OIGClearances@oig.hhs.gov; Hodgkins, Juliet (OIG/OCIG)
Subject: Reply by 1PM,9/28:OMB RFVs:S 1757(Building America's Trust Act)
Attachments: BILLS-115s1757pcs.pdf

TO:

L/H	L/HS
ACF	HRSA
ASA	IEA
ASFR	OASH
ASPE	OCR
ASPR	OGA
CDC	SAMHSA
GC/CFA	IHS
IOS/OS	OIG

FROM: Office of the General Counsel/Legislation Division

SUBJECT: OMB Request for Views on S 1757 - Building America's Trust Act

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(NOTE: Attached, please find S. 1757, the Building America's Trust Act.)

The Office of Management and Budget has asked for the Department's views on this bill as passed the Senate.

In order that we may respond promptly to this request, please give your comments as soon as possible but no later than **1:00 P.M., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28** to **both (1) JOSH BROWN** of this Division **and (2)** cc: our general e-mailbox (email.gcl@hhs.gov) (Microsoft Outlook users, select: OS GCL, EMAIL from the Global Address List).

To ensure that the Department's comments are given full consideration, please observe the following guidelines in providing your office's comments:

- Focus on substance -- we generally refrain from making editorial/stylistic comments on other agencies' documents absent errors that would be embarrassing.
- Supply specific recommended changes in the document, in track-changes format where possible; avoid general observations about the document's topic.
- Supply reasons and explanations for all recommended changes, if the reasons are not obvious.

If you have any questions, call the GCL staff attorney named above, at 202-401-6097, or our Legislative Reference Service, at 202.690.7750.

Attachments

cc: OIG
GC/IO
GC/CR
GC/GLD
GC/PH
IOS/OS
GCL (Friedman/Hertzog)

Michelle Lawrence Willoughby
Office of the General Counsel/Legislation Division
Legislative Reference Service
202.690.7750 fax 202.690.7309
Michelle.Willoughby@hhs.gov

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Willoughby, Michelle (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2017 11:44 AM
To: Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); McGuffee, Tyler Ann (HHS/ASL); Morse, Sara (HHS/ASL); Whitley, Edward (HHS/ASL); Kemper, Laura (HHS/ASL); Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Aramanda, Alec (OS/ASL); Davis, Ms. Cynthia (ACF); Logan, Scott (ACF); Sulton, Jae (ACF); Brady, Kevin (CMS/OL); Talbert, Ada L. (CMS/OL); Wikelius, Kristin (CMS/OL); ASPEClearances (OS/ASPE); East, Janet (HHS/OASH); Stallion, Vivian (HHS/OS); ASAIO Staff; Barcus, Lea (PSC/OD); Earles, Vertrice (HHS/ASA) (CTR); Chletsos, Lori (PSC/OD) (CTR); Becton, Reginal (OS/ASA/OHR/SPD); Hoffman, Darrell (HHS/ASA); Major, Christine (HHS/ASA); Altman, Brian (SAMHSA); Lampasone, Kara (SAMHSA); Rice, Peggie (HHS/ASFR); Slothouber, Doug (SAMHSA); Adams, Claudia (HHS/OS); Brockett, Sharon (HHS/OCR); Householder, Donna (HHS/OS); Lawson, Heather (HHS/OCR); Morgan, Sherri (OS/OCR); Jackson, Caldwell (ACL); Lutz, Brian T. (AoA/CPA); Nicholls, Richard (ACL); Leavelle, Cannon (OS/ONC); Stauffer, Rachel (OS/ONC); Duncan, Constance (HHS/ASFR); Smith-Simpson, Jacqlyn (HHS/ASFR); Atkinson, Leslie (HRSA); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Sealy, Camille (HRSA); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); FDA incoming control box; Higgins, Lauren (NIH/OD) [E]; Tatem, Anne (NIH/OD) [E]; Vo, Thuy (NIH/OD) [E]
Cc: Nelson, Thayer (HHS/OGC); Davis, Jeffrey (HHS/OGC); Malliou, Ekaterini (OS/IOS); Blackwell, Edith (HHS/OGC); Johnson, Linda (OS/OGC); Bird, Catherine (OS/OGC); Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC); Stimson, Brian (HHS/OGC); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); Cleary, Kelly (HHS/OGC); Huff, Bonita (HHS/OGC); Schuham, Aaron (HHS/OGC); Haron, Judith (HHS/OGC); Jeffries, Elizabeth (HHS/OGC); Terry, Minnie (HHS/OGC); Barry, Daniel J (HHS/OGC); OS GCGL, EMAIL (HHS/OS); Benor, David E.(HHS/OGC); Naimon, David (HHS/OGC); OGC PH and S BRANCH CONTROLS; PHD NIH Branch Controlled Correspondence (NIH/OD); Kocher, Paula L. (CDC/OCOO/OGC); OGC CDC Branch Controls (CDC); Bess, Demetrice (FDA/OC); General mail box; Shillingford, Mahala (FDA/OC); OIGClearances@oig.hhs.gov
Subject: Reply by 12PM, 9/21:OMB RFVs:HR 3726(Stark Administrative Simplification Act of 2017)
Attachments: HR3726 Text as Reported.pdf

TO:	L(HS)	L(H)
	ACF	ACL
	CMS	ONC
	ASPE	ASFR
	ASH	HRSA
	ASA/PSC/OHR	IOS/OS
	SAMHSA	FDA
	OCR	NIH

FROM: Office of the General Counsel/Legislation Division

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

SUBJECT: OMB Request for Views on HR 3726 -- Stark Administrative Simplification Act of 2017

(NOTE: Attached please find the 11-page text of HR 3726, the Stark Administrative Simplification Act of 2017, as reported by the House Ways & Means Committee on September 13th. As reported, the bill would amend the Stark Rule, which limits self-referral in the Medicare program to facilities with which the referring doctor has a financial relationship. The bill would require HHS to create a process for self-disclosure in the case of an inadvertent technical violations of the Stark Rule, and would impose specific civil monetary penalties where a violation is self-disclosed and accepted by HHS.)

The Office of Management and Budget has asked for the Department's views on this bill.

In order that we may respond promptly to this request, please give your comments as soon as possible but no later than **12:00 P.M., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21** to both **(1) THAYER NELSON** of this Division **and (2)** cc: our general e-mailbox (email.gcl@hhs.gov) (Microsoft Outlook users, select: OS GCL, EMAIL from the Global Address List).

To ensure that the Department's comments are given full consideration, please observe the following guidelines in providing your office's comments:

- Are there provisions of this bill that would conflict with Department or Administration policy, and how?

- Are there provisions that would pose difficulties for the operation or management of HHS programs, and how?

- Are there any other significant issues that you can identify?

- If you recommend specific changes, supply reasons and explanations, if the reasons are not obvious.

If you have any questions, call the GCL staff attorney named above, at 202-690-7747, or our Legislative Reference Service, at 202-690-7750.

Attachments

cc: OIG
GC/IO
GC/CMS
GC/CR
GC/CFA
GC/GLD

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

GC/PH
GC/FD
IOS/OS

Michelle Lawrence Willoughby
Office of the General Counsel/Legislation Division
Legislative Reference Service
202.690.7750 fax 202.690.7309
Michelle.Willoughby@hhs.gov

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL)
Sent: Sunday, September 17, 2017 9:33 PM
To: Friedman, Richard (HHS/OGC); Kemper, Laura (HHS/ASL); Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); McGuffee, Tyler Ann (HHS/ASL); Morse, Sara (HHS/ASL); Whitley, Edward (HHS/ASL); Davis, Ms. Cynthia (ACF); Logan, Scott (ACF); Sulton, Jae (ACF); Ginieczki, Boyce (AHRQ/IOD); Perry, Wendy (AHRQ/OC); Klingbeil, Martin (CDC/OD/CDCWO); Schattner, Aimee (CDC/OD/CDCWO); FDA incoming control box; Craig, Nina (IHS/HQ); Hodson, Corbrett (IHS/HQ); Tracy, June (IHS/HQ); ASAIO Staff; Barcus, Lea (PSC/OD); Earles, Vertrice (HHS/ASA) (CTR); Chletsos, Lori (PSC/OD) (CTR); Duncan, Constance (HHS/ASFR); Smith-Simpson, Jacqlyn (HHS/ASFR); ASPR Legislation (OS/ASPR); Vandegrift, Serina (OS/ASPR/COO); Leavelle, Cannon (OS/ONC); ASPEClearances (OS/ASPE); Jackson, Caldwell (ACL); Nicholls, Richard (ACL); Broehm, Jason E. (CDC/OD/CDCWO); Rogers, Barbara A. (CDC/OD/CDCWO); Brady, Kevin (CMS/OL); Talbert, Ada L. (CMS/OL); Wikelius, Kristin (CMS/OL); Atkinson, Leslie (HRSA); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Sealy, Camille (HRSA); Higgins, Lauren (NIH/OD) [E]; Tatem, Anne (NIH/OD) [E]; Vo, Thuy (NIH/OD) [E]; Altman, Brian (SAMHSA); Lampasone, Kara (SAMHSA); Rice, Peggie (HHS/ASFR); Slothouber, Doug (SAMHSA); Adams, Claudia (HHS/OS); Brockett, Sharon (HHS/OCR); Householder, Donna (HHS/OS); Lawson, Heather (HHS/OCR); Morgan, Sherri (OS/OCR); East, Janet (HHS/OASH); Stallion, Vivian (HHS/OS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Brandt Hansberger, Patricia (NIH/OD) [E]; Mansdoerfer, David (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Malliou, Ekaterini (OS/IOS); Davis, Jeffrey (HHS/OGC); Hertzog, Christian (HHS/OGC); Khalife, Alexandra (HHS/ASL); Brandt Hansberger, Patricia (NIH/OD) [E]; Klingbeil, Martin (CDC/OD/CDCWO); Foster, Joseph (CDC/OCOO/OGC); Blackwell, Edith (HHS/OGC); Johnson, Linda (OS/OGC); Bird, Catherine (OS/OGC); Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC); Stimson, Brian (HHS/OGC); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); Johnson-Webb, Mechelle D (IHS/HQ); Slacter, Ann R (IHS/HQ); Vanderwagen, Luke (IHS/HQ); Haron, Judith (HHS/OGC); Jeffries, Elizabeth (HHS/OGC); Terry, Minnie (HHS/OGC); Barry, Daniel J (HHS/OGC); OS GCGL, EMAIL (HHS/OS); Huff, Bonita (HHS/OGC); Schuham, Aaron (HHS/OGC); Benor, David E.(HHS/OGC); Naimon, David (HHS/OGC); OGC PH and S BRANCH CONTROLS; PHD NIH Branch Controlled Correspondence (NIH/OD); Kocher, Paula L. (CDC/OCOO/OGC); OGC CDC Branch Controls (CDC); OS GCE, EMAIL (HHS/OS); Bess, Demetrice (FDA/OC); General mail box; Shillingford, Mahala (FDA/OC); Fisher, Barbara (HHS/OGC); OIGClearances@oig.hhs.gov
Subject: RE: Reply by 1PM, 9/19: proposed response to OMB re: HR 70 (FACA Amendments of 2017)
Attachments: hr70.pdf; hr70.omb.doc

+ David Mansdorfer

From: Friedman, Richard (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 2:20 PM
To: Kemper, Laura (HHS/ASL); Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); McGuffee, Tyler Ann (HHS/ASL); Morse, Sara (HHS/ASL); Whitley, Edward (HHS/ASL); Davis, Ms. Cynthia (ACF); Logan, Scott (ACF); Sulton, Jae (ACF); Ginieczki, Boyce (AHRQ/IOD); Perry, Wendy (AHRQ/OC); Klingbeil, Martin (CDC/OD/CDCWO); Schattner, Aimee (CDC/OD/CDCWO); FDA incoming control box; Craig, Nina (IHS/HQ); Hodson, Corbrett (IHS/HQ); Tracy, June (IHS/HQ); ASAIO Staff; Barcus, Lea (PSC/OD); Earles, Vertrice (HHS/ASA) (CTR); Chletsos, Lori (PSC/OD) (CTR); Duncan, Constance (HHS/ASFR); Smith-Simpson, Jacqlyn (HHS/ASFR);

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

ASPR Legislation (OS/ASPR); Vandegrift, Serina (OS/ASPR/COO); Leavelle, Cannon (OS/ONC); Stauffer, Rachel (OS/ONC); ASPEClearances (OS/ASPE); Jackson, Caldwell (ACL); Lutz, Brian T. (AoA/CPA); Nicholls, Richard (ACL); Broehm, Jason E. (CDC/OD/CDCWO); Rogers, Barbara A. (CDC/OD/CDCWO); Brady, Kevin (CMS/OL); Talbert, Ada L. (CMS/OL); Wikelius, Kristin (CMS/OL); Atkinson, Leslie (HRSA); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Sealy, Camille (HRSA); Higgins, Lauren (NIH/OD) [E]; Tatem, Anne (NIH/OD) [E]; Vo, Thuy (NIH/OD) [E]; Altman, Brian (SAMHSA); Lampasone, Kara (SAMHSA); Rice, Peggie (HHS/ASFR); Slothouber, Doug (SAMHSA); Adams, Claudia (HHS/OS); Brockett, Sharon (HHS/OCR); Householder, Donna (HHS/OS); Lawson, Heather (HHS/OCR); Morgan, Sherri (OS/OCR); Schmidt, Peggy (HHS/OCR); East, Janet (HHS/OASH); Stallion, Vivian (HHS/OS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Brandt Hansberger, Patricia (NIH/OD) [E]
Cc: Malliou, Ekaterini (OS/IOS); Davis, Jeffrey (HHS/OGC); Hertzog, Christian (HHS/OGC); Khalife, Alexandra (HHS/ASL); Brandt Hansberger, Patricia (NIH/OD) [E]; Klingbeil, Martin (CDC/OD/CDCWO); Foster, Joseph (CDC/OCOO/OGC); Blackwell, Edith (HHS/OGC); Johnson, Linda (OS/OGC); Bird, Catherine (OS/OGC); Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC); Stimson, Brian (HHS/OGC); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); Johnson-Webb, Mechelle D (IHS/HQ); Slacter, Ann R (IHS/HQ); Vanderwagen, Luke (IHS/HQ); Haron, Judith (HHS/OGC); Jeffries, Elizabeth (HHS/OGC); Terry, Minnie (HHS/OGC); Barry, Daniel J (HHS/OGC); OS GCGL, EMAIL (HHS/OS); Huff, Bonita (HHS/OGC); Schuham, Aaron (HHS/OGC); Benor, David E.(HHS/OGC); Naimon, David (HHS/OGC); OGC PH and S BRANCH CONTROLS; PHD NIH Branch Controlled Correspondence (NIH/OD); Kocher, Paula L. (CDC/OCOO/OGC); OGC CDC Branch Controls (CDC); OS GCE, EMAIL (HHS/OS); Bess, Demetrice (FDA/OC); General mail box; Shillingford, Mahala (FDA/OC); Fisher, Barbara (HHS/OGC); OIGClearances@oig.hhs.gov
Subject: Reply by 1PM, 9/19: proposed response to OMB re: HR 70 (FACA Amendments of 2017)

OMB has asked our views on H.R. 70, the "Federal Advisory Committee Act Amendments of 2017". This same bill has been introduced in the previous two Congresses; the Department has had substantial objections to various provisions in the bill, and we have conveyed them to OMB on more than one occasion. The greatest impact of the bill would be on NIH, but the bill would cause problems for every component that works with advisory committees. I'm attaching what I propose to send to OMB in response to its current request. This is identical to what we sent last year, aside from correcting a couple of typos and updating the page and line references.

Please clear or recommend specific changes by 1:00 pm Tuesday, 9/19. I'm attaching a copy of the bill for your convenience.

Richard Friedman
202-690-7766

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Friedman, Richard (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 2:20 PM
To: Kemper, Laura (HHS/ASL); Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); McGuffee, Tyler Ann (HHS/ASL); Morse, Sara (HHS/ASL); Whitley, Edward (HHS/ASL); Davis, Ms. Cynthia (ACF); Logan, Scott (ACF); Sulton, Jae (ACF); Ginieczki, Boyce (AHRQ/IOD); Perry, Wendy (AHRQ/OC); Klingbeil, Martin (CDC/OD/CDCWO); Schattner, Aimee (CDC/OD/CDCWO); FDA incoming control box; Craig, Nina (IHS/HQ); Hodson, Corbrett (IHS/HQ); Tracy, June (IHS/HQ); ASAIO Staff; Barcus, Lea (PSC/OD); Earles, Vertrice (HHS/ASA) (CTR); Chletsos, Lori (PSC/OD) (CTR); Duncan, Constance (HHS/ASFR); Smith-Simpson, Jacqlyn (HHS/ASFR); ASPR Legislation (OS/ASPR); Vandegrift, Serina (OS/ASPR/COO); Leavelle, Cannon (OS/ONC); Stauffer, Rachel (OS/ONC); ASPEClearances (OS/ASPE); Jackson, Caldwell (ACL); Lutz, Brian T. (AoA/CPA); Nicholls, Richard (ACL); Broehm, Jason E. (CDC/OD/CDCWO); Rogers, Barbara A. (CDC/OD/CDCWO); Brady, Kevin (CMS/OL); Talbert, Ada L. (CMS/OL); Wikelius, Kristin (CMS/OL); Atkinson, Leslie (HRSA); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Sealy, Camille (HRSA); Higgins, Lauren (NIH/OD) [E]; Tatem, Anne (NIH/OD) [E]; Vo, Thuy (NIH/OD) [E]; Altman, Brian (SAMHSA); Lampasone, Kara (SAMHSA); Rice, Peggie (HHS/ASFR); Slothouber, Doug (SAMHSA); Adams, Claudia (HHS/OS); Brockett, Sharon (HHS/OCR); Householder, Donna (HHS/OS); Lawson, Heather (HHS/OCR); Morgan, Sherri (OS/OCR); Schmidt, Peggy (HHS/OCR); East, Janet (HHS/OASH); Stallion, Vivian (HHS/OS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Brandt Hansberger, Patricia (NIH/OD) [E]
Cc: Malliou, Ekaterini (OS/IOS); Davis, Jeffrey (HHS/OGC); Hertzog, Christian (HHS/OGC); Khalife, Alexandra (HHS/ASL); Brandt Hansberger, Patricia (NIH/OD) [E]; Klingbeil, Martin (CDC/OD/CDCWO); Foster, Joseph (CDC/OCOO/OGC); Blackwell, Edith (HHS/OGC); Johnson, Linda (OS/OGC); Bird, Catherine (OS/OGC); Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC); Stimson, Brian (HHS/OGC); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); Johnson-Webb, Mechelle D (IHS/HQ); Slacter, Ann R (IHS/HQ); Vanderwagen, Luke (IHS/HQ); Haron, Judith (HHS/OGC); Jeffries, Elizabeth (HHS/OGC); Terry, Minnie (HHS/OGC); Barry, Daniel J (HHS/OGC); OS GCGL, EMAIL (HHS/OS); Huff, Bonita (HHS/OGC); Schuham, Aaron (HHS/OGC); Benor, David E.(HHS/OGC); Naimon, David (HHS/OGC); OGC PH and S BRANCH CONTROLS; PHD NIH Branch Controlled Correspondence (NIH/OD); Kocher, Paula L. (CDC/OCOO/OGC); OGC CDC Branch Controls (CDC); OS GCE, EMAIL (HHS/OS); Bess, Demetrice (FDA/OC); General mail box; Shillingford, Mahala (FDA/OC); Fisher, Barbara (HHS/OGC); OIGClearances@oig.hhs.gov
Subject: Reply by 1PM, 9/19: proposed response to OMB re: HR 70 (FACA Amendments of 2017)
Attachments: hr70.pdf; hr70.omb.doc

OMB has asked our views on H.R. 70, the "Federal Advisory Committee Act Amendments of 2017". This same bill has been introduced in the previous two Congresses; the Department has had substantial objections to various provisions in the bill, and we have conveyed them to OMB on more than one occasion. The greatest impact of the bill would be on NIH, but the bill would cause problems for every component that works with advisory committees. I'm attaching what I propose to send to OMB in response to its current request. This is identical to what we sent last year, aside from correcting a couple of typos and updating the page and line references.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Please clear or recommend specific changes by 1:00 pm Tuesday, 9/19. I'm attaching a copy of the bill for your convenience.

Richard Friedman
202-690-7766

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: O'Rourke, Megan E. (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 9:36 AM
To: Parker, Pamela (HHS/OGC); Keith, Robert (HHS/OGC)
Cc: Haron, Judith (HHS/OGC)
Subject: RE: OGC-ACF Conference - LBJ library visit
Attachments: Agenda for 2017 OGC ACF Practice Group Training (v4).docx

Pam,

Here is the most recent version of the agenda. We're still pulling together a few things and may shift the times around a bit, but most of the substance is there.

Also – there was some confusion as to when we could book travel. An email was circulated throughout OGC saying that 9/18 is the first day to book any FY18 travel, but I thought that we would be able to book sooner than that. Can you clarify?

Thanks,

Megan E. O'Rourke
Attorney
Children, Families, and Aging Division

Office of the General Counsel
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 Independence Ave, SW, Washington, DC 20201
(Tel) 202.205.4627 (Fax) 202.690.7320
megan.orourke@hhs.gov

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From: Parker, Pamela (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 9:20 AM
To: Keith, Robert (HHS/OGC); O'Rourke, Megan E. (HHS/OGC)
Cc: Haron, Judith (HHS/OGC)
Subject: Re: OGC-ACF Conference - LBJ library visit

I'd like to see the draft agenda please

On: 12 September 2017 08:28, "Keith, Robert (HHS/OGC)" <Robert.Keith@HHS.GOV> wrote:
We did a field trip to an Anacostia Head Start office a couple of years ago.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

If there is sufficient interest I think it fits in with our over-arching CO/RO relationship building motivation. Particularly if we can orient the educational presentation towards the history of our programs, I think it will be worthwhile.

If cost is an issue, I am willing to subsidize it.

From: Parker, Pamela (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 6:05 PM
To: O'Rourke, Megan E. (HHS/OGC)
Cc: Keith, Robert (HHS/OGC)
Subject: Re: OGC-ACF Conference - LBJ library visit

I'm having a hard time with this given the short conference. Did you send a draft agenda?

On: 11 September 2017 17:23, "O'Rourke, Megan E. (HHS/OGC)" <Megan.ORourke@hhs.gov> wrote:

Pam,

There is a lot of enthusiasm from the planning committee for the LBJ library visit during the second day of our conference. Below is a brief justification for the visit. We hope it's something we can include as an extended lunch break on the Thursday. It is relevant to our ACF work and we'll still have time in agenda to cover all of the substantive material that we planned to cover.

Our visit to the LBJ Library would focus on federal efforts established and enhanced during the Johnson Administration's Great Society / War on Poverty initiative. Several of the programs we serve, including Head Start and the Community Services Block Grant, can be traced directly to the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, which was enacted by President Johnson. Several others, including TANF, were greatly enhanced during the Johnson Administration. Mallory Lineberger, Assistant Education Specialist at the LBJ Presidential Library, has offered to spend 30 minutes with us, showing us documents, telephone conversations, and other items from their archives and museum collections that talk about the creation of Head Start and the War on Poverty as a whole. We could then spend another 30 minutes examining the library on our own. We feel this would be very enriching and educational experience for those of us who work on ACF programs by providing us with the contextual background and history of the programs we serve. It would also serve as an interesting and stimulating social event and team-building experience for the group.

The cost of the visit would be $7 per person, and it would take up approximately 2 hours with transportation to and from the library and time for a quick lunch.

Let me know if you think this is something we can include in our agenda.

Thanks,

Megan

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: OS GCCF (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 8:26 AM
To: Haron, Judith (HHS/OGC)
Subject: FW: TRACS No. 17-21477 * DUE 09/11 BY 11:00 AM
Attachments: HHSStrategicPlanCommentForm.xlsx; Clearance Memo to OPDIVSTAFFDIV heads - Signed.pdf; HHSStrategicPlan2018-2022Draft - Clean.docx; HHSStrategicPlan2018-2022Draft - Tracked Changes 090817.docx; Clearance Memo to Exec Sec -Signed.pdf; Clearance Comments from August.xlsx; Control Sheet - 00385706-AS-772186.docx

Judy,

Who should look at this control item?

Thanks!
Liz

From: OS OGC-IO ControlDesk (HHS)
Sent: Friday, September 08, 2017 4:03 PM
To: OS GCPH (HHS/OGC); OS OGC-CMSD, ControlDesk (HHS/OS); OS GCCF (HHS/OGC); FDA OGC FDD Control; OS GCGL, EMAIL (HHS/OS); GCCR, OS
Cc: OS OGC-IO ControlDesk (HHS)
Subject: TRACS No. 17-21477 * DUE 09/11 BY 11:00 AM

HHS Draft Strategic Plan FY 2018 – 2022

Taylor Campbell
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the General Counsel
200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 737F.12
Washington, DC 20201
(202)205-0615
Taylor.Campbell@hhs.gov

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: O'Rourke, Megan E. (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Friday, September 08, 2017 2:20 PM
To: CFAD Attorneys; DeSarbo, Lynne (OGC/CFAD)
Subject: Agenda for 2017 OGC ACF Practice Group Training (v3).docx
Attachments: Agenda for 2017 OGC ACF Practice Group Training (v3).docx

CFAD –

Attached is a draft agenda for the 2017 conference in Austin. It's a work in progress, so please feel free to let me know if you have any suggestions, ideas or questions.

Thanks,

Megan E. O'Rourke
Attorney
Children, Families, and Aging Division

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: O'Rourke, Megan E. (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Friday, September 08, 2017 2:19 PM
To: Haron, Judith (HHS/OGC)
Subject: Agenda for 2017 OGC ACF Practice Group Training (v3).docx
Attachments: Agenda for 2017 OGC ACF Practice Group Training (v3).docx

Judy,

I'm attaching a draft agenda, as you'll see we're still fleshing out some sessions. I have you down for the first session on Thursday. No rush, but when you get a chance can you send me a sentence or two for the "objective" part of your session on the ORR bond hearings. Also, if you think 1.5 hours is too much time, we have some flexibility that day and can move things around. Let me know.

Thanks,

Megan E. O'Rourke
Attorney
Children, Families, and Aging Division

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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: OS GCCF (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 8:40 AM
To: Haron, Judith (HHS/OGC)
Subject: FW: TRACS No. 17-15370 * DUE 06/09 BY 4:00 PM
Attachments: 2016 NHQDR Memo to ASL 24May17.docx; 2016QDR_23May17_Clean.docx; 2016QDR_AppendixA_25May17_BB.docx; Appendix_Work Group Members.docx; appendixb1_qualitytrends_BB.docx; appendixb2_accessdisparities_BB.docx; appendixb3_qualitydisparities_BB.docx; appendixb4_disparitytrends_BB.docx; AppendixC_Data_Sources_BB.docx; AppendixD_Definitions_BB.docx; Control Sheet - 00380712-AS-763642.docx; NHQDR congressional letters 24May17.docx; NHQDR Memo to ASL signed.pdf; NHQDR Memo to OS signed.pdf

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From: OS OGC-IO ControlDesk (HHS)
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 4:44 PM
To: OS GCPH (HHS/OGC); OS OGC-CMSD, ControlDesk (HHS/OS); GCCR, OS; OS GCCF (HHS/OGC); FDA OGC FDD Control
Cc: OS OGC-IO ControlDesk (HHS)
Subject: TRACS No. 17-15370 * DUE 06/09 BY 4:00 PM

Annual healthcare quality and disparities report

Taylor Campbell
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the General Counsel
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Taylor.Campbell@hhs.gov

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Willoughby, Michelle (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 11:34 AM
To: Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL); McGuffee, Tyler Ann (HHS/ASL); Whitley, Edward (HHS/ASL); Kemper, Laura (HHS/ASL); Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Aramanda, Alec (OS/ASL); Davis, Ms. Cynthia (ACF); Logan, Scott (ACF); Sulton, Jae (ACF); Talbert, Ada L. (CMS/OL); Wikelius, Kristin (CMS/OL); ASPEClearances (OS/ASPE); East, Janet (HHS/OASH); Stallion, Vivian (HHS/OS); ASAIO Staff; Barcus, Lea (PSC/OD); Earles, Vertrice (HHS/ASA) (CTR); Chletsos, Lori (PSC/OD) (CTR); Molloy, Paula (OS/ASA); Becton, Reginal (OS/ASA/OHR/SPD); Hoffman, Darrell (HHS/ASA); Major, Christine (HHS/ASA); Zuco, Paola (OS/ASA); Jackson, Caldwell (ACL/OA); Lutz, Brian T. (ACL/OEA); Nicholls, Richard (ACL/OA); Stauffer, Rachel (OS/ONC); Duncan, Constance (HHS/ASFR); Smith-Simpson, Jacqlyn (HHS/ASFR); Atkinson, Leslie (HRSA); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Groves, Garrick (HRSA); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Adams, Claudia (HHS/OS); Brockett, Sharon (HHS/OCR); Householder, Donna (HHS/OS); Lawson, Heather (HHS/OCR); Morgan, Sherri (OS/OCR); Schmidt, Peggy (HHS/OCR)
Cc: Nelson, Thayer (HHS/OGC); Davis, Jeffrey (HHS/OGC); Friedman, Richard (HHS/OGC); Malliou, Ekaterini (OS/IOS); Blackwell, Edith (HHS/OGC); Johnson, Linda (OS/OGC); Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC); Stimson, Brian (HHS/OGC); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); Cleary, Kelly (HHS/OGC); Huff, Bonita (HHS/OGC); Schuham, Aaron (HHS/OGC); Benor, David E.(HHS/OGC); Naimon, David (HHS/OGC); OGC PH and S BRANCH CONTROLS; Fisher, Barbara (HHS/OGC); Haron, Judith (HHS/OGC); Jeffries, Elizabeth (HHS/OGC); Terry, Minnie (HHS/OGC); Barry, Daniel J (HHS/OGC); OS GCGL, EMAIL (HHS/OS); OIGClearances@oig.hhs.gov
Subject: Reply by COB, 5/25:OMB RFVs:S 1028(National Family Caregiving Strategy)
Attachments: S 1028.docx

TO:

L(HS)	L(H)
ACF	ACL
CMS	ONC
ASPE	ASFR
ASH	HRSA
ASA/PSC/OHR	IOS/OS

FROM: Office of the General Counsel/Legislation Division

SUBJECT: OMB Request for Views on S 1028 -- National Family Caregiving Strategy

(NOTE: Attached please find bill text for S. 1028, the Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage (RAISE) Family Caregivers

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Act of 2017. The bill was reported from the Senate HELP Committee on May 11.

The RAISE Act would require HHS to establish and maintain a National Family Caregiving Strategy and to convene a Family Caregiving Advisory Council. Federal membership would include CMS, ACL, ONC, and ACF within HHS, as well as representatives from VA, Labor, SBA, CNCS, and Treasury. The bill would exempt the committee from FACA requirements.)

The Office of Management and Budget has asked for the Department's views on this bill.

In order that we may respond promptly to this request, please give your comments as soon as possible but no later than **COB, THURSDAY, MAY 25** to both **(1) THAYER NELSON** of this Division **and (2)** cc: our general e-mailbox (email.gcl@hhs.gov) (Microsoft Outlook users, select: OS GCL, EMAIL from the Global Address List).

To ensure that the Department's comments are given full consideration, please observe the following guidelines in providing your office's comments:

- Are there provisions of this bill that would conflict with Department or Administration policy, and how?

- Are there provisions that would pose difficulties for the operation or management of HHS programs, and how?

- Are there any other significant issues that you can identify?

- If you recommend specific changes, supply reasons and explanations, if the reasons are not obvious.

If you have any questions, call the GCL staff attorney named above, at 202-690-7747, or our Legislative Reference Service, at 202.690.7750.

Attachments

cc: OIG
GC/IO
GC/CMS
GC/CFA
GC/GLD
GC/PH
IOS/OS
GCL (R Friedman)

Michelle Lawrence Willoughby
Office of the General Counsel/Legislation Division
Legislative Reference Service

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

202.690.7750 fax 202.690.7309
Michelle.Willoughby@hhs.gov

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: OS GCCF (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 8:15 AM
To: Haron, Judith (HHS/OGC)
Subject: FW: TRACS No. 17-13915 * DUE 05/09 BY 4:00 PM CRM:0602000004939
Attachments: QFRs _ TPMD March 29 House LaborHHS FY18 _ Batch 1 for Review.docx

Judy,

Who should look at this IO control item?

Thanks!
Liz

From: OS OGC-IO ControlDesk (HHS)
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 4:58 PM
To: OS GCPH (HHS/OGC); OS GCGL, EMAIL (HHS/OS); GCCR, OS; OS GCE, EMAIL (HHS/OS); OS OGC-CMSD, ControlDesk (HHS/OS); FDA OGC FDD Control; OS GCCF (HHS/OGC)
Cc: OS OGC-IO ControlDesk (HHS)
Subject: TRACS No. 17-13915 * DUE 05/09 BY 4:00 PM CRM:0602000004939

House Labor/HHS QFRs on FY 2018 - BATCH ONE

Taylor Campbell
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the General Counsel
200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 737F.12
Washington, DC 20201
(202)205-0615
Taylor.Campbell@hhs.gov

From: Pollock, Rachel (HHS/ASFR)
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 4:32 PM
To: Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS); Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL); Morse, Sara (HHS/ASL); Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); ASPEClearances (OS/ASPE); OS OGC-IO ControlDesk (HHS); East, Janet (HHS/OASH); Hall, Bill (HHS/ASPA); Murphy, Ryan (OS/ASPA)
Cc: OS - Budget Office Managers; Williams, Cameron (HHS/ASFR); Klimczak, Kate (HHS/ASFR); Rice, Peggie (HHS/ASFR); Donley, Katherine (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: For Your Review by COB Tuesday: House Labor/HHS QFRs on FY 2018 - BATCH ONE

All –

Attached for your review please find Questions for the Record from the Secretary's March 29 hearing before the House Labor/HHS Appropriations Subcommittee on the President's FY 2018 Budget request. Please note that this is batch one of two for these QFRs – there are some responses missing in the attached document. We will provide the remaining responses early next week.

Counselors – please note that we have assigned each QFR a lead reviewer based on your portfolios. We would appreciate your review of each assigned QFR for tone as well as accurate description of the policy discussed. The QFRs are color-coded by reviewer to make it easier for you to scan the document:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

John
Maggie
Paula
Heather
Nina
Kris
Mary-Sumpter

Please review the attached QFRs and provide any comments by COB Tuesday, May 9. Thank you.

Rachel Pollock
Chief, Congressional Liaison Branch
Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources
Department of Health and Human Services
Rachel.Pollock@hhs.gov
Office: 202.690.7483
Cell: (b)(6)

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2017 5:53 PM
To: Lloyd, Scott (ACF)
Subject: CC Brownsville

http://www.catholiccharitiesrgv.org/catholic-charities-pregnancy-center.shtml

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From:	Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent:	Wednesday, May 24, 2017 11:41 AM
To:	Stevenson, Sarah (HHS/IOS)
Subject:	FW: (ACF) Report to Congress on Head Start Monitoring for FY 2015
Attachments:	$ WORKING - Head Start Monitoring RTC FY 2015.docx; $ WORKING - Head Start Monitoring RTC FY 2015 Decision Memo.docx; $ WORKING - Head Start Monitoring RTC FY 2015 Letters.docx

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From: Wright, Natasha (OS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, April 27, 2017 5:04 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: (ACF) Report to Congress on Head Start Monitoring for FY 2015

Hi Maggie,

Per Page 2, Item 1 on the 4/28 Week Ahead Report, please see the attached *Report to Congress on Head Start Monitoring for FY 2015*, memo, and transmission letters to Congress. This is a statutorily required report. It fulfills the reporting requirement in Section 641A(f) of the Head Start Act, and it highlights the enhancements made to the FY 2015 monitoring review system, summarizes grantee review outcomes, and describes the types of findings most commonly identified in FY 2015.

Thanks
Natasha

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2017 6:26 PM
To: Pilato, Anna (HHS/IOS)
Subject: FW: 3/3 ACF Week Ahead Report
Attachments: (b)(5)

Importance: High

Anna,

Could you review these FOAs?

Thank you,
Maggie

From: Wright, Natasha (OS/IOS)
Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2017 2:11 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Robinson, Wilma (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: 3/3 ACF Week Ahead Report
Importance: High

Hi Maggie,

Please see the attached information memos and FOAs for the following:

- (b)(5)
-

(b)(5)

Thanks,
Natasha

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, March 07, 2017 9:55 PM
To: Wright, Natasha (OS/IOS)
Cc: Robinson, Wilma (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: 3/3 ACF Week Ahead Report

Natasha,

Following up on the other items….

(b)(5)

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(b)(5)

From: Barlow, Amanda (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 3:02 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: FYI

(b)(5)

Amanda Barlow
Acting Assistant Secretary
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202)401-5009
Amanda.Barlow@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

Hi Maggie,

(b)(5)

Thanks,
Natasha

From: Wright, Natasha (OS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, March 07, 2017 6:30 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Robinson, Wilma (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: 3/3 ACF Week Ahead Report
Importance: High

Hi Maggie,

ACF is asking for a status update on the following items that have been on the Weekly Report since 2/9. Could you please let me know at your earliest convenience?

Thanks,
Natasha

Most significant is:

(b)(5)

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Also outstanding are:

(b)(5)

From: Wright, Natasha (OS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2017 4:27 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Robinson, Wilma (HHS/IOS); Shelton, Carrie A (HHS/IOS)
Subject: 3/3 ACF Week Ahead Report
Importance: High

Hi Maggie,

Just wanted to share ACF's upcoming items for your review. Shortly, I will be sending supplemental materials for all items on the list that you have not yet received.

Thanks,
Natasha

Natasha M. Wright, M.A., M.P.H., PMF Class of 2013
Policy Coordinator
Immediate Office of the Secretary|Executive Secretariat
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
202.205.5446| natasha.wright2@hhs.gov

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 10:00 AM
To: Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS)
Subject: FW: 30-day - Oct 17
Attachments: 30-day look-ahead Oct 17 STAFF EDITS.docx

Please give an initial review.

It looks like Molly isn't including you anymore. Oversight?

From: Gartland, Molly (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 9:58 AM
To: Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS)
Subject: 30-day - Oct 17

Hi all,

Please see attached edits for this week. Thanks!

Best,
Molly Gartland
Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff
Office of the Secretary – HHS
O: (202) 260-7503
C: (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, September 05, 2017 9:46 AM
To: Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)
Subject: FW: ACF Congressional Daily News - September 5, 2017

From: Logan, Scott (ACF)

Sent: Tuesday, September 05, 2017 9:38 AM

To: Logan, Scott (ACF)

Subject: ACF Congressional Daily News - September 5, 2017

Administration for Children and Families
Office of Legislative Affairs and Budget

ACF Congressional Daily News for Tuesday, September 5, 2017

House and Senate Floor Activity
The Senate reconvenes at 3 p.m.

The House reconvenes at 2 p.m.

OLAB Hearing Coverage
On September 6, the Senate Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Service, and Education will hold a markup of the FY 2018 Labor, HHS, and Education appropriations bill.

On September 6, the House Ways and Means Committee will hold a hearing entitled, "Missing from the Labor Force: Examining Declining Employment among Working-Age Men." For a post-hearing summary, please contact OLAB's Nick Vucic.

On September 7, the Senate Committee on Appropriations will hold a markup of the FY 2018 Labor, HHS, and Education appropriations bill. For a post-hearing summary, please contact OLAB's Nick Vucic.

Congressional Press Releases Related to ACF
HEAD START
Delegation Announces $1.8 Million in Head Start Funding for Woonsocket – Rep. Cicilline (D-RI)
HHS Awards $1.5 Million to West River Head Start – Sen. Hoeven (R-ND)

Congressional Daily News
Bloomberg Government reports on this week's congressional activity below.

Harvey Aid Tops Post-Recess TO-Do List: What To Watch This Week
By James Rowley | September 5, 2017 8:48AM ET

Rushing more disaster aid to the flood-ravaged Gulf Coast is Job No. 1 for lawmakers returning from their August recess as Congress begins a legislative flurry aimed at avoiding a government shutdown and a default on U.S. debt.

Besides considering President Donald Trump's request for a down payment to help Texas and Louisiana begin to clear the devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey, the House is to consider a package of eight spending bills for fiscal 2018, which starts Oct. 1.

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Republican leaders intend to graft the new package onto the “minibus” of four bills (H.R. 3219) that the House passed in July to create a full 12-bill appropriations omnibus, according to a Republican leadership aide.

That measure has no chance of overcoming a Democratic filibuster in the Senate, so the House’s spending debate is a merely prelude for action later this month on a continuing resolution to avert a government shutdown at month’s end and finance federal agency operations until sometime in early December, the aide said.

Passage of a CR would postpone until late fall the partisan fights over Trump’s demand to spend $1.6 billion to start building a wall along U.S.-Mexico border and Democrats’ insistence on parity for discretionary spending increases between defense and other domestic programs.
The hurricane-recovery package will include $7.4 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency and $450 million for the Small Business Administration, Budget Director Mick Mulvaney wrote in a letter to House Speaker Paul Ryan. The request would fund relief through Sept. 30.
Trump has invited congressional leaders to the White House tomorrow to confer on the Harvey aid package and other pressing issues as Congress returns from the August recess.

DYNAMIC TO WATCH: With just 12 days when both the House and Senate are in session this month, Congress needs to move quickly top meet the Sept. 30 deadline to extending government funding and the Treasury’s authority to continue borrowing money. Failure to agree on legislation risks the double whammy of a government shutdown and a default on debt owed by the Treasury.

The most conservative House Republicans want to condition raising the debt ceiling on spending offsets, so House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) and other leaders must decide now to sequence and package the various pieces of must-pass legislation.

NDAA: Senate Armed Services Chairman John McCain (R-Ariz.), who plans to return to Washington this week after undergoing treatment for brain cancer, will manage the defense authorization bill in floor debate that Republican leadership aides say is set to start tomorrow. Look for wrangling over Trump’s order banning transgender people from serving in the U.S. military, the president’s strategy for sending more troops to Afghanistan, and how to deal with North Korea’s nuclear provocations.

IMMIGRATION: Trump’s tossing the ball back into Congress’s court on the status of undocumented young immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children. The formal announcement’s coming today on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program that allowed youths to avoid deportation.

OBAMACARE: Governors and state insurance commissioners are scheduled to testify at Senate hearings on how to stabilize the operation of Obamacare health-insurance exchanges now that Republicans have abandoned their efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act. A bipartisan group of governors led by Republican John Kasich of Ohio, has asked Congress to approve cost-sharing payments to insurers to curb the rise in premiums on the individual market.

GOP Faces Pileup of Urgent Tasks Topped by Debt Limit Extension
By Anna Edgerton | September 5, 2017 4:00AM ET

Republicans return to Washington Tuesday with less than a month to avoid a government shutdown and avert a default on the nation’s debt, tasks that are being overshadowed by the quickly mounting costs of the response to Hurricane Harvey.

Lawmakers need to pass a measure by Sept. 30 to fund the government, as well as one raising the debt limit before the end of the month. They also need to reauthorize programs like flood insurance and air traffic control and provide money for flood victims in Texas before they can turn to their top objective for the year -- a major tax overhaul.

There isn’t much time. The House is scheduled to be in session for only 12 legislative days this month and the Senate for 17 -- giving the majority party little margin for error on measures they will need to negotiate with Democrats.

There is already widespread bipartisan agreement on the need to fund disaster relief programs for Harvey. The White House has asked for nearly $8 billion in emergency aid, which the House is expected to vote on this week. Officials also signaled that President Donald Trump won’t press his demands to fund a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border this month, a measure opposed by Democrats.

But other controversial executive actions on topics such as immigration could still disrupt bipartisan agreements.

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How Republicans resolve these issues could influence the outcome of next year's congressional elections. If little is accomplished or the government is forced to shut down, Democrats will argue that the GOP can't get anything done, despite controlling all branches of government. If Republicans can get through the month without too much drama, they can turn more quickly to their promised tax overhaul.

House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky have difficult tasks ahead as they contend with warring factions in their own party and a president who won't hesitate to criticize them. They'll also have to negotiate with Democrats who strongly oppose their biggest priorities.

"It's hard enough when you're working all together," said Muftiah McCartin, a former staff director of the House Rules Committee who now co-chairs government affairs at the law firm Covington & Burling LLP. "They are grownups in the room trying to hold it all together," she said of Ryan and McConnell.
Republican and Democratic congressional leaders will meet with Trump at the White House Wednesday to discuss this month's agenda.

Their first order of business will be an emergency funding measure for Harvey. The White House requested $7.4 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's operations and $450 million for the Small Business Administration. The request is intended to cover funding demands through the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30. The House has already drafted a measure and is expected to send it to the Senate this week.

The White House has suggested that lawmakers attach a debt ceiling measure to the Harvey bill, but the request stopped short of explicitly asking for that. Instead, White House budget director Mick Mulvaney suggested that relief operations could be disrupted if the debt limit isn't addressed quickly.
"If the debt ceiling is not raised, it may not be possible to outlay the requested supplemental appropriations or funds for other critical government operations," he wrote Friday night in a letter to Ryan.

It's unclear whether Republican lawmakers will go along with the idea of pairing the two measures. The Senate could add a debt ceiling provision to the Harvey bill after the House passes it, but House conservatives have demanded spending cuts or other cost-cutting changes in return for raising the debt limit.
Representative Mark Walker of North Carolina, who heads the conservative Republican Study Committee, on Monday said his stance hasn't changed.

"As we have stated for months, the debt ceiling should be paired with significant fiscal and structural reforms," Walker said in a statement. "If we resort to just kicking the can down the road on the debt, it only shows that Republicans do not take the problem of our $20 trillion debt seriously."

Republicans also need to pass a stopgap spending measure, which will likely extend current funding levels for a few months. Trump had threatened a shutdown fight over his border wall this month, but White House aides have signaled to Congress that he plans to delay that battle until lawmakers debate a fuller spending measure later in the year.

In some ways, the most urgent challenge will be preventing the government from defaulting on its obligations. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told Congress that it's "critical" to raise the debt ceiling by Sept. 29.

Conservatives in the past have opposed measures to allow the government to borrow more and may object if the debt limit is combined with other legislation. This week, they'll present Ryan with options that could win more GOP votes, including a bill to prioritize debt payments over other government expenses should the debt limit be breached.

"When it comes to raising the debt ceiling, it's my hope as a conservative that that would be packaged with significant spending reforms and other reforms that would address a $20 trillion national debt," said Jim Banks, an Indiana Republican. "Unfortunately, I haven't heard enough of a serious discussion -- neither from the administration nor from Republicans -- about how we'll do that."

Even staunch conservatives, such as David Schweikert and Trent Franks, both from Arizona and members of the far-right Freedom Caucus, have demonstrated a willingness to work within the constraints of the moment.

"I understand the reality and I'm not going to be intractable on recognizing leadership's realities," Franks said of this month's urgent bills.

If a debt limit provision isn't added to the Harvey bill, GOP leader could add it to the stopgap spending bill, which is also likely to contain necessary extensions for other expiring programs like federal flood insurance and the Federal Aviation Administration.

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John Yarmuth of Kentucky, the highest ranking Democrat on the House Budget Committee, said Harvey's devastation has sapped both parties' appetite for a showdown over must-pass bills like the debt limit.

"There's a good chance that Harvey makes all that a little easier," Yarmuth said. "There's a reasonable chance that there's not going to be nearly as much angst in September as we would have thought a month ago."

Yarmuth said appropriating money for cost-sharing subsidies for Obamacare, which Democrats considered demanding, will probably be left out of the discussion.

Democrats could still disrupt this month's legislative agenda if Trump phases out a program that provides some protection from deportation for undocumented immigrants brought to the U.S. as children. Trump is planning to terminate the Obama-era program, but delay the end for several months to give Congress time to act, an administration official said.

Another potential complication for September is the unresolved future of the Affordable Care Act after a Republican plan to repeal and replace the law failed in the Senate. If GOP leaders want to try again, they'll need to act this month as a legislative tactic they've used to try to win passage in the Senate will expire on Sept. 30. After that, Republicans would need to seek Democratic support.

And the clock is ticking on a Republican plan to overhaul the U.S. tax code. They'll take their first concrete step with a budget resolution that will allow them to get the overhaul through the Senate with a 51-vote majority.

Although the budget doesn't technically need a floor vote this month, every week that goes by makes it harder to meet the goal of tax code changes by the end of the year. GOP lawmakers warn that failing to pass tax legislation or other Republican priorities could cost the party its congressional majority.
"It's the party. It's the Republican brand," Representative Dave Brat of Virginia. "If the Republican party can't pass health care, can't pass tax reform, can't be fiscally responsible what are we?"

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2017 8:51 PM
To: Yoest, Charmaine (OS/ASPA)
Subject: FW: ACF Media Clips for Aug. 31, 2017

Charmaine,

I'm not sure if you ever see the human services clips, but here are some from ACF, many of which are on the topic of the TANF waiver action yesterday.

Maggie

From: ACF Media Clips (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2017 2:35 PM
To: ACF - All ACF Staff
Subject: ACF Media Clips for Aug. 31, 2017

ACF Media Clips for Aug. 31, 2017

TANF Work Requirement Announcement

Donald Trump ends Obama effort to waive work requirements for welfare *(featuring ACF)*
President Donald Trump's administration has decided to restore work requirements for welfare under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.
Under the Department of Health and Human Services, The Office of Family Assistance issued a memorandum to states notifying them of the restoration of work requirements, rescinding a 2012 Obama-era loophole allowing states to request a waiver.
Breitbart News, DC
Aug. 30, 2017

HHS restores work requirement for welfare financial assistance *(featuring ACF)*
The Department of Health and Human Services announced Wednesday the restoration of work participation requirements under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.
Daily Caller, DC
Aug. 30, 2017

The Trump administration believes in the dignity of work *(featuring ACF)*
President Trump and this administration believe in promoting work, not dependency, and in building on the success of the bipartisan 1996 welfare-reform law, not dismantling it. So this week, the Trump administration rescinded the previous administration's guidance that encouraged states to pursue work-requirement waivers.
Opinion
National Review, DC
Aug. 31, 2017

Trump reverses Obama, closes potential loopholes in work requirements for welfare *(featuring ACF)*
President Trump's Department of Health and Human Services today rolled back a 2012 Obama directive weakening the work requirements for welfare reform. Although literally no one will notice a difference in how

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any state's welfare system is run, this change is in keeping with President Trump's promises to ensure that work is linked to welfare.
Opinion
Washington Examiner, DC
Aug. 30, 2017

Trump moves to restore work requirement for welfare *(featuring ACF)*
The Trump administration moved Wednesday to reimpose work requirements for Americans on welfare, revoking an Obama-era policy that had urged states to apply for waivers exempting the poor from having to show they were either getting job training or looking for work.
Washington Times, DC
Aug. 30, 2017
Also picked up at Fox News

Trump administration reverses little-used welfare waivers *(featuring ACF)*
The Trump administration on Wednesday reversed an Obama-era policy that allowed states to seek waivers to welfare's work requirements, saying it wants to promote employment and economic independence "as goals for every family." No waivers were granted by the previous administration.
Associated Press, DC
Aug. 30, 2017
Picked up on several dozen newspaper/media websites, including the Washington Post and New York Times

Child Care

Trump sticks with 15 percent tax rate and child care credits in Missouri speech
President Trump restated his campaign goals of lowering the corporate tax rate to 15 percent and offering new tax benefits for child care in a speech on tax reform in Springfield, Mo., Wednesday, although he didn't offer any new details.
Washington Examiner, DC
Aug. 30, 2017

Child care centers scarce in Kentucky
A new study released by the Center for American Progress shows many Kentuckians live in areas where licensed child care facilities are scarce or nonexistent. Researchers refer to these areas as childcare deserts and concluded that more than 50 percent of people in the Bluegrass live in these areas. Managers at daycare facilities believe the problem could be a result of state laws mandating the ratios of infants to caregivers.
WYMT, KY
Aug. 30, 2017

Children, Youth & Families

Researcher finds abstinence-only sex ed to be ineffective for teens
Maureen Lyon, a clinical health psychologist in the Milken Institute School of Public Health, worked on a broad study of research into abstinence-based sexual education for adolescents and found that only teaching students to avoid sex was largely ineffective at preventing teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. The results of her study were published this month in the Journal of Adolescent Health.
Opinion
George Washington University Hatchet, DC
Aug.31, 2017

Minnesota has an opportunity to help foster care kids

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After a child is adopted, states and corresponding agencies are no longer held accountable for that child, and no data is recorded for former foster care recipients. The state does not know if they made a good choice with my adoption.
Opinion
Minnesota Post, MN
Aug. 31, 2017

Lawyers for child welfare and legal aid under scrutiny for Facebook posts
The social media photo discussion comes at a time when the child welfare agency has been under scrutiny for how it treats parents and how it protects children.
New York Times, NY
Aug.30, 2017

How to prepare a toddler when you're adopting a baby, according to real moms *(featuring ACF)*
According to the Bureau of Child Welfare, one in 25 families in the United States has an adopted child, so there are plenty of websites and mommy boards to tell you how tricky it is to prepare a toddler for an adopted sibling.
Romper, NY
Aug. 30, 2017

Study: Higher minimum wage lowers child abuse *(featuring ACF)*
The research, based on nine years of reports from the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System, tracked changes in the number of reports to child protective service agencies based on increases in the minimum wage.
WXPR, WI
Aug. 30, 2017

Family Assistance (excluding TANF waiver announcement)

The truth about welfare reform *(featuring ACF)*
What happens when able-bodied adults face work requirements in order to receive food stamps? They leave the program in record numbers, going back to work in hundreds of different industries and more than doubling their incomes. Better still, their higher income more than offsets the benefits they lose.
Opinion
Forbes, NY
Aug. 30, 2017

Maine Governor LePage wants Medicaid labelled 'welfare' to make an expansion easier to defeat
Maine's relentlessly abrasive conservative Republican governor, Paul LePage, is engaged in an interesting if rather evil political experiment: can labeling Medicaid as "welfare" sufficiently undermine support for the program to defeat a ballot initiative that would make the state the 31st to accept the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion?
Opinion
New York Magazine, NY
Aug. 30, 2017

LePage tries to block Medicaid expansion in Maine by labeling it 'welfare
Is Medicaid "insurance" or is it "welfare"? The battle taking place in Maine right now over this semantic question could determine whether the state becomes the first in the nation to adopt Obamacare's Medicaid expansion by popular vote.
Opinion
Talking Points Memo, NY
Aug. 30, 2017

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Head Start

Collins, King announce more than $5 million in funding for Head Start programs in Maine *(featuring ACF)*

Senators Susan Collins and Angus King today announced that two Maine organizations will receive a total of $5,355,169 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Kennebec Valley Community Action Program will receive $3,272,520 and Waldo Community Action Partners will receive $2,082,649.

WAGM, ME
Aug. 30, 2017

Refugee Resettlement

Refugee vetting does the job *(featuring ACF)*

Refugees are among the most vulnerable people on the planet. Yet Gov. Henry McMaster has asked that South Carolina not be required to accept refugees from several of the world's most troubled nations — those involved in President Donald Trump's stringent travel ban imposed earlier this year and still tied up in courts. To date, not a single fatal attack in the United States appears to have been committed by a refugee from the Middle East. In short, Mr. McMaster and Mr. Trump's fears are misplaced. The system seems to be working well. If anything, a little more compassion is in order.

Opinion
Charleston Post and Courier, SC
Aug. 30, 2017

Former US officials urge balance in refugee cost reports

Former officials of the State Department and the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service have written to Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, urging that two White House-ordered reports on refugee resettlement costs be balanced by also tallying the benefits refugees bring to the United States. Reuters in June first reported discord over the reports, which President Donald Trump ordered in March. Four current and former officials said they believe the Trump administration wants to help make a case to restrict refugee flows by creating a skewed analysis.

U.S. News & World Report, NY
Aug. 30, 2017

UWO study seeks insight on long-term refugee resettlement challenges, successes

A University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh professor and his students are leading a first-of-its-kind study on long-term refugee resettlement successes and challenges in Wisconsin. Paul Van Auken, chair of the UWO Sociology Department, said the study dives into how families who came to Wisconsin as refugees fare long-term. Students will survey families and individuals and conduct in-depth interviews to learn about the challenges people with refugee backgrounds have faced in their new communities, as well as what helped them thrive and the kind of services most important to helping them do so.

Oshkosh Northwestern, WI
Aug. 30, 2017

Charleston agency won't help with resettling refugees

The U.S. State Department of State won't move forward with resettling refugees this year through a Charleston-based affiliate of Episcopal Migration Ministries, according to organizers who had been working to bring more refugees to West Virginia. Members of the West Virginia Interfaith Refugee Ministry had been working to bring more refugees — those fleeing violence or persecution in their native countries — to West Virginia, by establishing a Charleston-based affiliate of a national resettlement agency.

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Charleston Gazette-Mail, WV
Aug. 30, 2017

Trafficking

Recent study suggests sex trafficking in the Northland is an issue

The University of Minnesota has released a survey aimed to deepen the understanding of sex purchasing in Minnesota. The study analyzed data provided by criminal justice and social workers from Minnesota and surrounding states. The study suggested that a lot of purchasers will pay more, and travel further, for a victim under the age of 18. It also found a lot of those minors are forced into this industry, which is why a law, implemented in 2014 prohibits minors from being charged with prostitution.
KBJR, MN
Aug. 25, 2017

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2017 6:18 PM
To: Bowman, Matthew (HHS/IOS); Lloyd, Scott (ACF)
Subject: FW: ACLU sues refugee office for detaining disabled 10-year old girl

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From: POLITICO Pro Health Care

By Renuka Rayasam

10/31/2017 06:09 PM EDT

AUSTIN, Texas — The American Civil Liberties Union is suing the the HHS office responsible for the care of undocumented minors to release an undocumented 10-year girl with cerebral palsy, who was detained by immigration officials after gallbladder surgery last week.

The suit against the Office of Refugee Resettlement, filed in U.S. District Court in the Western District of Texas, comes a week after the ACLU won a separate suit against the agency to allow an undocumented pregnant teen in a federally-funded shelter to get an abortion.

According to new suit, Rosa Maria Hernandez, who moved to Texas with her parents from Mexico when she was three months old, was detained at a checkpoint on her way to a children's hospital in Corpus Christi from her home in Laredo.

Agents followed her to the hospital. When Hernandez was released after surgery, she was detained and placed in a federally-funded shelter for undocumented minors in San Antonio, against the advice of her doctors.

The girl, who has the cognitive development of a six-year-old, is currently being processed for deportation, even though her grandfather is a legal permanent resident, according to the filing.

In addition to Scott Lloyd, head of the ORR, the suit also lists as defendants HHS acting Secretary Eric Hargan, acting DHS Secretary Elaine Duke, border patrol agents in Texas and executives at the San Antonio shelter where the girl is being detained.

DHS has been stepping up enforcement actions at sensitive locations such as hospitals, health clinics and doctors' offices. Yesterday the American Academy of Pediatrics and its Texas chapter wrote a letter asking DHS to halt the practice.

To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/health-care/whiteboard/2017/10/aclu-sues-refugee-office-for-detaining-disabled-10-year-old-girl-095013

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Page 020 of 120

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2017 2:33 PM
To: Mansdoerfer, David (HHS/IOS)
Subject: FW: Reply by 1PM, 9/19:OMB RFVs:HR 70(Federal Advisory Committee Act Amendments of 2017)
Attachments: hr70.pdf

David,
I'm just going through emails from when I was away and saw this, which I thought you might want to see.
Maggie

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Page 023 of 120

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2017 2:35 PM
To: Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS)
Subject: FW: Reply by COB, 9/20: SSA Draft Bill on SSDI Reform
Attachments: HWM078 - SSA SSDI reform section-by-section.doc; HWM078 - SSA SSDI reform legislative language.docx

Andrew,
Do you see anything in these on which we might want to comment?
Maggie

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Page 026 of 120

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

Maggie

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, October 05, 2017 12:11 PM
To: Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS)
Subject: FW: Urgent Clearance need by 4pm today - Opioids Recommendations
Attachments: Federal Efforts that Support Opioid Commission HHS.docx

Importance: High

I believe this is the same thing. Please go ahead and respond for me/us. I won't have time to review.

From: Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Sent: Thursday, October 05, 2017 11:41 AM
To: OS OGC-IO ControlDesk (HHS); Frohboese, Robinsue (HHS/OCR); Henderson, Harold (HHS/OCR); Householder, Donna (HHS/OS); East, Janet (HHS/OASH); Stallion, Vivian (HHS/OS); Sutherland, Neal (HHS/ASPE); Liebermann, Jana (HHS/ASPE); MirskyAshby, Audrey (HHS/ASPE); Varnado, Martina (FDA/OC); Russ, Wanda (FDA/OC); Koeneman, Sandy (NIH/OD) [E]; Allen-Gifford, Patrice (NIH/OD) [E]; Cashman, Sandra (CDC/OD/OCS); Toye, Sally (CDC/OD/OCS); CDC Review Clear Coordinator <rcc@cdc.gov> (rcc@cdc.gov); Czajkowski, Julie A (IHS/HQ); Buckley, Michael W. (IHS/HQ); McNulty, Amy (HRSA); Roche, Lori (HRSA); Cantwell, Kathleen M. (CMS/OSORA); McCreary, Monica (CMS/OSORA); Briscoe, Rose M. (CMS/OSORA); Reese, Lashawn (CMS/OSORA); Edmondson-Parrott, Michele D. (CMS/OSORA); Holden, Carolyn (OS/ONC); Lamadine, Beh (OS/ONC); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Bell, Kathryn (HHS/IOS); Pence, Laura (HHS/IOS); Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Udutha, Pranay (HHS/IOS); Nelson, Beth (HHS/IOS); Formoso, Paula (HHS/ASPA)
Cc: Wright, Natasha (OS/IOS)
Subject: Urgent Clearance need by 4pm today - Opioids Recommendations
Importance: High

Good morning,

Please see attached an urgent document for your clearance entitled "Current Efforts the Federal Government Is Implementing that Support Recommendations of the Presidents Commission on Combatting Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis." This document will likely be released publically, so please do not include any non-public info if you provide comments. **We are requesting your office's clearance by 4:00PM today.** You will also be receiving this clearance under SPS 387506.

Due to the time sensitivity of this clearance, please email me first your clearance/comments, and then follow-up in SPS.

Please contact me with any questions.

Thanks.
Matt

Matthew R. Grove
Senior Policy Coordinator/Services Policy Team Lead
Immediate Office of the Secretary-Executive Secretariat
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave SW - Room 627H
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: (202) 205-8154 Fax: (202) 205-2135
Matthew.Grove@hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2017 11:39 PM
To: Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC)
Subject: Fwd: ACF Media Clips for Oct. 23, 2017

FYI on UAC media

Begin Forwarded Message:
From: "ACF Media Clips (ACF)" <MediaClips@acf.hhs.gov>
Subject: ACF Media Clips for Oct. 23, 2017
Date: 23 October 2017 23:02
To: "ACF - All ACF Staff" <All-ACFStaff@acf.hhs.gov>

ACF Media Clips for Oct. 23, 2017

Unaccompanied Alien Children

ACLU asks for review in case of undocumented teen seeking abortion *(featuring ACF)*
The ACLU is asking a federal appeals court for help in clearing the way for an undocumented teen in detention in Texas to end her pregnancy. The group filed an emergency petition Sunday night in the matter of 17-year-old "Jane Doe," who is 15-and-a-half weeks pregnant and wants an abortion. "Every additional week the government delays her abortion increases the risks associated with the procedure," it stated.
CNN, GA
Oct. 23, 2017

Teen in immigration detention takes abortion fight to full appeals court *(featuring ACF)*
Lawyers for an undocumented 17-year-old girl in a federally funded shelter in Texas are asking the full bench of a federal appeals court in Washington to permit her to have an abortion immediately despite resistance from the Trump administration. Attorneys with the American Civil Liberties Union moved Sunday night to escalate the legal fight to the full D.C. Circuit after a three-judge panel issued a 2-1 decision Friday trying to forestall a definitive ruling in the case. That panel gave authorities until the end of the month to try to find the teen an adult sponsor, who could then help her get an abortion if she still desires one.
Politico, DC
Oct. 22, 2017

Undocumented 17-year-old must delay abortion, court rules *(featuring ACF)*
An undocumented 17-year-old caught in a legal standoff with the federal government must further delay plans for an abortion after an appeals court ruled on Friday that the Department of Health and Human Services had 11 days to find a sponsor to take custody of the teenager. The decision by the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit could put her health at risk, doctors say, especially now that she is about 15 weeks pregnant.
New York Times, NY
Oct. 21, 2017

Trump administration halts abortion for undocumented pregnant teen in Brownsville *(featuring ACF)*

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Trump administration stopped an undocumented pregnant teen in a refugee shelter in Brownsville, Texas, from getting an abortion even though she had already procured the needed money and permission from a judge to push through with it without parental consent.
Christian Daily, DC
Oct. 21, 2017

Appeals court weighs undocumented teen abortion case *(featuring ACF)*
A legal battle between the Trump administration and a 17-year-old immigration detainee in Texas forced a federal appeals court in Washington to do something Friday it rarely does: wrestle with a complex case about abortion rights. However, at least one of the three judges on the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals panel, Brett Kavanaugh, made clear throughout the unusual oral argument session Friday that he's eager to dispose of the case without making any precedent-setting rulings.
Politico, DC
Oct. 20, 2017

The latest: DC appeals court blocks teen's abortion access *(featuring ACF)*
A Washington appeals court is blocking for now an abortion sought by a 17-year-old being held in a Texas facility for unaccompanied immigrant children. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled Friday that the government should have until the evening of Oct. 31 to release the teenager to an adult sponsor. If released to a sponsor, the teen could obtain the procedure.
Associated Press, DC
Oct. 20, 2017

Q&A: Abortion case involving immigrant teen stirs emotions *(featuring ACF)*
The Trump administration has fought in court to prevent a 17-year-old held in a Texas facility for unaccompanied immigrant children from having an abortion. In a case that's stirring strong emotions on both sides of the abortion debate, a federal appeals court ruled Friday that the government could have until Oct. 31 to find a sponsor to whom it could release the teenager so that she can elect to have the abortion on her own.
Associated Press, DC
Oct. 20, 2017

US court blocks immigrant teen's bid to obtain abortion *(featuring ACF)*
A U.S. appeals court on Friday prevented a pregnant teen detained by the government as an illegal immigrant from immediately obtaining an abortion while leaving open the possibility that she could undergo the procedure within days. The decision by a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit on a 2-1 vote gave the government until Oct. 31 to approve a sponsor who could help her obtain the procedure without the government's assistance.
Reuters, DC
Oct. 20, 2017

Appeals court delays abortion for undocumented teen; gives government time to find her a sponsor *(featuring ACF)*
A D.C. appeals court panel has declined to order the federal government to immediately allow an abortion for an undocumented teenager it is detaining, instead giving the Department of Health and Human Services 11 days to find a sponsor to take custody of the girl. The court's 2-1 decision allows the Trump administration to maintain its policy of not facilitating abortions for the undocumented minors in its custody. It also further delays the 17-year-old's quest to end her pregnancy, and increases the risk that she will run out of time to have the procedure.
Washington Post, DC
Oct. 20, 2017

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Appeals court gives feds 11 days to find sponsor for illegal minor seeking abortion *(featuring ACF)*
A federal appeals court has given the Trump administration a deadline to find a sponsor to help an illegal immigrant girl get an abortion, or else face the prospect of having to facilitate the abortion using taxpayer money, in a case that has become a major test of hot-button issues. The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled late Friday that the government has until Halloween to find an acceptable sponsor to take the girl, an illegal Mexican immigrant who is part of the surge of unaccompanied alien children who have arrived in the U.S. in the past five years.
Washington Times, DC
Oct. 20, 2017

Illegal immigrant's abortion demand turns into major battle over Constitution *(featuring ACF)*
The fight over whether the government must facilitate an illegal immigrant girl obtaining an abortion has exploded into a full-blown legal battle over the future and limits of Roe v. Wade, according to pro-life and pro-choice groups anxiously awaiting a ruling. A federal appeals court in D.C. heard oral argument on the case Friday and the judges are rushing to rule, with the girl's advocates saying she's 15 weeks pregnant and needs to have the abortion now or else she'll run into later-term restrictions that would make the procedure complicated.
Washington Times, DC
Oct. 20, 2017

DC Circuit blocks undocumented teen from getting abortion, for now *(featuring ACF)*
The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Friday that the Trump administration can continue to block an undocumented teen in federal custody from having an abortion. The court said the Department of Health and Human Services has until 5 p.m. on Oct. 31 to find a sponsor for the 17-year-old girl, known in court documents only as Jane Doe.
Hill, DC
Oct. 20, 2017

Court wrestles with undocumented teen's abortion request *(featuring ACF)*
The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals on Friday appeared unconvinced Friday the government can block an undocumented 17-year-old girl who is in federal custody from getting an abortion. The government argues the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) can choose not to "facilitate" the teen's access to an abortion. But Judge Brett Kavanaugh, a George W. Bush appointee, asked if women in federal prison, under Supreme Court precedent, have the right to obtain an abortion. Department of Justice Attorney Catherine Dorsey said they do have the right because women in prison have no way other way to obtain one. But the immigrant teen is different, Dorsey said, because she has the right to voluntarily leave the United States. But Kavanaugh responded that, by Dorsey's own definition, the government would be facilitating the abortion of prisoners.
Hill, DC
Oct. 20, 2017

Court blocks undocumented teen's abortion — for now *(featuring ACF)*
A federal appeals court sought a compromise solution Friday in a dispute between a 17-year-old undocumented teenager who wants an abortion and a federal agency that doesn't want to help her get it. A three-judge panel that includes two Republican appointees gave the Trump administration until Oct. 31 to find a sponsor for the girl, who crossed from Mexico to Texas last month and is 15 weeks pregnant. That would facilitate the abortion without involving the Department of Health and Human Services.
USA Today, DC
Oct. 20, 2017

DC Circuit's dubious compromise won't guarantee undocumented minor's abortion rights *(featuring ACF)*

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

On Friday afternoon, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit granted an undocumented minor in federal custody conditional access to abortion—within the next few weeks. The decision marks a compromise by two conservative judges keen to preserve their anti-abortion bona fides without transgressing Supreme Court precedent, which clearly protects the minor's right to terminate her pregnancy. This ruling will force the minor at the heart of this case, who is referred to as Jane Doe, to continue her unwanted pregnancy for at least 11 more days.
Slate Magazine, DC
Oct. 20, 2017

Appeals court sets terms for abortion for teen immigrant *(featuring ACF)*
A federal appeals court in Washington, D.C., has ruled that a detained teenage immigrant may not obtain an abortion until a government-approved sponsor can be secured by the end of the month. A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit split 2-1 on the ruling.
National Public Radio, DC
Oct. 20, 2017

Federal court affirms undocumented teen's right to abortion, but delays the procedure *(featuring ACF)*
A federal appeals court has ruled that a pregnant, undocumented teenage girl being held by immigration authorities in Texas has a right to an abortion, but the judges further delayed her ability to get one, determining that the government does not need to facilitate the procedure.
Think Progress, DC
Oct. 20, 2017

Ruling on whether illegal teen can get abortion in America hangs in the balance *(featuring ACF)*
In an ongoing case to determine whether an illegal immigrant teenager can receive an abortion in the U.S., a federal appeals court heard oral arguments Friday. "The government is causing her irreparable harm" by forcing her to remain pregnant against her will, plaintiff attorney Rochelle Garza said during oral arguments. The defense attorney responded by saying the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is "not putting an obstacle in her path, but declining her an abortion." She added that the girl — who crossed the border illegally Sept. 7 and is 15 weeks pregnant — can sign for "voluntary departure" at any point.
Daily Caller, DC
Oct. 20, 2017

Teenage immigrant forced by government to remain pregnant *(featuring ACF)*
After weeks of legal limbo, a federal appeals court today ruled that Jane Doe, an unaccompanied immigrant minor in Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) custody, cannot access the abortion care for which she received a judicial waiver. The court has given Jane Doe until October 31 to secure a sponsor. Once a sponsor is secured, Jane Doe will be released from the custody of Health and Human Services (HHS), which oversees ORR, and she can access abortion care.
Rewire, MD
Oct. 20, 2017

DC Circuit declines to allow pregnant undocumented teen to get abortion, for now *(featuring ACF)*
In a 2-1 ruling Friday, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit refused to require the government to allow a detained undocumented 17-year-old to get an abortion. In a two-page order, the court gave the Department of Health & Human Services until 5 p.m. on Oct. 31 to find a sponsor for the girl, at which point she would be free to leave the government's custody and get an abortion. The court also vacated sections of the lower court's temporary restraining order, issued Wednesday, that forced the government to allow Doe to be transported to an abortion facility. The appeals court remanded the case to the district court and said that should HHS not be able to secure a sponsor, the order said the lower court could re-enter its temporary restraining order, and the government could then appeal again.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

National Law Journal, NY
Oct. 20, 2017

US appeals court delays abortion for undocumented, unaccompanied minor under federal custody *(featuring ACF)*
A federal appeals court has temporarily blocked an undocumented, unaccompanied minor -- who is under U.S. custody -- from obtaining the abortion she is seeking. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia today ruled that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), which is supervising the detention of the 17-year-old, has until Oct. 31, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. to secure a sponsor for the teen, which would allow for her release.
ABC News, NY
Oct. 20, 2017

Court ruling could allow undocumented teen to get abortion *(featuring ACF)*
A federal appeals court in Washington has blocked an immigrant teen held in Texas facility from obtaining an abortion for the time being. The court had wrestled Friday with whether the Trump administration must permit an abortion being sought by a pregnant 17-year-old who is being held in a Texas facility for unaccompanied immigrant children. A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia heard arguments lasting over an hour in the case.
CBS News, NY
Oct. 20, 2017

Court blocks immediate abortion for undocumented teen *(featuring ACF)*
An appeals court is blocking, for now, an abortion sought by a pregnant 17-year-old immigrant being held in a Texas facility, ruling that the government should have time to try to release her so she can obtain the abortion outside of federal custody. The court ruled 2-1 that the government should have until Oct. 31 to release the girl into the custody of a sponsor, such as an adult relative in the United States.
NBC News, NY
Oct. 20, 2017

DC Circuit grapples with immigrant minor's abortion access *(featuring ACF)*
Attorneys for the Trump administration credited an interest in promoting childbirth Friday in asking the D.C. Circuit to keeping an abortion off limits to a teenager whom immigration authorities apprehended last month at the Texas border. Dodging the issue of the teen's constitutional rights, Dorsey argued that the girl could be released to a sponsor or could voluntary return to her home country, the name of which has been sealed by the court.
Courthouse News Service, CA
Oct. 20, 2017

Appeals court delays abortion for immigrant held in federal detention *(featuring ACF)*
Divided federal appeals court delayed final resolution of the case of a 17-year-old pregnant migrant in federal detention who is seeking an abortion, giving the Trump administration until the end of this month to find a private sponsor who can house her and will allow her to obtain the procedure. The 2-1 ruling, written by Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh, a conservative appointed by President George W. Bush, said that if the government fails to find a sponsor by Oct. 31, the young woman can return to a district court that earlier this week ordered the government to allow her to get an abortion by this weekend.
Los Angeles Times, CA
Oct. 20, 2017

Appeals court: Government can temporarily keep immigrant girl from obtaining abortion *(featuring ACF)*

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

A 17-year-old immigrant who is being held in a federal shelter won't be immediately released to obtain an abortion, following a ruling Friday by a federal appeals court. Instead, officials with the Office of Refugee Resettlement have until October 31 to place her with a family member or another sponsor, at which point she would be free to get an abortion without further permission from the federal government.
Reveal/The Center for Investigative Reporting, CA
Oct. 20, 2017

Federal court allows Trump administration to delay pregnant teen's abortion—again *(featuring ACF)*
A federal appeals court in Washington, DC has allowed the Trump administration to continue to delay access to an abortion appointment for an unaccompanied, pregnant minor being held in a federal refugee shelter. Friday's order in the highly-watched case gives the US Department of Health and Human Services until Tuesday evening to secure a sponsor to remove the girl from federal custody. Once out of the facility, she could presumably seek an abortion without further interference.
Mother Jones, CA
Oct. 20, 2017

Abortion case raises questions of what constitutional right undocumented immigrants are entitled to *(featuring ACF)*
The US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit issued an order Friday further delaying an undocumented teenager's request to obtain an abortion The case involves a pregnant 17-year-old, identified as "Jane Doe" in court documents, who is currently 15 weeks pregnant and has so far been barred from release to terminate her pregnancy. While the shelter itself has no qualms with allowing the procedure, according to court documents, Trump administration officials have declined to give shelter officials the necessary permission to release Doe for the appointment.
BuzzFeed News, CA
Oct. 20, 2017

NY AG writes Trump admin. that he will defend 'right' of unaccompanied minors to abortion access *(featuring ACF)*
New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman wrote Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) E. Scott Lloyd Friday claiming that denying access to abortions for unaccompanied minors is "unconstitutional, it is inhumane, and it is abhorrent." The D.C. appeals court is weighing the question Friday of whether Jane Doe, an unaccompanied minor who came to the country illegally, has the right to access an abortion.
Townhall, CA
Oct. 20, 2017

Appeals court ruling delays abortion for immigrant in Texas *(featuring ACF)*
A federal appeals court gave the Trump administration until Oct. 31 to find a suitable relative or sponsor to take custody of a teenage immigrant — removing her from federal custody and allowing her access to an abortion she has been fighting for three weeks to get. The government's interest in promoting childbirth over abortion allows federal officials to avoid any actions that would allow a 17-year-old immigrant, in federal custody in Texas after crossing the Mexico border illegally, to have an abortion, Trump administration lawyers told a federal appeals court Friday.
Austin American-Statesman, TX
Oct. 20, 2017

Federal appeals court blocks undocumented teen's request for immediate abortion *(featuring ACF)*
The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit ruled Friday that an undocumented teenager in Texas is not allowed to immediately have the abortion she requested. The Court gave the federal government until Oct. 31 to find a sponsor to take custody of the teen and take her to an abortion clinic to have the procedure.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Texas Tribune, TX
Oct. 20, 2017

Undocumented teen's abortion is a constitutional hellhole for Trump *(featuring ACF)*
The 90-minute hearing for *Garza* v. *Hargan*, as the case is known, was in every which way a judicial spectacle unlike any in recent D.C. Circuit history. The session, which is worth listening to in full, was a microcosm of all the constitutional clashes one might expect the Trump administration to jump into: immigration law and the personhood of undocumented immigrants; the plight of unaccompanied minors; the future of *Roe* v. *Wade*; federalism and states' rights; moral opposition, as a matter of federal policy, to a woman's exercise of her constitutional rights.
Opinion
New York Magazine, NY
Oct. 22, 2017

The ACLU's selective compassion
Under the Trump administration, the federal government no longer wants to be complicit in abortions performed on under-age teens who enter the country illegally. To the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), refusing to facilitate the killing of these unborn children is "unprecedented, it's unconstitutional, and it's also unconscionable," according to Brigitte Amiri, a senior ACLU staff lawyer. There is no right to life under the ACLU's — and the post-Roe v. Wade law's — selective compassion.
Opinion
Washington Times, DC
Oct. 22, 2017

Abortion ideologues subvert a woman's rights *(featuring ACF)*
Jane Doe is a 17-year-old undocumented immigrant detained in Texas who is 15 weeks pregnant and is seeking an abortion. The Constitution grants her that right, but the Trump administration is determined to subvert it as part of its war on women's reproductive rights. Nationally and globally, through restrictions on foreign aid, women's reproductive rights are endangered by administration officials warping policy to their beliefs, regardless of the law. Now they don't even bother to hide their intent.
Editorial
New York Times, NY
Oct. 20, 1027

US refugee office denying girl access to abortion (VIDEO) *(featuring ACF)*
Rachel Maddow reports on an anti-abortion extremist appointed by Donald Trump to lead the Office of Refugee Resettlement trying to force a teenage girl refugee to give birth by denying her access to medical care, including abortion services.
Opinion
Rachel Maddow Show/MSNBC, NY
Oct. 20, 2017

Trump administration continues fight to keep immigrant imprisoned so she can't have a legal abortion *(featuring ACF)*
And again, it was clear the government's lawyers saw nothing strange about in effect arguing it had the right to imprison a woman to stop her from exercising a constitutional right that even incarcerated criminals have access to. The three-judge Court of Appeals panel hearing this case is clearly split, with one judge appearing to accept the government's argument and another clearly wanting to uphold Chutkan's ruling. The third judge adds a real twist to this case. Judge Brett Kavanaugh, a conservative George W. Bush appointee who is widely viewed as a possible Supreme Court nominee in a Republican administration seemed eager to make this case go away.
Opinion

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

New York Magazine, NY
Oct. 20, 2017

Roe v. the DC Circuit *(featuring ACF)*
At this moment, the Trump administration is exerting direct control over the reproductive capacities of a 17-year-old girl in Texas, holding her in federal custody and refusing to let her obtain an abortion. A state judge has granted her the right to terminate her pregnancy; the administration does not care. The entire Garza affair has been darkly enlightening. In the past few weeks, we have learned that this administration does not believe undocumented minors have a genuine right to terminate an unwanted pregnancy. In fact, it isn't even sure that undocumented immigrants count as people in the first place.
Opinion
Slate Magazine, DC
Oct. 20, 2017

Court delays undocumented minor's right to abortion *(featuring ACF)*
Jerked around by the Trump administration for the past month, a pregnant, unaccompanied Texas minor in need of abortion care has again been delayed from accessing health care by a federal appeals court, pushing her further into pregnancy – precisely what some anti-choice federal officials want.
Opinion
Austin Chronicle, TX
Oct. 20, 2017

The Trump administration just made its most Orwellian attack on abortion *(featuring ACF)*
The United States government is holding a woman prisoner to keep her from obtaining an abortion. Let that fact sink in for a moment. The core issue at the heart of *Garza v. Hargan* is whether the coercive power of the state can be used to hold someone prisoner to keep them from obtaining an abortion.
Opinion
Think Progress, DC
Oct. 20, 2017

Child Care

10,000 working parents could face child-care shortage by 2020 in Franklin County
An estimated 10,000 working parents in Franklin County could face a child-care crunch in three years, so county officials are asking employers to start talking about it now. Starting in 2020, families receiving county child-care subsidies no longer may enroll their children with day care centers and in-home caregivers who have not yet been rated with at least one star under the state's five-star Step Up to Quality initiative.
Columbus Business First, OH
Oct. 21, 2017

DHS gives Ds to 7 out of its 10 child-care contractors
Philadelphia's child welfare system isn't failing, its leaders say, but it's just barely passing the grade. Commissioner Cynthia Figueroa was to release a scorecard Thursday analyzing the performance of the 10 Community Umbrella Agencies, or CUAs, the organizations contracted to manage the 10,000+ children getting services from, or in the custody of, the city. Seven out of the 10 organizations, on an A-through-F scale, received a score of D, or unsatisfactory. The others got Cs.
Philadelphia Inquirer, PA
Oct. 19, 2017

Children, Youth & Families

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Foster parents testify at the State House
The newly formed Alliance for NH Foster Parents shared their mission with members of the Oversight Committee and stressed the need for changes that protect children and support foster parents. A source of foster parent frustration noted was ambiguous DCYF rules that are not carried out in a consistent manner throughout the state.
Manchester Link, NH
Oct. 23, 2017

Child deaths spike after DCFS privatizes 'intact family services'
The Inspector General's report, which has not been made public but was examined by the Tribune, determined that DCFS conducted cursory and ineffective investigations into a series of abuse allegations in the months before Verna's death.
Chicago Tribune, IL
Oct. 22, 2017

'It's like a tsunami': Opioid epidemic pushes kids into foster care
Halli Lavner, the agency's director of the Office of Child and Family Services, said she knows of at least two recent cases in which parents successfully completed drug treatment programs and were granted the return of their children. But a short time later, the children were bounced back to foster care because their parents relapsed.
Buffalo News, NY
Oct. 22, 2017

Greitens announces reform aimed at helping foster kids
Greitens' wife, Sheena Greitens, recently met with a group of current and former foster kids to learn about their struggles, the release said. Those kids told her that not having a birth certificate made it difficult for them to get a license, learn to drive and get a job.
Springfield News-Leader, MO
Oct. 22, 2017

Community Services

Budget delays impact heating assistance *(featuring ACF)*
Federal budget delays are impacting local residents when it comes to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, according to Menominee-Delta-Schoolcraft Community Action Agency Executive Director Julie Moberg.
Escanaba Daily Press, MI
Oct.23, 2017

Head Start

UCS Head Start in Bennington celebrates $1.2 million grant *(featuring ACF)*
This past spring UCS was awarded a $1.2 million grant in order to expand education and child care services to children in Bennington County. The grant allowed for the addition of an Early Head Start Program. Head Start and Early Head Start of Bennington County provide high quality care for working families.
Vermont Business Magazine, VT
Oct. 18, 2017

Refugee Resettlement

St. Cloud officials, residents to discuss moratorium on refugee resettlement

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT
HHS-OS EF Lit 18-0241--000734
EXT-18-241-B-000734

The discussion comes after a city councilor proposed a resolution temporarily banning refugees in St. Cloud. Community members, some city council members and the mayor have been pushing back on the resolution. The mayor says the council should be focused on welcoming people instead of trying to stop refugee settlements.
KSTP, MN
Oct. 23, 2017

Those eligible for U.S. refugee resettlement: 'The most vulnerable people in the world'
The Refugee Act of 1980, which was passed by Congress and signed by President Carter, is the governing law for refugee resettlement programs like those in Idaho, Reeves said. That provided "permanent and systematic procedure for refugees to be admitted to the United States," with the goals of "early economic self-sufficiency for refugees after they enter our country," and a primary objective of "effective resettlement and absorption of refugees into our society."
Spokane Spokesman-Review, WA
Oct. 23, 2017

Drop in refugee resettlement hurts Indiana non-profit's budget
Exodus Refugee Immigration expected 2017 to be a record year, as it geared up to bring more than 900 refugees to the state. It had plans to open a second office in Bloomington, where the community mobilized to find resources to welcome families. But the expansion is on hold indefinitely because of a nearly 50 percent drop in the number of refugees the U.S. is admitting under President Trump.
WTIU, IN
Oct. 20, 2017

Soft Landing Missoula, Poole featured in Starbucks docu-series
It has been more than two years since Poole, her first child just 6 months old, launched Soft Landing Missoula to attract a refugee resettlement office to Missoula. Nearly 120 Congolese, Eritreans, Iraqis and Syrians have arrived in town since the International Rescue Committee started accepting them and Soft Landing began welcoming them in August 2016.
Missoulian, MT
Oct. 20, 2017

Revolt! U.S. city 'ground zero' in refugee battle *(featuring ACF)*
"The mayor keeps saying over and over there is no local role in refugee resettlement, that it is strictly a federal program but that's just not true," Johnson told WND.
Opinion
World Net Daily, DC
Oct. 19, 2017

Trafficking

Seattle nonprofit takes on sex buyers with technology
Beiser's digital campaign signals a shift in the way sex trafficking and prostitution now works. Gone are the days when most sex buyers picked up prostitutes on the street in plain view. Experts say the sex industry is increasingly operating behind closed doors and online, which means anti-trafficking groups and law enforcement must get creative to intervene.
KING, WA
Oct. 23, 2017

Gov.McMaster wants to prevent 'sanctuary cities' in South Carolina
The governor cited providing a safe environments for businesses to invest in South Carolina, increasing public safety, and curbing human trafficking as reasons why the measure is necessary.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

WLTX, SC
Oct. 23, 2017

Vern Buchanan: House leadership needs to move quickly on dealing with human trafficking
Buchanan is one of the six co-sponsors of U.S. Rep. Ted Poe's, R-Texas, "Abolish Human Trafficking Act" which raises penalties on criminals who engage in that form of crime and creates new protocols for screening suspects and helping victims. The proposal also extends the Justice Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund to ensure convicted traffickers will be fined to help pay for services their victims need.
WBOB, FL
Oct. 23, 2017

The track: Police slow to change tactics as sex trafficking persists on Bourbon Street
NOPD didn't begin looking at new ways to approach prostitution and enforce human trafficking laws until the second-half of 2016, said Doug Eckert, the commander of NOPD's criminal investigative division and NOPD's point person over sex trafficking enforcement.
New Orleans Times-Picayune, LA
Oct. 22, 2017

Why is it hard to bust human traffickers?
Another problem with weeding out human trafficking is its transient nature. Prostitutes no longer need to stand on a notorious street corner. They just need to put their phone numbers online. They could be at a different motel every day.
Epoch Times, NY
Oct. 21, 2017

Selling girls | One Maine woman's story breaking free from sex trafficking
The FBI handles case after case with Maine ties. Brown says the internet makes sex trafficking easier than ever for criminals.
WCSH, ME
Oct. 16, 2017

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, October 24, 2017 3:18 PM
To: Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC)
Subject: Fwd: ACF Media Clips for Oct. 24, 2017

Not sure if you want to see these. I won't continue to send them unless you say so.

Begin Forwarded Message:
From: "ACF Media Clips (ACF)" <MediaClips@acf.hhs.gov>
Subject: ACF Media Clips for Oct. 24, 2017
Date: 24 October 2017 20:46
To: "ACF - All ACF Staff" <All-ACFStaff@acf.hhs.gov>

ACF Media Clips for Oct. 24, 2017

Unaccompanied Alien Children

ACLU asks appeals court to reconsider ruling delaying abortion for undocumented teen *(featuring ACF)*
The American Civil Liberties Union is asking all 10 judges on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit to review a Friday ruling that delayed an abortion procedure for a undocumented teenager under federal custody in Texas. The emergency petition asks the full D.C. Circuit Court to rehear the matter and vacate last week's appeals court ruling.
Texas Tribune, TX
Oct. 23, 2017

Attorneys for undocumented teen in Texas ask federal court for another hearing *(featuring ACF)*
Lawyers with the American Civil Liberties Union who represent the unaccompanied immigrant minor on Sunday night asked for another hearing in front of all active judges in the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals. Meanwhile, a government watchdog group has filed a complaint with the inspector general of the health department, asking for an investigation of the Office of Refugee Relations director. The watchdog organization pointed to specific instances where Lloyd tried to persuade pregnant minors in federal custody against abortion, as well as directed shelters to take the minors to crisis pregnancy centers. The Office of Refugee Resources did not immediately comment Monday.
Dallas Morning News, TX
Oct. 23, 2017

Undocumented pregnant teen asks full appeals court to review decision on abortion *(featuring ACF)*
An undocumented pregnant teen, who is in federal custody in Texas, is continuing her fight in court today for the right to leave a detention facility to have an abortion. On Sunday night, attorneys for the undocumented teen filed an emergency petition to have her case reviewed by the full U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit -- in an attempt to reverse an order they said sidestepped serious constitutional questions.
ABC News, NY
Oct. 23, 2017

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Attorneys representing undocumented teen asks court to reconsider abortion *(featuring ACF)*
Attorneys for a pregnant teen being held in a Texas immigration facility are asking a federal appeals court to reconsider its decision not to order the government to let her obtain an abortion. Lawyers for the 17-year-old on Sunday asked the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia to hold another hearing before all the judges on the court.
CBS News, NY
Oct. 23, 2017

The government must facilitate an abortion, a DC court is poised to rule *(featuring ACF)*
Late Friday, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals held that the Department of Health and Human Services was not required to release an unaccompanied minor illegally present in the United States from custody to obtain an abortion — at least not yet. The case, Garza v. Hargan, represents the first lawsuit decided at the appellate-court level to consider the constitutionality of the government's policy of refusing to facilitate abortions for minors held by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).
National Review, NY
Oct. 23, 2017

Delaying abortion for teenage immigrant increased costs, risks *(featuring ACF)*
An advocate for a 17-year-old Central American girl who entered this country illegally said that by delaying an abortion for the girl, federal agencies and an appellate court have forced her to obtain a more invasive, lengthier and expensive procedure, if she can get an abortion at all. Courtney Cahill, a professor at Florida State University College of Law, described the *Garza* majority's decision as a compromise ruling. Two judges on the panel seem reluctant to cast what is happening in the girl's case as an undue burden and did not address the argument that HHS's refusal to hand her over so she can have an abortion is an undue burden, said Cahill, who focuses on matters where family law and constitutional law intersect. The idea of what complicity is and what facilitating is being stretched, she said. "I've never seen the government make this argument in the abortion context," Cahill said.
Law.com/Texas Lawyer, NY
Oct. 23, 2017

Detained immigrant teen asks full appeals court to let her get abortion *(featuring ACF)*
Lawyers for an undocumented pregnant teenager detained in Texas have asked the full federal appeals court of 10 judges in Washington to immediately consider allowing her to get an abortion. The move came after a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit on Friday declined to order the federal government to immediately let the 17-year-old girl obtain an abortion. Instead, the appeals court panel gave the Department of Health and Human Services 11 days to find a sponsor to take custody of the girl. The government is opposing the request.
Washington Post, DC
Oct. 23, 2017

Undocumented teen asks full appeals court to step in, allow abortion *(featuring ACF)*
An undocumented teenager who was blocked from getting an abortion is now requesting the full bench of a federal appeals court in Washington to step in, Politico reported. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia on Friday ordered the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in a 2-1 decision to find and release the 17-year-old girl — known in court documents only as Jane Doe — to a sponsor by 5 p.m. on Oct. 31. Now, attorneys with the American Civil Liberties Union are seeking to extend the appeal to the full D.C. Circuit.
Hill, DC
Oct. 23, 2017

Illegal immigrant teenager could be forced between having abortion or staying in US *(featuring ACF)*

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The Justice Department's argument that an illegal immigrant is not entitled to an abortion could force the teenager to choose between staying in the U.S. or having the abortion. The Justice Department filed a brief Monday urging the D.C. Court of Appeals not to provide a full "en banc" review of *Garza v. Hagan* because the decision last week from the federal appeals court's three-judge panel failed to contradict Supreme Court precedent.
Washington Examiner, DC
Oct. 23, 2017

ACLU petitions for emergency rehearing so illegal immigrant can get an abortion *(featuring ACF)*
The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) asked the U.S. Court of Appeals to reconsider delaying its decision regarding a pregnant illegal immigrant seeking an abortion, according to a petition filed Sunday. After the federal appeals court ruled Friday that the pregnant teen had until Oct. 31 to find a sponsor, the ACLU filed an emergency petition to protest the court's decision, according to USA Today. Attorneys hope to convince the court to hold an emergency rehearing before the end of the month.
Daily Caller, DC
Oct. 23, 2017

How long can the Trump administration prevent a 17-year-old immigrant from getting an abortion? Case tests limit *(featuring ACF)*
The ACLU asked a federal appeals court Sunday night to reenter the case of a 17-year-old pregnant immigrant in detention whose request for an abortion has been blocked by federal officials. Under policies adopted by the Trump administration, federal officials have tried to block any pregnant minors held in immigrant detention from getting abortions. E. Scott Lloyd, the head of the federal refugee agency that oversees detention centers for minors, is a longtime antiabortion activist, and he has refused to allow Doe to leave the detention center to go to an abortion clinic.
Los Angeles Times, CA
Oct. 23, 2017

Teen's case becomes test of Trump policies on abortion and immigration *(featuring ACF)*
A divided federal appeals court delayed final resolution of the case of a 17-year-old pregnant migrant in federal detention who is seeking an abortion, giving the Trump administration until the end of this month to find a private sponsor who can house her and will allow her to obtain the procedure.
Governing, CA
Oct. 23, 2017

ACLU asks appeals court to reconsider delay on unaccompanied minor's abortion *(featuring ACF)*
The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) asked the D.C. Court of Appeals Sunday to re-hear the case of Jane Doe, an unaccompanied minor who is seeking an abortion in Texas which HHS officials have declined to facilitate. The Court of Appeals ruled Friday evening that the teen must find a sponsor in the U.S. by October 31st to facilitate the abortion so that HHS is not involved. ACLU filed a petition asking the court to hold an emergency rehearing of the case and to vacate Friday's order.
Townhall, CA
Oct. 23, 2017

Abortion rights claimed by undocumented immigrant *(featuring ACF)*
The Trump administration is locked in a legal battle over whether it is required to facilitate an abortion for a 17-year-old illegal immigrant being held in a federally funded Texas shelter. J.D., who is represented by the American Civil Liberties Union, claims she has a legal right to abortion and is being "held hostage to the extreme anti-abortion views of a handful of government officials," The New York Times reported.
Baptist Press News, TN
Oct. 23, 2017

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Texas bishops criticize ACLU's support for teen immigrant's abortion *(featuring ACF)*

Texas bishops criticized the American Civil Liberties Union for backing an abortion for a teen immigrant in the country illegally and also praised government officials for their defense of the unborn. On Oct. 20, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit declined to order the federal government to allow the pregnant teenager under federal custody to get an abortion. Instead, the court gave the Department of Health and Human Services until Oct. 31 to find a sponsor to take custody of the teenager.

Crux/Catholic News Service, CO

Oct. 23, 2017

Trump administration can block teenage illegal immigrant's abortion till Oct. 31 *(featuring ACF)*
A divided federal appeals court late Friday ruled that the Trump administration for now can block an undocumented teenager from getting an abortion, but that it should seek a way to transfer custody of the girl so she can obtain the procedure. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, by a 2-to-1 vote, said the administration can prevent a 17-year-old in U.S. custody from having an abortion through Oct. 31.
Wall Street Journal, NY
Oct. 20, 2017

First major abortion battle of Trump era could be headed for Supreme Court *(featuring ACF)*
The case of a pregnant migrant teen held in Texas and blocked by the Trump administration from obtaining an abortion may be heading toward a point of no return. The dispute, now at a Washington-based US appeals court and perhaps destined for the US Supreme Court, constitutes the first major abortion battle of the Trump administration. It reinforces President Donald Trump's recent moves to curtail reproductive rights and take up religiously tinged conservative causes. It also recalls decades-old disputes over whether a husband, parent or anyone else can essentially veto a woman's choice to end an unwanted pregnancy.
Opinion
CNN, GA
Oct. 24, 2017

A *pregnant*, *undocumented teen* symbolizes the Trump administration's attack on human rights *(featuring ACF)*

Jane Doe is a child. At 17, she is considered a minor by US law and international human-rights law. Doe (the name used by the court to process her case) is also an undocumented immigrant from Central America, who is being held in a shelter for unaccompanied minors. Doe is also an undocumented immigrant and 15 weeks pregnant—and is seeking an abortion. This puts her at the intersection of several issues on which the Trump administration is trying to claw back human rights: access to reproductive health services, immigration, and the rights of undocumented minors in custody (who, unlike adults, aren't processed for immediate deportation).

Opinion
Quartz, NY
Oct. 24, 2017

NJ religious fanatic at center of immigrant abortion co

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Wednesday, October 25, 2017 2:17 AM
To: Oakley, Caitlin B. (OS/ASPA)
Subject: Fwd: Your Appearance in The New Yorker Magazine (request for comment, on deadline)

From: "Blitzer, Jonathan" <Jonathan_Blitzer@newyorker.com>
Subject: Your Appearance in The New Yorker Magazine (request for comment, on deadline)
Date: 25 October 2017 02:34
To: "margaret.wynne@acf.hhs.gov" <margaret.wynne@acf.hhs.gov>, "Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)" <Margaret.Wynne@hhs.gov>

Dear Ms. Wynne,

I'm a reporter with The New Yorker Magazine, and I'd like get your comment on a story I'm doing, on deadline, about your role at HHS and claims made to me by a number of your former colleagues that you are responsible for the recent positions taken by O.R.R. in limiting the abortions of minors in its care.

There are a number of specific and credible claims that are made that I'd like to go through with you.

I'd prefer to talk by phone, if you can, but I'm happy to correspond over email, too, if it's easier. Below are the details I plan to include in my piece. I welcome any comments, clarifications, or corrections you may have.

Thanks for your time.

Best,
Jonathan Blitzer
(b)(6) (cell)

-You have worked at H.H.S. for more than a decade, under the Bush and Obama Administrations, in a range of different positions.

-One of those positions was the director of its anti-trafficking program.

-You once worked at the Knights of Columbus.

-You helped lead the transition team at H.H.S. in the late fall of 2016.

-You were close to Tom Price.

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-According to flight manifests, you were also some of the private chartered planes that Price took while head of HHS.

-During the presidential transition, appointees from the previous administration—which included all of the heads of H.H.S. offices—weren't invited to meetings.

-Only the career bureaucrats were invited, which many former members of the office described as unusual.

-Former colleagues described you as strongly pro-life.

-As the director of the trafficking program at O.R.R., you oversaw a team of social workers who assessed the eligibility of victims to get temporary health benefits while their legal cases were being adjudicated.

-According to former colleagues, you often did not trust the stories of these individuals when they were represented by lawyers because you thought lawyers were coaching them on how to get the benefits.

-According to former colleagues, any time an individual's story changed, you assumed she was lying.

-According to former colleagues, you frequently looked for contradictions in the accounts of victims requesting benefits.

-When your office rejected a victim's request, an appeal generally followed, which caused a large backlog of cases that O.R.R. leadership had to clear.

-In 2011, the Obama Administration created new criteria for O.R.R. grants: if an aid organization refused to offer complete medical care to the minors in its custody at a shelter, it would receive a lower score on its grant application to obtain funds from O.R.R.

-A confidential government document outlining the new grant criteria was shared with Republican Congressman Darrel Issa.

-Several H.H.S. staffers claim that you were responsible for sharing that memo with Issa.

-You left H.H.S. in 2016 when you were passed over for a promotion.

-You rejoined the agency in January, 2017.

-In the early months of the new year, staffers at O.R.R. reported to you.

-In March, a memo circulated at O.R.R. with the subject line "custodial decisions to preserve the health of a pregnant UAC."

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-Subsequent emails circulating at ORR indicated that shelters “should not conduct procedures, or take any steps that facilitate future procedures such as scheduling appointments, transportation, or other arrangements."

-One former HHS official with knowledge of the office maintains that you were responsible for these policies before Scott Lloyd took over.

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Page 049 of 120

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, September 01, 2017 12:08 PM
To: Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)
Subject: FYI - haven't looked at them myself (yet)
Attachments: RE: Week Ahead Report ; Week Ahead Report

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 3:54 PM
To: Barlow, Amanda (ACF)
Cc: Mella, Emily (ACF)
Subject: Head Start "one-pager" needed

Hi Amanda,

Would it be possible to receive a one(-to-two)-pager on the Head Start Program for FY 2016, including some but not all of the information that appears on the one for FY 2015 (see below) by 3:00 tomorrow?

https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/data/factsheets/2015-hs-program-factsheet.html

(b)(5)

I'm sorry for the short turnaround on this request.

Thank you,
Maggie

Maggie Wynne
Counselor for Human Services Policy
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 205-3796
Margaret.Wynne@hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2017 2:54 PM
To: Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS)
Subject: Human Services News Clips

(b)(5)

Deliberative and pre-decisional communication

From: ACF Media Clips (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2017 2:29 PM
To: ACF - All ACF Staff
Subject: ACF Media Clips for Oct. 12, 2017

ACF Media Clips for Oct. 12, 2017

Child Care

Murray stumps for child care: Senator visits Hadlock center to hear about cost

U.S. Sen. Patty Murray visited the Cedarbrook Early Learning Center in Port Hadlock to talk with parents and child care providers to publicize a bill she has introduced, the Child Care for Working Families Act.
Peninsula Daily News, WA
Oct. 12, 2017

If we don't speak up for our youngest children their development will be compromised

Three weeks ago, Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) shared her bold vision for what a nation committed to all young children could look like by introducing The Child Care for Working Families Act. Supported by 27 senators and endorsed by over 100 organizations serving children and families, The Child Care for Working Families Act addresses the massive child care crisis in our nation head on.
Opinion
The Hill, DC
Oct. 11, 2017

Children, Youth & Families

After growing up in 20 foster homes, St. Louis woman brings music to kids who've had a rough start

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Barrier now offers the same experience to kids in foster care or who've been adopted after living tumultuous environments. Her 1-year-old organization has taken dozens of St. Louis children and their families to musicals at the Fox Theatre and The Muny.
KBIA, MO
Oct. 12, 2017

Universities need to help foster kids get a degree
The neglect foster kids face — whether with their foster or biological families — makes it difficult for them to "develop the brain connections that facilitate language and vocabulary development, and therefore may impair communication skills," according to a journal article in the American Academy of Pediatrics.
Opinion
University of Maryland Diamondback, MD
Oct. 12, 2017

Councilor challenges state contract with religious organization to recruit foster parents
A $100,000 contract for a faith-based initiative by Bethany Christian Services of Candia to recruit foster and adoptive families was approved by the Executive Council on Wednesday, despite opposition from Democratic Councilor Andru Volinsky of Concord, who questioned if the group would serve gay foster or adoptive parents.
Manchester Union Leader, NH
Oct. 11, 2017

For Kansas foster care task force, report of missing children latest concern
The number of children in foster care nationwide increased every year from 2012 to 2015, the last year for which national data is available. Thirty-five states, including Kansas, saw an increase in the number of children in their foster care systems during that period.
KCUR, MO
Oct.12, 2017

Wide receiver stands out during his sophomore campaign *(featuring ACF)*
Starting at the age of seven, Gladney began living in group homes in the Binghamton, New York, area. He bounced around quite a bit, which can be common in foster care, unable to land somewhere permanent. According to data from the Administration of Children and Families, at the federal Department of Health and Human Services, children have, on average, three different foster care placements.
Ithacan , NY
Oct.11, 2017

Help! Government kidnapped my child! *(featuring ACF)*
According to statistical data published by the federal Department of Health and Human Services in 2012, Child Protective Services (CPS) checked up on 3.2 million children, though only 686,000 were reported as abused or neglected — meaning that 2.5 million children have been declared non-victims. Since the early years of its creation, the scope of CPS' powers has grown, and it has usurped an immense amount of the natural and God-given right of parents to rear their children.
Opinion
New American, WI
Oct. 11, 2017

Child Support

Halbert Sullivan is 2017 nonprofit executive of the year
While in his master's program, two women approached him with the idea for starting the Fathers' Support Center, which promotes the father's involvement in their children's lives through intensive job training, group

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HHS-OS EF Lit 18-0241--000750
EXT-18-241-B-000750

therapy, community service and parenting workshops. Since its inception in 1997, the center has served more than 14,000 fathers and their families, transitioning nonparticipating fathers to a position of involvement in the lives of over 40,000 children.
St. Louis American, MO
Oct. 12, 2017

Child support guidelines may change to factor in wage hike
Arizona court officials may tweak state guidelines for determining child support obligations to take into account a voter-approved increase in the minimum wage. Officials say not making a change to reflect the higher minimum wage could require low-income workers to pay a higher percentage of their earnings in child support.
Associated Press, AZ
Oct. 11, 2017

Head Start

JCPS leaders said they won't tolerate alleged abuse of students in Head Start program *(featuring ACF)*
Seven teachers and assistants within JCPS have been fired since a report was released from the Administration for Children and Families in August alleging children were slapped, threatened and thrown in a closet. On Tuesday night, board members discussed that report, which details 23 incidents that happened in the Head Start and Early Head Start programs in several JCPS schools last year.
WDRB, KY
Oct. 10, 2017

Report alleges abuse inside JCPS Head Start program *(featuring ACF)*
A recent investigation found incidents of Jefferson County Public Schools Head Start teachers and assistants hitting, biting, force-feeding and throwing children. The Director of the National Head Start program has threatened to suspend JCPS.
WLKY, KY
Oct. 11, 2017

Federal official threatens to suspend JCPS Head Start program over abuse allegations *(featuring ACF)*
A top federal official said Washington is ready to suspend the Jefferson County Public Schools Head Start program, if necessary, because of ongoing allegations of abuse. Ann Lineham, Acting Director of the national Head Start program, met personally with JCPS administrators and Board members Tuesday, and accused them of not doing enough to protect its youngest and most vulnerable students.
WAVE, KY
Oct. 11, 2017

JCPS fires seven after federal report details neglect, abuse of students *(featuring ACF)*
Jefferson County Public Schools has fired seven employees after a report from a federal agency listed 13 incidents in which staff abused or neglected children. The incidents were reported by parents or JCPS staffers between Dec. 1, 2016 and May 18 at 10 JPCS sites.
Insider Louisville, KY
Oct. 11, 2017

Refugee Resettlement

U.S. resettles fewer refugees, even as global number of displaced people grows *(featuring ACF)*
Compared with those seeking refuge on Europe's shores, the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program is a different pathway for those fleeing conflict. For example, the more than 1.3 million refugees entering Europe in 2015 were asylum seekers, not resettled refugees. They sought refuge in Europe on their own after arriving in Europe

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and were not formally resettled by European countries. They will wait for decisions on their asylum applications while living in Europe.
Opinion
Pew Research Center, DC
Oct. 12, 2017

Number of refugees coming to the U.S. falling fast under Trump, study shows *(featuring ACF)*
The Christie administration last year told the federal government that New Jersey would no longer will participate in refugee resettlement programs, leaving it up to nonprofit groups and churches.
Newark Star-Ledger, NJ
Oct. 12, 2017

Trafficking

US closes trucking firm tied to smuggling case
Federal safety regulators have shut down a troubled Iowa trucking company that owned the semitrailer involved in a human trafficking case in which 10 immigrants died in Texas.
Associated Press, IA
Oct. 12, 2017

Human trafficking is still a problem in D.C. area
The International Labour Organization estimates that there are more than 20.9 million victims of human trafficking worldwide. More than half of all victims are women and girls, with 26 percent of all cases being children. Locally, 2,563 people have been reported missing in the District in 2017 alone, according to statistics released by the Metropolitan Police Department on Sept. 29. Of these, 1,637 were children, some who may be victims of human trafficking rings.
Opinion
Afro, MD
Oct. 12, 2017

Unaccompanied Alien Children

Judge won't order officials to allow abortion for immigrant *(featuring ACF)*
A federal judge in San Francisco said Wednesday that the government cannot prevent a pregnant 17-year-old at a Texas facility for unaccompanied immigrant children from getting an abortion, but declined to issue an order that would bar federal officials from interfering in the girl's access to the procedure. U.S. Magistrate Judge Laurel Beeler said the legal challenge on behalf of the girl by the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California was not filed in the right court.
Associated Press, TX
Oct. 12, 2017

Judge refuses to step in to immigrant's abortion controversy *(featuring ACF)*
A federal judge Wednesday declined to make the federal government stop blocking a detained 17-year-old immigrant from getting an abortion, despite finding "no justification" for restricting her rights. U.S. Magistrate Judge Laurel Beeler rejected the ACLU's request for a restraining order as moot, finding the claims of an unaccompanied immigrant minor at a shelter in Texas were too unrelated to the lawsuit already filed in Beeler's court.
Courthouse News Service, SF
Oct. 12, 2017

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Judge refuses to hear case on teenage illegal immigrant who wants an abortion *(featuring ACF)*
A federal judge in California refused to hear a case slated for Wednesday deciding whether the state of Texas must help a teenage illegal immigrant obtain an abortion. U.S. Magistrate Judge Laurel Beeler said she couldn't hear the case because the girl — who remains anonymous for privacy reasons — is in Texas rather than the state of California. A judge in another state does not have jurisdiction to rule on the case she said.
Daily Caller, DC
Oct. 12, 2017

Texas backs Trump agency in holding undocumented abortion-seeking minor 'hostage' *(featuring ACF)*
Attorney General Ken Paxton declared in a court brief this week in support of the Trump administration's decision to prevent an undocumented minor from obtaining abortion in the state that Texas "must not become a sanctuary state for abortions." Paxton led six other states, including Louisiana and Oklahoma, in defending ORR in a court brief. However, the feds are legally required to provide unaccompanied minors with basic necessities, such as housing and medical care, including family planning services and abortion.
Austin Chronicle, TX
Oct. 12, 2017

Judge says feds have no right to block undocumented minor's abortion — but won't stop them *(featuring ACF)*
A federal judge has declined to stop the government from blocking a teenage girl living in Texas from getting a legal abortion. The 17-year-old girl is an undocumented immigrant currently in the care of the federal government, since she travelled to the U.S. as an unaccompanied minor, meaning she is entitled to U.S. health care. But, while U.S. Magistrate Judge Laurel Beeler said she found "no justification" for the government restricting Doe's right to an abortion, she said the issue is out of her hands.
San Antonio Current, TX
Oct. 12, 2017

Undocumented teen's abortion delayed by CA ruling *(featuring ACF)*
A U.S. magistrate judge in San Francisco refused Wednesday to order federal officials to allow an abortion for an undocumented pregnant 17-year-old who is being held in a government-funded shelter in Texas and who wants the procedure. U.S. Magistrate Judge Laurel Beeler said the case was too remote from the Northern California federal court district for her to take action. Beeler also said in a written ruling that the federal officials were not entitled to obstruct Jane Doe from obtaining an abortion. "The government may not want to facilitate abortion, but it cannot block it. It is doing that here," Beeler wrote.
California Patch, CA
Oct. 12, 2017

An immigrant minor in Texas is being denied an abortion because of this cruel Trump policy *(featuring ACF)*
While living in a government-funded immigration center in Texas, an immigrant minor was denied an abortion, according to the American Civil Liberties Union. The young woman entered the United States undocumented at the age of 17 and is now under the legal custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). Despite obtaining a judicial waiver required by the state to obtain an abortion, she has been unable to obtain access to a clinic.
Bustle, NY
Oct. 12, 2017

Judge won't reverse Trump admin block on abortions for undocumented teen girls *(featuring ACF)*
A federal judge refused Wednesday to step into a Texas abortion case involving a shelter that is encouraging a 17-year-old immigrant to choose life for her unborn baby, instead of abortion. On Wednesday, U.S. Magistrate Judge Laurel Beeler refused to grant the pro-abortion legal group's request, saying the restraining order should

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

be filed in a different court and as a separate case to one that the ACLU filed earlier this year, according to the AP. While Beeler said the matter was not for her to decide, she also said she thinks there is "no justification" for preventing the girl from getting an abortion.
Life News, DC
Oct. 12, 2017

Judge denies ACLU effort to release immigrant girl from custody to get abortion *(featuring ACF)*
A federal judge on Wednesday declined to force the federal government to release a pregnant girl from a refugee shelter so that she can get an abortion, saying the decision didn't belong in her court. But in her ruling, U.S. District Judge Laurel Beeler expressed concern that the Trump administration is blocking access to abortion for migrant girls in federal custody.
Reveal/The Center for Investigative Reporting, CA
Oct. 11, 2017

Judge throws out suit filed by unaccompanied minor seeking abortion *(featuring ACF)*
A federal judge threw out a suit Wednesday from an unaccompanied minor from Central America who sued the Trump administration for denying her access to an abortion during her detention in a federally funded immigration facility in Texas. In the ruling, the judge noted that the Trump administration can't legally prevent unaccompanied minors from getting abortions. But because the plaintiff was in Texas, the judge held, her case shouldn't have been heard in California, where it had been joined with another federal case challenging religious-affiliated detention centers denying abortions, according to the ACLU.
Vice News, NY
Oct. 11, 2017

Undocumented teen's request to have an abortion in Texas dismissed by federal judge *(featuring ACF)*
A federal judge dismissed a request Wednesday for an undocumented teen to have an abortion in Texas, but her advocates say the fight is not over. The organization requested a temporary restraining order to force the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to either transport Doe or allow her to be taken to an abortion clinic for her procedure. U.S. Magistrate Judge Laurel Beeler denied the request, saying that because Doe is not from the Northern California district, it's not the correct venue for the decision.
Dallas Morning News, TX
Oct. 11, 2017

Court won't hear case of undocumented teenager seeking abortion access *(featuring ACF)*
A federal court has refused to hear the case of a pregnant 17-year-old undocumented immigrant at the center of a legal dispute over whether unaccompanied immigrant minors have the right to an abortion in the United States. The California judge denied the request, arguing that she couldn't hear Doe's case because Doe is in Texas. However, the judge did say that "the government has no business blocking Jane Doe's abortion."
Texas Tribune, TX
October 11, 2017

The latest: Judge won't order officials to allow abortion *(featuring ACF)*
A federal judge won't order federal officials to allow a pregnant 17-year-old being held in a Texas facility for unaccompanied immigrant children to get an abortion. U.S. Magistrate Judge Laurel Beeler ruled Wednesday that the legal challenge on behalf of the girl by the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California was not filed in the right court.
Associated Press, DC
Oct. 11, 2017

Judge won't order officials to allow abortion *(featuring ACF)*
A federal judge in California says she doesn't understand why federal officials don't step aside and allow a pregnant 17-year-old being held in a Texas facility for unaccompanied immigrant children to get an abortion.

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U.S. Magistrate Judge Laurel Beeler also said Wednesday during a hearing in San Francisco that she didn't think the legal challenge on behalf of the girl by the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California belonged in her courtroom.
Daily Journal, CA
Oct. 11, 2017

Court denies request to release undocumented teen from Texas facility for an abortion *(featuring ACF)*
A federal court denied a request Wednesday from attorneys advocating on behalf of a pregnant minor in the custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement in Brownsville. The teenager is being prevented from getting an abortion because of a Trump administration policy that bars unaccompanied immigrant minors from accessing them. The court, which is in Northern California, said it couldn't grant the request because the teen is in Texas. In its ruling, however, it said "the government may not want to facilitate an abortion, but it cannot block it."
KERA, TX
Oct. 11, 2017

ACLU sues Trump administration to force government to provide abortions for illegal immigrant minors *(featuring ACF)*
The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) added the case of an unaccompanied minor, who came into the U.S. illegally and is not being given abortion access by the government, to their June lawsuit against the federal government for awarding grant money to religious organizations, such as the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) that help unaccompanied minors but won't refer them for abortions.
Townhall, CA
Oct. 11, 2017

Immigrant minor held 'hostage' by Texas because she wants abortion care *(featuring ACF)*
An unaccompanied immigrant minor at a Texas shelter is being prevented from accessing abortion care by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), the federal agency overseeing migrant youth crossing the U.S.-Mexico border without a guardian. Officials are both refusing her transportation to the medical facility and refusing to allow her to leave the shelter with her guardian for the purpose of obtaining an abortion. ORR is supposed to provide transportation to minors when they need to go to court or see a doctor.
Rewire, MD
Oct. 11, 2017

Texas can't become 'sanctuary state for abortions,' Paxton tells court *(featuring ACF)*
Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on Tuesday urged a federal court in San Francisco to say that women in the United States illegally do not have a right to abortion services. Paxton filed a brief in an existing case, which includes an undocumented minor in Texas seeking an abortion, arguing that the "Constitution does not confer on Jane Doe the right to an abortion."
El Paso Times, TX
October 10, 2017

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 9:12 AM
To: Gartland, Molly (HHS/IOS)
Subject: Maine PP doc
Attachments: PP Maine and FQHCs services (3).docx

Molly,

(b)(5)

-Maggie

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 7:10 PM
To: Gartland, Molly (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: 30-day - Oct 17
Attachments: 30-day look-ahead Oct 17 STAFF EDITS AS_mw).docx

I'm sorry for the late submission.

From: Gartland, Molly (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 11:28 AM
To: Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: 30-day - Oct 17

Please send any edits you have by COB. Thank you!

Best,
Molly Gartland
Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff
Office of the Secretary – HHS
O: (202) 260-7503
C: (b)(6)

From: Gartland, Molly (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 9:58 AM
To: Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS)
Subject: 30-day - Oct 17

Hi all,

Please see attached edits for this week. Thanks!

Best,
Molly Gartland
Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff
Office of the Secretary – HHS
O: (202) 260-7503
C: (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, October 02, 2017 3:56 PM
To: Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: 30-day Oct 3
Attachments: 30-day look-ahead Oct 3 STAFF EDITS msl AS mw.docx

See my question on page one.

Thanks

From: Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, October 02, 2017 3:43 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: FW: 30-day Oct 3

Attached with my suggestions.

From: Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, October 02, 2017 12:16 PM
To: Gartland, Molly (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: 30-day Oct 3

Suggested edits.

From: Gartland, Molly (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2017 3:21 PM
To: Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS)
Subject: 30-day Oct 3

Hi all,

Please see updates attached. Thank you!

Best,
Molly Gartland
Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff
Office of the Secretary – HHS
O: (202) 260-7503
C: (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2017 6:38 PM
To: Weber, Mark (HHS/ASPA)
Cc: Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS); Daniels, Carla (HHS/ASPA); Lloyd, Matt (OS/ASPA); Yoest, Charmaine (OS/ASPA); Marriott, Brian (ACF); Lloyd, Scott (ACF)
Subject: RE: ACF - ORR, Associated Press (follow-up), UAC

Mark,

(b)(5)

Maggie

From: Weber, Mark (HHS/ASPA)
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2017 5:15 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS); Daniels, Carla (HHS/ASPA); Lloyd, Matt (OS/ASPA)
Subject: FW: ACF - ORR, Associated Press (follow-up), UAC

(b)(5)

Mark

From: Palmer, Victoria (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2017 5:00 PM
To: OS - Interviews
Cc: Wolfe, Kenneth (ACF); Marriott, Brian (ACF); Fisher, Patrick (ACF); Richards, Monique (ACF); Holt, Lydia (ACF)
Subject: ACF - ORR, Associated Press (follow-up), UAC

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Reporter: Nomaan Merchant

Organization: Associated Press

Contact info: 281-872-8900/(b)(6) nmerchant@ap.org

Subject: unaccompanied alien children

Deadline: October 12, for story publishing today

Spokesperson: ACF

QUERY:
I'm working on a follow-up to the Jane Doe story and had a few specific questions for ACF related to emails the ACLU of Northern California included in one of its federal court filings. A lot of these emails were excerpted by the Center for Investigative Reporting and written here: https://www.revealnews.org/blog/court-filing-trump-appointee-blocks-pregnant-teen-migrant-from-getting-abortion/

The questions I had were:

1. **How many children in HHS' custody are pregnant?**

2. **Is it ORR policy to forbid (or discourage) unaccompanied children in its custody from seeking a judicial bypass of abortion restrictions? (Noting email from Scott Lloyd: "She should not be meeting with an attorney regarding her termination or otherwise pursuing judicial bypass at this point."**

3. **Is it ORR policy to require unaccompanied children in its custody to obtain parental consent and specifically a notarized declaration of consent from the parents, even if the parents might be in a foreign country? (Noting email at top of Document 84-8: "After the options counseling, if the UC still desires the abortion, and it is still within the window for a legal abortion,**
    a. **the UC must obtain parental consent, which will necessitate options counseling with them, plus signed, notarized declaration of consent.")**

4. **Related to those questions, has ORR codified guidance in a March 30 email from Scott Lloyd (Document 84-4: "Grantees should not be supporting abortion services pre or post-release; only pregnancy services and life-affirming options counseling.")**

5. **In a March 22 email, a writer whose name is blacked out questions whether ORR's directive not to allow unaccompanied children to get a judicial bypass is legally sound. The response to that email is entirely blacked out. What did ORR instruct that writer and others who may have questioned the policy? (March 22 email in Document 84-3: "Isn't that contrary to state law? My understanding is that the judicial bypass was created specifically so that the young lady does not need approval from her guardian (in our case the Director of ORR) to move forward with a term of pregnancy.")**

6. **Has Director Lloyd spoken directly to any individual children seeking an abortion? (Noting email in Document 84-6 from Jonathan White: "Were you able to speak with the pregnant girl at the SWK site (KAMM)?" And Scott Lloyd response "Yes—they were going to a CPC site today and we're going to discharge according to my understanding.")**

Proposed Response: *(NOTE: data for Q1. is not data collected nor readily available and ORR declines to address questions 2-6 about internal correspondence.)*

The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) at HHS' Administration for Children and Families has no additional information to add at this time.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 2:01 PM
To: Palmer, Ashley (OS/ASFR); Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Kemper, Laura (HHS/ASL)
Cc: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Meekins, Chris (OS/ASPR/IO)
Subject: RE: Approps Briefing on Puerto Rico 9/28 @ 4pm

(b)(5)

From: Palmer, Ashley (OS/ASFR)
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 1:56 PM
To: Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Kemper, Laura (HHS/ASL)
Cc: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Meekins, Chris (OS/ASPR/IO)
Subject: RE: Approps Briefing on Puerto Rico 9/28 @ 4pm

(b)(5) Thanks, Sarah.

From: Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL)
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 1:55 PM
To: Palmer, Ashley (OS/ASFR); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Kemper, Laura (HHS/ASL)
Cc: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Meekins, Chris (OS/ASPR/IO)
Subject: RE: Approps Briefing on Puerto Rico 9/28 @ 4pm

(b)(5)

From: Palmer, Ashley (OS/ASFR)
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 1:50 PM
To: Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Kemper, Laura (HHS/ASL); Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL)
Cc: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Meekins, Chris (OS/ASPR/IO)
Subject: FYI: Approps Briefing on Puerto Rico 9/28 @ 4pm

As an FYI, ASFR is facilitating a briefing via telephone with ASPR, CDC, and HRSA this afternoon with Labor-HHS four corners on the HHS response to Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. Attached and below is an agenda and talking points from the participating OpDivs. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you. - Ashley

Proposed Agenda and Talking Points:
4 corners Labor/HHS briefing on the HHS response to Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico

Briefing: 4:00pm, Thursday, September 28 via telephone
Call-in Information: (b)(6) Leader Code: (b)(6) Participant Code: (b)(6)

Participants from HHS

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

ASFR:

- *Lead briefer: Ashley Palmer, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Legislation, ASFR*
- Participants:
  - Rachel Pollock, Congressional Liaison Branch Chief, ASFR
  - Peggie Rice, Congressional Liaison Specialist, ASFR

ASPR:

- *Lead briefer: Chris Meekins, Acting Chief Operating Officer*
- Participants:
  - Alex Shabelski, Deputy Director for Formulation, Office of Financial Planning and Analysis, ASPR

CDC:

- *Lead briefer: Dr. Rene Funk, Incident Manager for CDC's 2017 Hurricane Response*
- Participants:
  - Sherri Berger, Chief Operating Officer, CDC
  - Alison Kelly, Office of Appropriations, CDC

HRSA:

- *Lead briefer: Liz DeVoss, Director, Office of Budget, HRSA*
- Participants:
  - Tonya Bowers, Deputy Associate Administrator, Bureau of Primary Health Care, HRSA
  - Laura Cheever, Associate Administrator, HIV/AIDS Bureau, HRSA
  - Laura Kavanaugh, Deputy Associate Administrator, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, HRSA
  - Melissa Houston, Deputy Associate Administrator, Healthcare Systems Bureau, HRSA

Agenda

(b)(5)

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HHS-OS EF Lit 18-0241--000762

EXT-18-241-B-000762

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of the Freedom of Information Act

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2017 9:19 AM
To: Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: Childhood Obesity
Attachments: PBL 2-pager_with original photo (2).docx

Hi Amanda,

Just following up, I'll be around next week through Thursday but will be out after that for work-related travel or work-from-home through October 30.

(b)(5)

Maggie

Deliberative and pre-decisional communication

From: Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2017 10:12 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: Childhood Obesity

Hi Maggie,

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(b)(5)

Please let me know if there's a day and time that works best for you. We look forward to discussing soon!

Best,
Amanda

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 8:50 AM
To: Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC)
Subject: Re: Could you forward me the article?

Thank you!

On: 17 October 2017 07:17, "Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC)" <Matthew.Bowman@hhs.gov> wrote:

This morning's Politico story has the new quotes in it.

http://www.politico.com/story/2017/10/16/undocumented-pregnant-girl-trump-abortion-texas-243844

On: 16 October 2017 18:26, "Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)" <Margaret.Wynne@hhs.gov> wrote:

I didn't get it from Nathan.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 11:20 AM
To: White, Laura (ACF); Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: dial in conference #?

Okay, thanks.

From: White, Laura (ACF)
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 11:13 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: dial in conference #?

Also- she was at school, she got stabbed, she is doing okay right now and her babe is doing okay.

From: White, Laura (ACF)
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 11:12 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: dial in conference #?

A child was stabbed in the bathroom. She was a pregnant UAC we released a while back.

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 11:11 AM
To: White, Laura (ACF); Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: dial in conference #?

What about Las Vegas?

From: White, Laura (ACF)
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 11:10 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: dial in conference #?

Yes. Sorry about that.

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 11:09 AM
To: White, Laura (ACF); Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS)
Subject: dial in conference #?

Is the refugee UAC call on for this morning?

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 8:49 PM
To: Berger, Sherri (CDC/OCOO/OD); Zebley, Kyle (HHS/OS/OGA); Cochran, Norris (HHS/ASFR)
Cc: Horska, Katerina (HHS/IOS); Clark, Cynthia K. (CDC/OD/OCS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: Disease outbreak investigation - Listeria, Seoul virus

Thank you, Sherri. Please add Nina to your list of update recipients.
-Maggie

From: Berger, Sherri (CDC/OCOO/OD) [mailto:sob8@cdc.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 5:20 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Zebley, Kyle (HHS/OS/OGA); Cochran, Norris (HHS/ASFR)
Cc: Horska, Katerina (HHS/IOS); Clark, Cynthia K. (CDC/OD/OCS)
Subject: Disease outbreak investigation - Listeria, Seoul virus

Sending these as they come in. Listeria story is just hitting the news now. ASPA is looped in. Thanks

---

NEW: Listeria: Multistate outbreak of Listeriosis Linked to Soft Raw Milk Cheese
Response: CDC is collaborating with several states and FDA to investigate a multistate outbreak of Listeria infections. Six people were infected with the outbreak strain of Listeria from four states since September 1, 2016. All six people were hospitalized, **including two deaths** (CT, VT). Epidemiologic and laboratory evidence indicate that soft raw milk cheese made by Vulto Creamery of Walton, New York, is the likely source of this outbreak. Listeriosis is a serious, life-threatening illness, primarily affecting pregnant women and their newborns, adults older than 65, and people with immune systems weakened by cancer other serious conditions. Symptoms can range from fever, headache and muscle aches to miscarriages and premature delivery in pregnant women.

UPDATE: Epi-Aid 2017-015—Seoul virus: Undetermined source and distribution of Seoul virus infected rats, IL 2017
Response: On January 27, 2017, CDC deployed two EIS Officers and two CDC veterinarians, to assist the Illinois Department of Health with the investigation into the source and distribution of rats infected with Seoul virus. Since January, CDC has been working with health officials in 15 states to investigate this outbreak which has infected 17 people in 7 states, primarily in home producers for rats intended for household pets and snake food. While Seoul virus infection is generally not severe, some people may develop a severe form of infection known as hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome (HFRS), and an estimated 1-2% of people may die after being infected.

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of the Freedom of Information Act

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2017 6:28 PM
To: Wood, Rachel (HHS/OS/OGA); Healy, Jenifer (HHS/OS/OGA)
Cc: Alexander, Thomas (OS/OGA); Grigsby, Garrett (HHS/OS/OGA); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Elvander, Erika (OS/OGA); Lamourelle, Gabrielle (HHS/OS/OGA); Schmeissner, Peter (HHS/OGA); Huber, Valerie (HHS/OASH); Wolfe, Mitchell (HHS/OS/OGA); Talento, Kathryn (b EOP/WHO; Schmeissner, Peter (HHS/OGA)
Subject: RE: please send this out to interagency clearance

Rachel,

(b)(5)

Thank you,

Maggie

Deliberative and pre-decisional communication

From: Wood, Rachel (HHS/OS/OGA)
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2017 5:40 PM
To: Healy, Jenifer (HHS/OS/OGA)
Cc: Alexander, Thomas (OS/OGA); Grigsby, Garrett (HHS/OS/OGA); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Elvander, Erika (OS/OGA); Lamourelle, Gabrielle (HHS/OS/OGA); Schmeissner, Peter (HHS/OGA); Huber, Valerie (HHS/OASH); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Wolfe, Mitchell (HHS/OS/OGA); Talento, Kathryn (b EOP/WHO; Schmeissner, Peter (HHS/OGA)
Subject: RE: please send this out to interagency clearance

(b)(5)

From: Wood, Rachel (HHS/OS/OGA)
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2017 4:24 PM
To: Healy, Jenifer (HHS/OS/OGA)
Cc: Alexander, Thomas (OS/OGA); Grigsby, Garrett (HHS/OS/OGA); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Elvander, Erika (OS/OGA); Lamourelle, Gabrielle (HHS/OS/OGA); Schmeissner, Peter (HHS/OGA); Huber, Valerie (HHS/OASH); Wynne,

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Maggie (HHS/IOS); Wolfe, Mitchell (HHS/OS/OGA); 'Talento, Kathryn (b) EOP/WHO'
Subject: RE: please send this out to interagency clearance

Apologies for the multiple emails – I just received USAID's input and have added it to the attached document.

From: Wood, Rachel (HHS/OS/OGA)
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2017 4:12 PM
To: Healy, Jenifer (HHS/OS/OGA)
Cc: Alexander, Thomas (OS/OGA); Grigsby, Garrett (HHS/OS/OGA); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Elvander, Erika (OS/OGA); Lamourelle, Gabrielle (HHS/OS/OGA); Schmeissner, Peter (HHS/OGA); Huber, Valerie (HHS/OASH); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Wolfe, Mitchell (HHS/OS/OGA); 'Talento, Kathryn (b) EOP/WHO'
Subject: RE: please send this out to interagency clearance

I just received additional comments from State that relate to the 3rd/4th bullets – see attached version.

(b)(5)

From: Wood, Rachel (HHS/OS/OGA)
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2017 3:54 PM
To: Healy, Jenifer (HHS/OS/OGA)
Cc: Alexander, Thomas (OS/OGA); Grigsby, Garrett (HHS/OS/OGA); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Elvander, Erika (OS/OGA); Lamourelle, Gabrielle (HHS/OS/OGA); Schmeissner, Peter (HHS/OGA); Huber, Valerie (HHS/OASH); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Wolfe, Mitchell (HHS/OS/OGA); 'Talento, Kathryn (b)(6) EOP/WHO'
Subject: RE: please send this out to interagency clearance

All,

Attached is the gender and health position paper with edits from State, CDC, ACL, ACF and OASH. No edits have come in on the coordination paper (#17).

I am still waiting on input from USAID, which said they have edits but are in the process of clearing them. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Thanks, Rachel

From: Healy, Jenifer (HHS/OS/OGA)
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2017 10:29 AM
To: Wood, Rachel (HHS/OS/OGA)
Cc: Alexander, Thomas (OS/OGA); Grigsby, Garrett (HHS/OS/OGA); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Elvander, Erika (OS/OGA); Lamourelle, Gabrielle (HHS/OS/OGA); Schmeissner, Peter (HHS/OGA); Huber, Valerie (HHS/OASH); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Wolfe, Mitchell (HHS/OS/OGA)
Subject: please send this out to interagency clearance
Importance: High

Rachel,
Can you please put these documents out to interagency with a deadline of 3pm today? (b)(5)

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

Thanks!
Jeni

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2017 4:12 PM
To: Wood, Rachel (HHS/OS/OGA); Healy, Jenifer (HHS/OS/OGA)
Cc: Alexander, Thomas (OS/OGA); Grigsby, Garrett (HHS/OS/OGA); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Elvander, Erika (OS/OGA); Lamourelle, Gabrielle (HHS/OS/OGA); Schmeissner, Peter (HHS/OGA); Huber, Valerie (HHS/OASH); Wolfe, Mitchell (HHS/OS/OGA); Talento, Kathryn (b) EOP/WHO
Subject: RE: please send this out to interagency clearance
Attachments: WPRO 16.8 Gender final_edits_maw.docx

(b)(6)

Thank you,
Maggie

Deliberative and pre-decisional communication

From: Wood, Rachel (HHS/OS/OGA)
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2017 3:55 PM
To: Healy, Jenifer (HHS/OS/OGA)
Cc: Alexander, Thomas (OS/OGA); Grigsby, Garrett (HHS/OS/OGA); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Elvander, Erika (OS/OGA); Lamourelle, Gabrielle (HHS/OS/OGA); Schmeissner, Peter (HHS/OGA); Huber, Valerie (HHS/OASH); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Wolfe, Mitchell (HHS/OS/OGA); Talento, Kathryn (b) (6) EOP/WHO
Subject: RE: please send this out to interagency clearance

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(b)(5)

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Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2017 10:29 AM
To: Wood, Rachel (HHS/OS/OGA)
Cc: Alexander, Thomas (OS/OGA); Grigsby, Garrett (HHS/OS/OGA); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Elvander, Erika (OS/OGA); Lamourelle, Gabrielle (HHS/OS/OGA); Schmeissner, Peter (HHS/OGA); Huber, Valerie (HHS/OASH); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Wolfe, Mitchell (HHS/OS/OGA)
Subject: please send this out to interagency clearance
Importance: High

Rachel,
Can you please put these documents out to interagency with a deadline of 3pm today? (b)(5)

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

Thanks!
Jeni

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

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of the Freedom of Information Act

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Sunday, October 01, 2017 1:22 PM
To: Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: reply to Wisconsin
Attachments: IOS_00385116_reviewer_10.1.17_MAW.docx

Forgot the attachment…

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Sunday, October 01, 2017 1:17 PM
To: Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS)
Subject: reply to Wisconsin

Andrew,

(b)(5)

Thank you,
Maggie

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 2:29 PM
To: Pelekoudas, Kristina (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Hawkins, Jamar (HHS/OS)
Subject: RE: Secretary's Briefing Book, Friday Sept 29
Attachments: (b)(5)

Hi Kristina,

(b)(5)

Thanks!

Maggie Wynne

Deliberative and pre-decisional communication

From: Pelekoudas, Kristina (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 10:36 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Hawkins, Jamar (HHS/OS)
Subject: Secretary's Briefing Book, Friday Sept 29
Importance: High

Hi Maggie,

I have you down as the lead for the following briefing tomorrow:

1:00 P.M.-1:30 P.M. (b)(5)

Location: 610-F

Will you please make sure that all materials are sent to me by **4pm today**? I am attaching the cover memo that just needs a bit of updating depending on the materials you submit.

Thanks so much, and please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions!

Kristina Pelekoudas, MPP
Briefing Coordinator
Immediate Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Office: (202) 260-6194

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

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(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Saturday, October 28, 2017 7:26 PM
To: Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Lloyd, Scott (ACF); Wagner, Steven (ACF)
Subject: RE: UAC release

(b)(5)

Maggie

From: Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, October 27, 2017 12:05 PM
To: Lloyd, Scott (ACF); Wagner, Steven (ACF); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: UAC release

Scott,

(b)(5)

SL

From: Lloyd, Scott (ACF)
Sent: Friday, October 27, 2017 12:03 PM
To: Wagner, Steven (ACF); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)
Subject: UAC release
Importance: High

Deliberative, pre-decisional

Steve and Sarah-Lloyd,

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

Thank you,
Scott

***

E. Scott Lloyd
Director
Office of Refugee Resettlement
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-7269
(b)(6) (cell)
scott.lloyd@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2017 3:14 PM
To: Wolfe, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: RE: UAC

Thanks!

From: Wolfe, Kenneth (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2017 3:13 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Wagner, Steven (ACF); Yoest, Charmaine (OS/ASPA); Marriott, Brian (ACF); Lloyd, Scott (ACF)
Cc: Powers, Mary (ACF)
Subject: RE: UAC

(b)(5)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2017 3:11 PM
To: Wagner, Steven (ACF); Yoest, Charmaine (OS/ASPA); Marriott, Brian (ACF); Wolfe, Kenneth (ACF); Lloyd, Scott (ACF)
Cc: Powers, Mary (ACF)
Subject: UAC

(b)(5)

Thank you,
Maggie

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2017 9:11 AM
To: Lloyd, Matt (OS/ASPA); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Yoest, Charmaine (OS/ASPA); Murphy, Ryan (OS/ASPA); Bult, Nathan (OS/ASPA); Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC); Oakley, Caitlin B. (OS/ASPA)
Subject: Re: Update: New Yorker

Pre-decisions and deliberative
Attorney-client privilege

Hi Matt,

For your awareness, I will start my travel back to DC tonight and my availability today after 2:00 pm ET is uncertain.

Our flight takes off at 4:30 ET.

On: 26 October 2017 12:36, "Lloyd, Matt (OS/ASPA)" <Matt.Lloyd@hhs.gov> wrote:

Pre-decisions, deliberative

Maggie, thanks.

(b)(5)

On: 26 October 2017 02:11, "Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)" <Margaret.Wynne@hhs.gov> wrote:

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

On: 26 October 2017 01:30, "Lloyd, Matt (OS/ASPA)" <Matt.Lloyd@hhs.gov> wrote:

Draft, pre-decisional

(b)(5)

From: Blitzer, Jonathan [mailto:Jonathan_Blitzer@newyorker.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 25, 2017 5:48 PM
To: Lloyd, Matt (OS/ASPA)
Cc: Meade, Natalie
Subject: Margaret Wynne

Thanks for your help, Matt.

Here's the condensed version, as promised. I'm also copying my colleague, Natalie Meade, who's fact-checking the article.

Yours,
Jon

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

[JB1]
[JB2]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2017 2:12 AM
To: Lloyd, Matt (OS/ASPA); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Yoest, Charmaine (OS/ASPA); Murphy, Ryan (OS/ASPA); Bult, Nathan (OS/ASPA); Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC); Oakley, Caitlin B. (OS/ASPA)
Cc: Lloyd, Matt (OS/ASPA)
Subject: Re: Update: New Yorker

(b)(5)

On: 26 October 2017 01:30, "Lloyd, Matt (OS/ASPA)" <Matt.Lloyd@hhs.gov> wrote:

Draft, pre-decisional

(b)(5)

M@

From: Blitzer, Jonathan [mailto:Jonathan_Blitzer@newyorker.com]
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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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(b)(5)

HHS-OS EF Lit 18-0241--000803

EXT-18-241-B-000803

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2017 10:17 AM
To: Lloyd, Matt (OS/ASPA); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Yoest, Charmaine (OS/ASPA); Murphy, Ryan (OS/ASPA); Bult, Nathan (OS/ASPA); Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC); Oakley, Caitlin B. (OS/ASPA)
Subject: Re: Update: New Yorker

(b)(5)

On: 26 October 2017 16:54, "Lloyd, Matt (OS/ASPA)" <Matt.Lloyd@hhs.gov> wrote:

Maggie,

(b)(5)

Matt

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2017 2:12 AM
To: Lloyd, Matt (OS/ASPA); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Yoest, Charmaine (OS/ASPA); Murphy, Ryan (OS/ASPA); Bult, Nathan (OS/ASPA); Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC); Oakley, Caitlin B. (OS/ASPA)
Cc: Lloyd, Matt (OS/ASPA)
Subject: Re: Update: New Yorker

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

On: 26 October 2017 01:30, "Lloyd, Matt (OS/ASPA)" <Matt.Lloyd@hhs.gov> wrote:

Draft, pre-decisional

(b)(5)

M@

From: Blitzer, Jonathan [mailto:Jonathan_Blitzer@newyorker.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 25, 2017 5:48 PM
To: Lloyd, Matt (OS/ASPA)
Cc: Meade, Natalie
Subject: Margaret Wynne

Thanks for your help, Matt.

Here's the condensed version, as promised. I'm also copying my colleague, Natalie Meade, who's fact-checking the article.

Yours,
Jon

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

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(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

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of the Freedom of Information Act

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of the Freedom of Information Act

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

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of the Freedom of Information Act

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of the Freedom of Information Act

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

Non-Responsive Record

of the Freedom of Information Act

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 7:30 PM
To: Horn, Wade (HHS/IOS) (CTR)
Subject: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C ST, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Case No: 18-F-0097
Civil Action 18-cv-241

September 4, 2018

Ms. Mary Alice Carter
Executive Director
Equity Forward
85 Broad Street
New York, NY 10004

Dear Ms. Carter:

This is the second interim response of the Administration for Children and Families to your December 12, 2017, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for correspondence from certain named Administration for Children and Families (ACF) employees which included certain specified terms, for the months of March, May, September and October 2017. Specifically, you sought the following items:

1. Correspondence to, from or carbon copied to[1]:
   Scott Lloyd
   Jonathan White
   Curi Kim
   Judith Haron
   Anna Marie Bena
   Scott Logan
   Tricia Swartz (Associate Deputy, ORR)
   Jallyn Sualog (Director of Children Services)
   James De La Cruz (Houston Field Supervisor)

2. The request asked that the search use the following search terms
   - "pregnancy"
   - "pregnant"
   - "ORR director"
   - "abortion"
   - "ru-486"
   - "CPC"
   - "ultrasound"
   - "rape"

[1] The request also sought emails to, from and carbon copying Maggie Wynne and Dr. David Teuscher. However, ACF advised Equity Forward that these individuals work for at the department level and the Office of the Secretary Division of FOI/Privacy has jurisdiction over those records.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

- "nonconsensual"
- "Gestational"
- "judicial bypass"
- "life affirming"
- "unborn child"
- "spiritual counseling"
- "options counseling"
- "WTF"
- "Terminating"
- "terminate"
- "termination"
- "Pregnancy notification"
- "Pregnancy notivations"
- "Scott is"
- "Scott said"
- "from Scott"

Your request was sent to the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) and the Office of the Chief Information Officer for a search for responsive records. The Office of the Chief Information Officer performed the search and provided 159,000 pages of responsive records.

Following extensive negotiations between the parties, it was agreed that ACF would begin its production by disclosing emails without attachments, after which Equity Forward would choose the attachments it wished to receive. Equity Forward stated that the first records it would like to see are emails sent by Scott Lloyd, Jim De La Cruz and Curi Kim.

Accordingly, please find enclosed 577 pages of responsive records. Approximately 170 additional pages will be forwarded to other components within HHS and to entities outside of the Agency.

Some of the information on the disclosed pages has been withheld under the FOIA exemptions (b)(5) and (b)(6). The exemption (b)(5) protects inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency. The exemption protects agency deliberations, both internal and with agency contractors and consultants, attorney-client privileged records and attorney work product. In this case, the withheld information includes predecisional discussions within the agency and between agency staff and contractors about management of the program and individual children, sensitive communications between agency staff seeking legal advice and counsel on policy and other matters and documentation of attorney thoughts and work in anticipation of litigation.

The FOIA exemption (b)(6) permits the withholding of records which, if released, would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. In this case, the withheld information consists of the names, identity and/or other private information of private individuals and the work cell phones of federal employees. Public disclosure of this information would constitute an invasion of privacy of those individuals whose identifying information was disclosed. In withholding the information, the individual's privacy interest was balanced against any public interest in disclosure. In each instance where information was withheld, it was determined that the individual's privacy interests outweighed any public interest in disclosure of the withheld information.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Disclosure of the withheld information would invade the privacy of the subject individuals but would reveal nothing about the operations or activities of the government.

Sincerely yours,

Celeste Smith
Acting FOIA Officer
Administration for Children and Families

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"White, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Subject:	Re: (b)(6)
Date:	2017/10/18 13:46:56
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Yes. Recommend:
"Per Scott's prior authorization, I will be in telework status today. Scott has authorized me to use telework on days when (b)(6) "

Jonathan White
Commander, US Public Health Service
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
Jonathan.White@acf.hhs.gov
(202) (b)(6)

On: 18 October 2017 13:44, "White, Laura (ACF)" <Laura.White@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

Should I just send Pedro an email saying—Scott has agreed to let me telework if (b)(6) (b)(6)

Kindly,

Laura White ***(formerly Laura Gregg)***

Special Assistant

ORR/ Office of the Director

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"White, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Sent Date:	2017/10/18 13:46:55
Delivered Date:	2017/10/18 13:46:56

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Holt, Lydia (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=679190009c0f4ad2b219f787dcca6a98-Holt, Lydia>"
Subject:	RE: [FOR REVIEW] MEDIA INQUIRY: Huffington Post, ORR abortion access question
Date:	2017/10/16 14:07:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Fine by me for you to send to Pedro.

From: Holt, Lydia (ACF)
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 1:40 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: RE: [FOR REVIEW] MEDIA INQUIRY: Huffington Post, ORR abortion access question

Hi Jonathan,

Are you fine with me sending the response below to Pedro for his okay?

Or, would you care to chat about this?

Thanks,
Lydia

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 1:01 PM
To: Holt, Lydia (ACF); Swartz, Tricia (ACF); Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF)
Subject: RE: [FOR REVIEW] MEDIA INQUIRY: Huffington Post, ORR abortion access question

I agree with the message, but I wonder if, (b)(5) (b)(5) Interested what others think.

From: Holt, Lydia (ACF)
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 12:52 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Swartz, Tricia (ACF); Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF)
Subject: [FOR REVIEW] MEDIA INQUIRY: Huffington Post, ORR abortion access question

Good Afternoon All,

Media inquiry from the Huffington Post. Please review my drafted response.

I am available to chat, if needed.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thank you,
Lydia

QUERY

I have a question on the reported policy of ORR against shelters releasing minors without approval for abortion-related services. Does this apply in instances of rape and incest?

RESPONSE

-

STATEMENT

(b)(5)

Lydia A. Holt
Public Affairs Specialist
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20201
Lydia.Holt@acf.hhs.gov
202.401.9217 (W)
202 (b)(6) (C)

Teleworking on Mondays

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Holt, Lydia (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=679190009c0f4ad2b219f787dcca6a98-Holt, Lydia>"
Sent Date:	2017/10/16 14:07:58
Delivered Date:	2017/10/16 14:07:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Holt, Lydia (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=679190009c0f4ad2b219f787dcca6a98-Holt, Lydia>"
Subject:	RE: [FOR REVIEW] MEDIA INQUIRY: Huffington Post, ORR abortion access question
Date:	2017/10/16 14:08:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

OK.

From: Holt, Lydia (ACF)
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 2:05 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: RE: [FOR REVIEW] MEDIA INQUIRY: Huffington Post, ORR abortion access question

Hi Jonathan,

It seems that the cleared standard first response is what we should send this reporter which is:

RESPONSE

(b)(5)

I'll keep you posted if ACF OC ask for additional information concerning this inquiry.

Thanks,
Lydia

From: Holt, Lydia (ACF)
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 1:40 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: RE: [FOR REVIEW] MEDIA INQUIRY: Huffington Post, ORR abortion access question

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Hi Jonathan,

Are you fine with me sending the response below to Pedro for his okay?

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To: Holt, Lydia (ACF); Swartz, Tricia (ACF); Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF)
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From: Holt, Lydia (ACF)
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 12:52 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Swartz, Tricia (ACF); Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF)
Subject: [FOR REVIEW] MEDIA INQUIRY: Huffington Post, ORR abortion access question

Good Afternoon All,

Media inquiry from the Huffington Post. Please review my drafted response.

I am available to chat, if needed.

Thank you,
Lydia

QUERY

I have a question on the reported policy of ORR against shelters releasing minors without approval for abortion-related services. Does this apply in instances of rape and incest?

RESPONSE

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

-

Lydia A. Holt
Public Affairs Specialist
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20201
Lydia.Holt@acf.hhs.gov
202.401.9217 (W)
202.(b)(6) (C)

Teleworking on Mondays

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Holt, Lydia (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=679190009c0f4ad2b219f787dcca6a98-Holt, Lydia>"
Sent Date:	2017/10/16 14:08:19
Delivered Date:	2017/10/16 14:08:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Kevin Dinnin <kdinnin@bcfs.net>"
CC:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Sonya Thompson <sthompson@orrncc.com>"; "Tammy Phillips <Tammy.Phillips@bcfs.net>"
Subject:	RE: Follow up on our conversation of this afternoon/requirements for UC at BCFS San Antonio requesting abortion procedure
Date:	2017/03/07 14:52:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Is there an update on the requested information in the case of the UC at the San Antonio Campus?

From: Kevin Dinnin [mailto:kdinnin@bcfs.net]
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 5:49 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Sonya Thompson; Tammy Phillips
Subject: RE: Follow up on our conversation of this afternoon/requirements for UC at BCFS San Antonio requesting abortion procedure

Acknowledged and completely understood. BCFS Health and Human Services will take no action of any type relative to the pregnancy of the UC at the San Antonio Campus. The UC will be provided **ONLY** routine medical and emergency medical care, as necessary.

Adding Sonya Thompson to this string, Executive Director of Residential Services for BCFS Health and Human Services. Sonya will be providing the required information to the ORR Director by 1200hrs 07 MAR.

Adding Tammy Phillips to this string, Medical Services Administrator for BCFS Health and Human Services, for her situational awareness.

Kevin C. Dinnin President &CEO
BCFS
Administrative &Foundation Office
1506 Bexar Crossing | San Antonio, TX 78232
office (210) 832-5000 | **fax** (210) 283-5181
direct (210) 283-5151
corporate website www.BCFS.net | **program website** www.DiscoverBCFS.net

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Africa • Eastern Europe • Latin America • Southeast Asia

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: White, Jonathan (ACF) [mailto:Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 6, 2017 2:32 PM
To: Kevin Dinnin <kdinnin@bcfs.net>
Cc: Tota, Kenneth (ACF) <kenneth.tota@acf.hhs.gov>; Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) <Michael.Bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov>
Subject: Follow up on our conversation of this afternoon/requirements for UC at BCFS San Antonio requesting abortion procedure

Kevin,

Pursuant to our conversation today, please have BCFS provide to the Acting Director of ORR Ken Tota (Kenneth.Tota@acf.hhs.gov) with an informational document regarding the request by the UC at BCFS San Antonio abortion procedure which specifies:

- The request made by the UC
- A full copy of the Judicial Bypass, if any
- Communication regarding whether BCFS requests Federal funding for the procedure
- Disclosure of all steps BCFS and any third parties took to facilitate acquisition of the judicial bypass
- Information on the procedural history of the Judicial Bypass, including if there were prior requests (this information may follow the initial information if not yet available)
- The name and A# of the requesting child

ORR will also review case notes and medical information on the child in the UAC Portal.

We will request additional information as determined necessary.

(b)(5)

Information related to this UC request should be routed directly to the Director of ORR. Communications with the ORR Medical Team should be solely focused on medical information rather than legal or policy questions or issues of authorization.

If there are questions or concerns, please let me know.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Jonathan

Jonathan D. White
Commander, U.S. Public Health Service
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW
(202) 690-6984
jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Kevin Dinnin <kdinnin@bcfs.net>"; "Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Sonya Thompson <sthompson@orrncc.com>"; "Tammy Phillips <Tammy.Phillips@bcfs.net>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/07 14:52:45
Delivered Date:	2017/03/07 14:52:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
CC:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Subject:	FW: Relevant Policies
Date:	2017/03/07 15:13:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

From: Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 11:37 AM
To: Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Herboldsheimer, Shannon (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: Relevant Policies

I've attached what I believe are relevant policies. (I've also included the SORN because of follow-up questions we may get.)

1. Policy Guide (sections on medical services, sexual abuse, SIRs)
2. Heightened Medical Policy
3. System of Records Notice
4. Interim Final Rule on Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Harassment

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/07 15:13:36
Delivered Date:	2017/03/07 15:13:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"
CC:	"Misegades, Lara (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bb1ce43ecb18472b86f2b1dd90441103-Misegades,>"
Subject:	Re: Can we plan to talk at 12:30?
Date:	2017/03/04 13:58:23
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Copy. Thank you.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 1:57:23 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

Cc: Misegades, Lara (ACF)

Subject: Re: Can we plan to talk at 12:30?

Hi Jonathan

Just to update you.

I am unable to connect with an OB/GYN.

As of this email, we have not had any contact with OB SMEs through SWK on our questions. SWK staff continue to collect any information that they might receive

Michael

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

On: 04 March 2017 12:29, "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:

Thank you.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 12:26:44 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

Cc: Misegades, Lara (ACF)

Subject: RE: Can we plan to talk at 12:30?

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Hi Jonathan,

Per our discussion…below is my draft language for your consideration and any additional edits

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP

CDR, U.S. Public Health Service

Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)

Unaccompanied Children Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Mary E. Switzer Building

330 C St SW, MS 5123

Washington, DC 20201

Phone: 202-401-5375

michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov

www.acf.hhs.gov

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 12:07 PM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Subject: Re: Can we plan to talk at 12:30?

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Just spoke with Michael. We don't need to catch up at 1230. Share what you learn from SWK with me as soon as you learn it.

What we most need to know now:

(b)(5)

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 11:55:36 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Subject: Re: Can we plan to talk at 12:30?

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

That is fine

On: 04 March 2017 11:47, "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:

Would like to get caught up on what you've learned and share what I've learned. I have a call with HHS and ACF leadership scheduled for 2PM so I'd like to get caught up.

I'll send invite shortly--let me know if 1230 works.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"; "Misegades, Lara (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bb1ce43ecb18472b86f2b1dd90441103-Misegades,>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/04 13:58:21
Delivered Date:	2017/03/04 13:58:23

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Gonzalez, Jose (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1e32d334f4814952912651ab60e4fde6-Gonzalez, J>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"
CC:	"Acuna, Griselda (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8c83ee08f90d454dba24118c12fbd4fd-Acuna, Gris>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"
Subject:	RE: URGENT NOTIFICATION: Standy by until you receive further instructions from ORR/DHUC
Date:	2017/03/04 14:30:00
Priority:	Urgent
Type:	Note

As a reminder to all ORR staff, please do not discuss individual cases with outside parties—if you get written messages, please forward them. If there are media inquiries, please route those to Matt Lloyd Matt.Lloyd@hhs.gov and Ryan Murphy Ryan.Murphy1@hhs.gov.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 1:21 PM
To: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Cc: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Subject: Re: URGENT NOTIFICATION: Standy by until you receive further instructions from ORR/DHUC

Hello and good afternoon all.
I just received a call from (b)(6) who said the CEO of the janes process is confused why we are not (b)(6)
Dr. Meyerstien I asked her to email us the number so you or someone else can call her back asap.

From: (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 11:50:10 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Cc: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: Re: URGENT NOTIFICATION: Standy by until you receive further instructions from ORR/DHUC

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Case Update:

This morning at 0930 Medical Coordinator (b)(6) reported to Alamo Women's Reproductive Services Clinic in San Antonio to speak to Dr. (b)(6) per Dr. (b)(6) (b)(6) request. Dr. (b)(6) was unavailable to speak to MC (b)(6) as he was busy tending to other patients. Charge nurse on duty advised MC (b)(6) (b)(5);(b)(6)

(b)(5);(b)(6)

(b)(5);(b)(6) Nurse stated Dr. (b)(6) spoke to Dr. Meyerstein last night and informed Dr. Meyerstein of minor (b)(6) case/doctor visit via phone call.
Information was relayed via phone call to Dr. (b)(6) and Dr. (b)(6) advised MC (b)(6) to comply with ORR orders and NOT administer medication at 1500 today.

(b)(5);(b)(6)

(b)(5);(b)(6) ORR Addendum for today's clinic visit and statements to be posted on UAC shortly. Thank you.

Respectfully,
(b)(6) (b)(6) LVN, CPt
(b)(6)
SWK Casa Blanca 954
(P) (b)(6)
(C) (b)(6)

From: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 12:00 AM
Subject: Re: URGENT NOTIFICATION: Standy by until you receive further instructions from ORR/DHUC
To: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>, (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>, (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>, Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>, (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>, (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>, (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>
Cc: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF) <jose.gonzalez@acf.hhs.gov>, Acuna, Griselda (ACF) <griselda.acuna@acf.hhs.gov>, Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) <michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov>, White, Jonathan (ACF) <jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov>

Message received. I will withhold medication Cytotec until further notice.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Follow-up report:

(b)(6)

1481902393800_untitled.png

(b)(6) (b)(6) **LVN**

(b)(6)

Southwest Key Casa Blanca 954

San Antonio, TX

Work Cell:210(b)(6)

Office Phone(b)(6)

Note: Privileged/Confidential information may be contained in this message and may be subject to legal privilege. Access to this e-mail by anyone other than the intended is unauthorized. If you are not the intended recipient (or responsible for delivery of the message to such person), you may not use, copy, distribute or deliver to anyone this message (or any part of its contents) or take any action in reliance on it. In such case, you should destroy this message, and notify us immediately. If you have received this email in error, please notify us immediately by e-mail or telephone and delete the e-mail from any computer.

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 3, 2017 11:51:26 PM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Cc: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: URGENT NOTIFICATION: Standy by until you receive further instructions from ORR/DHUC

SWK Casa Blanca Medical Team

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5);(b)(6)

I will be calling the shelter directly to confirm receipt of this message.

Thank you for your time.

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Gonzalez, Jose (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1e32d334f4814952912651ab60e4fde6-Gonzalez, J>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"; "Acuna, Griselda (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8c83ee08f90d454dba24118c12fbd4fd-Acuna, Gris>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/04 14:30:25
Delivered Date:	2017/03/04 14:30:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Kevin Dinnin <kdinnin@bcfs.net>"
CC:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Sonya Thompson <sthompson@orrncc.com>"; "Tammy Phillips <Tammy.Phillips@bcfs.net>"
Subject:	RE: Follow up on our conversation of this afternoon/requirements for UC at BCFS San Antonio requesting abortion procedure
Date:	2017/03/07 15:29:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

My apologies. I just confirmed receipt by ORR Director; it was my misunderstanding. As usual, BCFS delivered earlier than promised, so we looked in the wrong place.

We will elevate and advise re next steps.

From: Kevin Dinnin [mailto:kdinnin@bcfs.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 07, 2017 3:24 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Sonya Thompson; Tammy Phillips
Subject: RE: Follow up on our conversation of this afternoon/requirements for UC at BCFS San Antonio requesting abortion procedure

The information was emailed to Ken Tota kenneth.tota@acf.hhs.gov at 2217 hrs. last night, 6 MAR. Please let me know if the report and supporting material should be sent to another address.

Kevin C. Dinnin President &CEO
BCFS
Administrative &Foundation Office
1506 Bexar Crossing | San Antonio, TX 78232
office (210) 832-5000 | **fax** (210) 283-5181
direct (210) 283-5151
corporate website www.BCFS.net | **program website** www.DiscoverBCFS.net

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Africa • Eastern Europe • Latin America • Southeast Asia

From: White, Jonathan (ACF) [mailto:Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 7, 2017 1:53 PM
To: Kevin Dinnin <kdinnin@bcfs.net>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: Tota, Kenneth (ACF) <kenneth.tota@acf.hhs.gov>; Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) <Michael.Bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov>; Sonya Thompson <sthompson@orrncc.com>; Tammy Phillips <Tammy.Phillips@bcfs.net>
Subject: RE: Follow up on our conversation of this afternoon/requirements for UC at BCFS San Antonio requesting abortion procedure

Is there an update on the requested information in the case of the UC at the San Antonio Campus?

From: Kevin Dinnin [mailto:kdinnin@bcfs.net]
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 5:49 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Sonya Thompson; Tammy Phillips
Subject: RE: Follow up on our conversation of this afternoon/requirements for UC at BCFS San Antonio requesting abortion procedure

(b)(5);(b)(6)

Adding Sonya Thompson to this string, Executive Director of Residential Services for BCFS Health and Human Services. Sonya will be providing the required information to the ORR Director by 1200hrs 07 MAR.

Adding T(b)(6) to this string, Medical Services Administrator for BCFS Health and Human Services, for her situational awareness.

Kevin C. Dinnin President &CEO
BCFS
Administrative &Foundation Office
1506 Bexar Crossing | San Antonio, TX 78232
office (210) 832-5000 | **fax** (210) 283-5181
direct (210) 283-5151
corporate website www.BCFS.net | **program website** www.DiscoverBCFS.net

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Africa • Eastern Europe • Latin America • Southeast Asia

From: White, Jonathan (ACF) [mailto:Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 6, 2017 2:32 PM
To: Kevin Dinnin <kdinnin@bcfs.net>
Cc: Tota, Kenneth (ACF) <kenneth.tota@acf.hhs.gov>; Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) <Michael.Bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Subject: Follow up on our conversation of this afternoon/requirements for UC at BCFS San Antonio requesting abortion procedure

Kevin,

Pursuant to our conversation today, please have BCFS provide to the Acting Director of ORR Ken Tota (Kenneth.Tota@acf.hhs.gov) with an informational document regarding the request by the UC at BCFS San Antonio abortion procedure which specifies:

- The request made by the UC
- A full copy of the Judicial Bypass, if any
- Communication regarding whether BCFS requests Federal funding for the procedure
- Disclosure of all steps BCFS and any third parties took to facilitate acquisition of the judicial bypass
- Information on the procedural history of the Judicial Bypass, including if there were prior requests (this information may follow the initial information if not yet available)
- The name and A# of the requesting child

ORR will also review case notes and medical information on the child in the UAC Portal.

We will request additional information as determined necessary.

(b)(5);(b)(6)

Information related to this UC request should be routed directly to the Director of ORR. Communications with the ORR Medical Team should be solely focused on medical information rather than legal or policy questions or issues of authorization.

If there are questions or concerns, please let me know.

Jonathan

Jonathan D. White
Commander, U.S. Public Health Service
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

330 C Street SW
(202) 690-6984
jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Kevin Dinnin <kdinnin@bcfs.net>"; "Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Sonya Thompson <sthompson@orrncc.com>"; "Tammy Phillips <Tammy.Phillips@bcfs.net>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/07 15:29:36
Delivered Date:	2017/03/07 15:29:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Gonzalez, Jose (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1e32d334f4814952912651ab60e4fde6-Gonzalez, J>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"
CC:	"Acuna, Griselda (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8c83ee08f90d454dba24118c12fbd4fd-Acuna, Gris>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"
Subject:	RE: URGENT NOTIFICATION: Standy by until you receive further instructions from ORR/DHUC
Date:	2017/03/04 14:31:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Sorry, to clarify, for non-media, forward to me. For media inquiries, route to Matt Lloyd and Ryan Murphy.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 2:30 PM
To: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Cc: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Subject: RE: URGENT NOTIFICATION: Standy by until you receive further instructions from ORR/DHUC
Importance: High

As a reminder to all ORR staff, please do not discuss individual cases with outside parties—if you get written messages, please forward them. If there are media inquiries, please route those to Matt Lloyd Matt.Lloyd@hhs.gov and Ryan Murphy Ryan.Murphy1@hhs.gov.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 1:21 PM
To: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Cc: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Subject: Re: URGENT NOTIFICATION: Standy by until you receive further instructions from ORR/DHUC

Hello and good afternoon all.
I just received a call from (b)(6) who said the CEO of the janes process is confused why we are not(b)(6)
Dr. Meyerstien I asked her to email us the number so you or someone else can call her back asap.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 11:50:10 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Cc: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: Re: URGENT NOTIFICATION: Standy by until you receive further instructions from ORR/DHUC

Case Update:

This morning at 0930 Medical Coordinator (b)(6) reported to Alamo Women's Reproductive Services Clinic in San Antonio to speak to Dr. (b)(6) per Dr. (b)(6) (b)(6) request. Dr. (b)(6) was unavailable to speak to MC (b)(6) as he was busy tending to other patients. Charge nurse on duty advised (b)(5);(b)(6)

(b)(5);(b)(6)

(b)(5);(b)(6)

(b)(5);(b)(6) " Nurse stated Dr. (b)(6) spoke to Dr. Meyerstein last night and informed Dr. Meyerstein of minor (b)(6) case/doctor visit via phone call.

(b)(5);(b)(6)

As of 1130 3/4/17, Casa Blanca Medical Team will comply with ORR orders and will NOT administer medication CYTOTEC at 1500.

(b)(5);(b)(6) , ORR Addendum for today's clinic visit and statements to be posted on UAC shortly. Thank you.

Respectfully,
(b)(6) (b)(6) LVN, CPt
(b)(6)
SWK Casa Blanca 954
(b)(6)
(C) (b)(6)

From: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 12:00 AM
Subject: Re: URGENT NOTIFICATION: Standy by until you receive further instructions from ORR/DHUC
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>, Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>, (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>, (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>, (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF) <jose.gonzalez@acf.hhs.gov>, Acuna, Griselda (ACF) <griselda.acuna@acf.hhs.gov>, Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) <michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov>, White, Jonathan (ACF) <jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov>

Message received. I will withhold medication Cytotec until further notice.

Follow-up report:

(b)(6)

1481902393800_untitled.png

(b)(6) (b)(6) **LVN**

(b)(6)

Southwest Key Casa Blanca 954

San Antonio, TX

Work Cell:210(b)(6)

Office Phone (b)(6)

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 3, 2017 11:51:26 PM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Cc: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: URGENT NOTIFICATION: Standy by until you receive further instructions from ORR/DHUC

SWK Casa Blanca Medical Team

(b)(5);(b)(6)

I will be calling the shelter directly to confirm receipt of this message.

Thank you for your time.

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Gonzalez, Jose (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1e32d334f4814952912651ab60e4fde6-Gonzalez, J>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"; "Acuna, Griselda (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8c83ee08f90d454dba24118c12fbd4fd-Acuna, Gris>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/04 14:31:52

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Delivered Date:	2017/03/04 14:31:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Subject:	FW: Termination of Pregnancy Information for ORR Director 030617
Date:	2017/03/07 15:38:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note.SMIME

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/07 15:39:50
Delivered Date:	2017/03/07 15:38:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Holt, Lydia (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=679190009c0f4ad2b219f787dcca6a98-Holt, Lydia>"
Subject:	RE: For Your Awareness: AP Story: "Immigrant teen's advocates: US pushing anti-abortion agenda"
Date:	2017/10/13 16:09:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Thanks for sharing.

From: Holt, Lydia (ACF)
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2017 4:04 PM
To: Lloyd, Scott (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Moreno, Mr. Pedro (ACF)
Cc: White, Laura (ACF)
Subject: For Your Awareness: AP Story: "Immigrant teen's advocates: US pushing anti-abortion agenda"

The following AP story was just published.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/immigrant-teens-advocates-us-pushing-anti-abortion-agenda/2017/10/13/b1d1b9f4-b03e-11e7-9b93-b97043e57a22_story.html?utm_term=.79a9bb8029fe

Lydia A. Holt
Public Affairs Specialist
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20201
Lydia.Holt@acf.hhs.gov
202.401.9217 (W)
(b)(6) (C)

Teleworking on Mondays

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Holt, Lydia (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=679190009c0f4ad2b219f787dcca6a98-Holt, Lydia>"
Sent Date:	2017/10/13 16:09:05
Delivered Date:	2017/10/13 16:09:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
CC:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Subject:	Draft briefing document for new appointees in ORR
Date:	2017/02/28 21:58:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Ken,

Per our discussion, please see attached the draft new UC Program briefing document for the new Director of ORR or other political appointees joining the ORR workforce. Please let me know any edits or feedback you may have.

Jonathan

Jonathan D. White
Commander, U.S. Public Health Service
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW
(202) 690-6984
jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Sent Date:	2017/02/28 21:58:13
Delivered Date:	2017/02/28 21:58:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Acuna, Griselda (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8c83ee08f90d454dba24118c12fbd4fd-Acuna, Gris>"; "Gonzalez, Jose (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1e32d334f4814952912651ab60e4fde6-Gonzalez, J>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"
CC:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"; "Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
Subject:	Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital
Date:	2017/03/04 16:54:00
Priority:	Urgent
Type:	Note

Attached please find the materials for Griselda to present at the hospital.

Michael is calling hospital now.

The hospital is (b)(6) located at (b)(6) San Antonio, TX (b)(6).

ER Telephone Number (b)(6) Michael will call ER. He will need approx. an hour to make call so the child should not arrive before 5PM our time.

Griselda, can you advise when you can be at the hospital with these printed materials?

Ken is contacting Southwest Key.

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 4:47 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Barlow, Amanda (ACF)
Subject: Acting ORR Director Memo, 2008 medical policy, Tota ACF ID

Jonathan,

Attached are documents the Federal Field Specialist can present at the hospital, if needed.

Maggie

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

	(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Acuna, Griselda (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8c83ee08f90d454dba24118c12fbd4fd-Acuna, Gris>"; "Gonzalez, Jose (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1e32d334f4814952912651ab60e4fde6-Gonzalez, J>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"; "Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"; "Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/04 16:54:49
Delivered Date:	2017/03/04 16:54:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Acuna, Griselda (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8c83ee08f90d454dba24118c12fbd4fd-Acuna, Gris>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"; "Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Gonzalez, Jose (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1e32d334f4814952912651ab60e4fde6-Gonzalez, J>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
CC:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Subject:	RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital
Date:	2017/03/04 18:19:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

(b)(5);(b)(6)

So the hospital can receive the UC for ultrasound and exam.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:06 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Copy. Thanks.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:05 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

She is not here yet.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:04:23 PM
To: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Has the girl yet arrived at the hospital?
Michael is calling the doctor back.

From: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:00 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Hi Griselda. I suggest answering this after the girl arrives and the hospital presents specific documents to sign. They might not need anything other than the letter from HQ.

Jsd

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:57:23 PM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Understood.

Does SWK needs to complete the hospital intake paperwork?

Please advise.

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 4:52:33 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Let me know if confirmation as the Acting Director is needed in any way.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 5:48 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Michael is calling ER doc. Stand by.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 5:46 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

I'm here at the ER. SWK Casa Blanca Medical Coordinator contacted me that they are on their way.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 4:38:50 PM
To: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

I made a mistake when I said 5PM our time. I meant 6PM Eastern, 5PM Central.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 5:38 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Hello Ladies and gentleman is there a POC we can ask for?

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 3:54:49 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Attached please find the materials for Griselda to present at the hospital.

Michael is calling hospital now.

The hospital is (b)(6) located at (b)(6)
San Antonio, TX (b)(6)

ER Telephone Number (b)(6) Michael will call ER. He will need approx. an hour to make call so the child should not arrive before 5PM our time.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Griselda, can you advise when you can be at the hospital with these printed materials?

Ken is contacting Southwest Key.

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 4:47 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Barlow, Amanda (ACF)
Subject: Acting ORR Director Memo, 2008 medical policy, Tota ACF ID

Jonathan,

Attached are documents the Federal Field Specialist can present at the hospital, if needed.

Maggie

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Acuna, Griselda (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8c83ee08f90d454dba24118c12fbd4fd-Acuna, Gris>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"; "Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Gonzalez, Jose (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1e32d334f4814952912651ab60e4fde6-Gonzalez, J>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/04 18:19:28
Delivered Date:	2017/03/04 18:19:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Acuna, Griselda (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8c83ee08f90d454dba24118c12fbd4fd-Acuna, Gris>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"; "Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Gonzalez, Jose (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1e32d334f4814952912651ab60e4fde6-Gonzalez, J>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
CC:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Subject:	RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital
Date:	2017/03/04 18:22:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Copy.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:22 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

She is here.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:19:28 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

(b)(5);(b)(6)

So the hospital can receive the UC for ultrasound and exam.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:06 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Copy. Thanks.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:05 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

She is not here yet.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:04:23 PM
To: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Has the girl yet arrived at the hospital?
Michael is calling the doctor back.

From: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:00 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Hi Griselda. I suggest answering this after the girl arrives and the hospital presents specific documents to sign. They might not need anything other than the letter from HQ.

Jsd

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:57:23 PM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Understood.

Does SWK needs to complete the hospital intake paperwork?

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Please advise.

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 4:52:33 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Let me know if confirmation as the Acting Director is needed in any way.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 5:48 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Michael is calling ER doc. Stand by.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 5:46 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

I'm here at the ER. SWK Casa Blanca Medical Coordinator contacted me that they are on their way.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 4:38:50 PM
To: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

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To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Attached please find the materials for Griselda to present at the hospital.

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ER Telephone Number (b)(6) Michael will call ER. He will need approx. an hour to make call so the child should not arrive before 5PM our time.

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From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 4:47 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Barlow, Amanda (ACF)
Subject: Acting ORR Director Memo, 2008 medical policy, Tota ACF ID

Jonathan,

Attached are documents the Federal Field Specialist can present at the hospital, if needed.

Maggie

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Acuna, Griselda (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8c83ee08f90d454dba24118c12fbd4fd-Acuna, Gris>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"; "Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Gonzalez, Jose (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1e32d334f4814952912651ab60e4fde6-Gonzalez, J>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

	(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/04 18:22:45
Delivered Date:	2017/03/04 18:22:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Subject:	RE: TOPs
Date:	2017/03/01 13:56:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Got it. Send to me and I will review and advance to Ken. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 1:55 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: RE: TOPs

Termination of Pregnancy

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Unaccompanied Children Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 1:47 PM
To: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Subject: RE: TOPs

My ignorance is so great I don't even know what a TOP is. Gloss the acronym?

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 1:30 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: TOPs

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Jonathan,

We have a TOP request to submit. Before doing so, I want to clarify that the process for these has not changed.

(b)(5)

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Unaccompanied Children Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
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330 C St SW, MS 5123
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michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
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Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/01 13:56:45
Delivered Date:	2017/03/01 13:56:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Subject:	RE: TOPs
Date:	2017/03/01 15:02:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

No, just submit to me what you ordinarily would. You do medicine, I'll do approval. That's why I make the big bucks—in my imagination.

(b)(5)

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 2:59 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: RE: TOPs

(b)(5)

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Unaccompanied Children Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 1:57 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Subject: RE: TOPs

Got it. Send to me and I will review and advance to Ken. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 1:55 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: RE: TOPs

Termination of Pregnancy

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
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Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
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Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
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From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 1:47 PM
To: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Subject: RE: TOPs

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Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 1:30 PM
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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
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Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/01 15:33:19
Delivered Date:	2017/03/01 15:02:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Gonzalez, Jose (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1e32d334f4814952912651ab60e4fde6-Gonzalez, J>"
CC:	"Acuna, Griselda (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8c83ee08f90d454dba24118c12fbd4fd-Acuna, Gris>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"
Subject:	RE: Fwd: Attached Image
Date:	2017/03/05 12:08:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Thank you, Sir.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Sent: Sunday, March 05, 2017 12:09 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Subject: Fw: Fwd: Attached Image

Please see requested docs.

Have a good day.

From: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>
Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2017 11:06:27 AM
To: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) MartinezBerrios, Diana (ACF) (CTR)
Subject: Fwd: Attached Image

Please see the request for court hearing filed on 2/24/17 and the judicial bypass granted by judge on 3/2/17.

Thank you,

(b)(6) **M.S., LPC**
(b)(6)
Southwest Key Programs- Casa Blanca-954
San Antonio, TX
P: (b)(6)
C: (936) (b)(6)
F: (210) 587-2420
(b)(6)@swkey.org

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL: This communication, including attachments, is for the exclusive use of addressee and may contain proprietary, confidential and/or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, any use, copying, disclosure, dissemination or distribution is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately by return email, delete this communication and destroy all copies.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: <(b)(6) @swkey.org>
Date: March 5, 2017 at 12:03:43 PM CST
To: (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>
Subject: Attached Image

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Gonzalez, Jose (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1e32d334f4814952912651ab60e4fde6-Gonzalez, J>"; "Acuna, Griselda (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8c83ee08f90d454dba24118c12fbd4fd-Acuna, Gris>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/05 12:08:48
Delivered Date:	2017/03/05 12:08:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Moreno, Mr. Pedro (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ffd28ce9a1d8453591e74b700a6ce1e8-Moreno, Ped>"; "Wagner, Steven (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3cec05da51ab4c7c978051f08d947637-Wagner, Jam>"
Subject:	FW: injunction granted
Date:	2017/10/18 16:51:00
Priority:	Urgent
Type:	Note

Pedro/Steve,

I just got off phone with Matt Bowman. (b)(5)

Jonathan

From: Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2017 4:43 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Moreno, Mr. Pedro (ACF)
Cc: Haron, Judith (HHS/OGC); Woolford, Llewellyn (HHS/OGC)
Subject: injunction granted

(b)(5)

Confidential pre-decisional deliberative process and attorney client privilege

---

Matt Bowman
Deputy General Counsel
HHS OGC
202.868.9791
matthew.bowman@hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent Date:	2017/10/18 16:51:13
Delivered Date:	2017/10/18 16:51:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Subject:	RE: TOPs
Date:	2017/03/01 15:39:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Provide in hard copy and electronic if possible.

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 3:39 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: RE: TOPs

That's why you are going to get Eagles and the big bucks

Sounds great to me…..just didn't know if you wanted us to package it up differently for you so that you can submit it for HHS (b)(5)

Will submit it to you shortly…..

Hard Copy, Electronic…Both?

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Unaccompanied Children Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 3:33 PM
To: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Subject: RE: TOPs

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

No, just submit to me what you ordinarily would. You do medicine, I'll do approval. That's why I make the big bucks—in my imagination.

(b)(5)

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 2:59 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: RE: TOPs

(b)(5)

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
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Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 1:57 PM
To: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Subject: RE: TOPs

Got it. Send to me and I will review and advance to Ken. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 1:55 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: RE: TOPs

Termination of Pregnancy

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Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
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Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 1:47 PM
To: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Subject: RE: TOPs

My ignorance is so great I don't even know what a TOP is. Gloss the acronym?

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 1:30 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: TOPs

Jonathan,

We have a TOP request to submit. Before doing so, I want to clarify that the process for these has not changed.

(b)(5)

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/01 15:39:22
Delivered Date:	2017/03/01 15:39:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Kevin Dinnin <kdinnin@bcfs.net>"
CC:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Sonya Thompson <sthompson@orrncc.com>"; "Tammy Phillips <Tammy.Phillips@bcfs.net>"
Subject:	RE: Follow up on our conversation of this afternoon/requirements for UC at BCFS San Antonio requesting abortion procedure
Date:	2017/03/07 15:38:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Received and understood.

From: Kevin Dinnin [mailto:kdinnin@bcfs.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 07, 2017 3:33 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Sonya Thompson; Tammy Phillips
Subject: RE: Follow up on our conversation of this afternoon/requirements for UC at BCFS San Antonio requesting abortion procedure

Never a worry. We are on standby to act as authorized and directed.

Be advised our Residential Services Division leadership has the UC on heighted support and supervision to insure her well-being during this emotional time.

Kevin C. Dinnin President &CEO
BCFS
Administrative &Foundation Office
1506 Bexar Crossing | San Antonio, TX 78232
office (210) 832-5000 | **fax** (210) 283-5181
direct (210) 283-5151
corporate website www.BCFS.net | **program website** www.DiscoverBCFS.net

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Africa • Eastern Europe • Latin America • Southeast Asia

From: White, Jonathan (ACF) [mailto:Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 7, 2017 2:30 PM
To: Kevin Dinnin <kdinnin@bcfs.net>
Cc: Tota, Kenneth (ACF) <kenneth.tota@acf.hhs.gov>; Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) <Michael.Bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov>; Sonya Thompson <sthompson@orrncc.com>;

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Tammy Phillips <Tammy.Phillips@bcfs.net>
Subject: RE: Follow up on our conversation of this afternoon/requirements for UC at BCFS San Antonio requesting abortion procedure

My apologies. I just confirmed receipt by ORR Director; it was my misunderstanding. As usual, BCFS delivered earlier than promised, so we looked in the wrong place.

We will elevate and advise re next steps.

From: Kevin Dinnin [mailto:kdinnin@bcfs.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 07, 2017 3:24 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Sonya Thompson; Tammy Phillips
Subject: RE: Follow up on our conversation of this afternoon/requirements for UC at BCFS San Antonio requesting abortion procedure

The information was emailed to Ken Tota kenneth.tota@acf.hhs.gov at 2217 hrs. last night, 6 MAR. Please let me know if the report and supporting material should be sent to another address.

Kevin C. Dinnin President &CEO
BCFS
Administrative &Foundation Office
1506 Bexar Crossing | San Antonio, TX 78232
office (210) 832-5000 | **fax** (210) 283-5181
direct (210) 283-5151
corporate website www.BCFS.net | **program website** www.DiscoverBCFS.net

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Africa • Eastern Europe • Latin America • Southeast Asia

From: White, Jonathan (ACF) [mailto:Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 7, 2017 1:53 PM
To: Kevin Dinnin <kdinnin@bcfs.net>
Cc: Tota, Kenneth (ACF) <kenneth.tota@acf.hhs.gov>; Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) <Michael.Bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov>; Sonya Thompson <sthompson@orrncc.com>; Tammy Phillips <Tammy.Phillips@bcfs.net>
Subject: RE: Follow up on our conversation of this afternoon/requirements for UC at BCFS San Antonio requesting abortion procedure

Is there an update on the requested information in the case of the UC at the San Antonio Campus?

From: Kevin Dinnin [mailto:kdinnin@bcfs.net]
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 5:49 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Sonya Thompson; Tammy Phillips
Subject: RE: Follow up on our conversation of this afternoon/requirements for UC at BCFS San Antonio requesting abortion procedure

Acknowledged and completely understood. BCFS Health and Human Services will take no action of any type relative to the pregnancy of the UC at the San Antonio Campus. The UC will be provided **ONLY** routine medical and emergency medical care, as necessary.

Adding Sonya Thompson to this string, Executive Director of Residential Services for BCFS Health and Human Services. Sonya will be providing the required information to the ORR Director by 1200hrs 07 MAR.

Adding Tammy Phillips to this string, Medical Services Administrator for BCFS Health and Human Services, for her situational awareness.

Kevin C. Dinnin President &CEO
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Africa • Eastern Europe • Latin America • Southeast Asia

From: White, Jonathan (ACF) [mailto:Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 6, 2017 2:32 PM
To: Kevin Dinnin <kdinnin@bcfs.net>
Cc: Tota, Kenneth (ACF) <kenneth.tota@acf.hhs.gov>; Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) <Michael.Bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov>
Subject: Follow up on our conversation of this afternoon/requirements for UC at BCFS San Antonio requesting abortion procedure

Kevin,

Pursuant to our conversation today, please have BCFS provide to the Acting Director of ORR Ken Tota (Kenneth.Tota@acf.hhs.gov) with an informational document regarding the request by the UC at BCFS San Antonio abortion procedure which specifies:

- The request made by the UC

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

- A full copy of the Judicial Bypass, if any
- Communication regarding whether BCFS requests Federal funding for the procedure
- Disclosure of all steps BCFS and any third parties took to facilitate acquisition of the judicial bypass
- Information on the procedural history of the Judicial Bypass, including if there were prior requests (this information may follow the initial information if not yet available)
- The name and A# of the requesting child

ORR will also review case notes and medical information on the child in the UAC Portal.

We will request additional information as determined necessary.

(b)(5)

Information related to this UC request should be routed directly to the Director of ORR. Communications with the ORR Medical Team should be solely focused on medical information rather than legal or policy questions or issues of authorization.

If there are questions or concerns, please let me know.

Jonathan

Jonathan D. White
Commander, U.S. Public Health Service
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW
(202) 690-6984
jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Kevin Dinnin <kdinnin@bcfs.net>"; "Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Sonya Thompson <sthompson@orrncc.com>";

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

	"Tammy Phillips <Tammy.Phillips@bcfs.net>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/07 15:39:51
Delivered Date:	2017/03/07 15:38:00

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Barlow, Amanda (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0889c0c2ffb042afaedcfb6c76e2a8fd-Barlow, Ama>"; "Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Subject:	FW: Fwd: Attached Image
Date:	2017/03/05 12:09:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Judicial Bypass attached.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Sent: Sunday, March 05, 2017 12:09 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Subject: Fw: Fwd: Attached Image

Please see requested docs.

Have a good day.

From: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>
Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2017 11:06:27 AM
To: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) MartinezBerrios, Diana (ACF) (CTR)
Subject: Fwd: Attached Image

Please see the request for court hearing filed on 2/24/17 and the judicial bypass granted by judge on 3/2/17.

Thank you,

(b)(6) **M.S., LPC**
(b)(6)
Southwest Key Programs- Casa Blanca-954
San Antonio, TX
(b)(6)
C: (936) (b)(6)
F: (210) 587-2420
(b)(6)@swkey.org

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: <(b)(6) @swkey.org>
Date: March 5, 2017 at 12:03:43 PM CST
To: (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>
Subject: Attached Image

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Barlow, Amanda (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0889c0c2ffb042afaedcfb6c76e2a8fd-Barlow, Ama>"; "Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/05 12:09:22
Delivered Date:	2017/03/05 12:09:00

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
Subject:	RE: Heightened Medical Procedure
Date:	2017/03/01 18:13:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Let me know what you need. I have this both via electronic and paper version. I have reviewed it.

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 5:17 PM
To: Barlow, Amanda (ACF)
Cc: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); White, Jonathan (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Mella, Emily (ACF)
Subject: FW: Heightened Medical Procedure

Amanda,

(b)(5)

Medical procedures are generally be approved by the ORR Director but wanted to flag given the sensitivity on this issue.

I will have the specific request and more detail shortly.

Thanks, Ken

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/01 18:13:03
Delivered Date:	2017/03/01 18:13:00

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"
Subject:	Copy of language as discussed
Date:	2017/03/05 12:15:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Michael and Shanaan,

Since Michael's driving, I'm glad to act as scribe to capture the conversation. This is the language we discussed on the phone, for everyone's records:

(b)(5)

This is what Michael approved on the phone.

Jonathan

Jonathan D. White
Commander, U.S. Public Health Service
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW
(202) 690-6984
jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>

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Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/05 12:15:27
Delivered Date:	2017/03/05 12:15:00

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Holt, Lydia (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=679190009c0f4ad2b219f787dcca6a98-Holt, Lydia>"
Subject:	Fwd: Jane Doe case
Date:	2017/10/13 19:58:40
Priority:	Urgent
Type:	Note

Lydia,

I do windows and seep floors but I don't talk to the press. Who should I refer this reporter to?

Jonathan

Jonathan White

Commander, US Public Health Service

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Jonathan.White@acf.hhs.gov

(202) (b)(6)

From: "Renuka Rayasam" <rrayasam@politico.com>

Subject: Jane Doe case

Date: 13 October 2017 19:50

To: "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>

Hi Jonathan,

I hope all is well. I'm an Austin-based health care reporter for POLITICO and am working on a story this weekend about the "Jane Doe" case in Brownsville – regarding the unaccompanied minor that is trying to get an abortion.

Wondering if you have a few minutes to chat with me?

Thanks,

Renu

Renuka Rayasam

Health care reporter – Texas

POLITICO/ POLITICO Pro

Cell: + 1 (737) (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Twitter: @renurayasam

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Holt, Lydia (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=679190009c0f4ad2b219f787dcca6a98-Holt, Lydia>"
Sent Date:	2017/10/13 19:58:38
Delivered Date:	2017/10/13 19:58:40

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"
Subject:	RE: Copy of language as discussed
Date:	2017/03/05 12:24:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Received. Thank you both for all your hard work on this difficult case.

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Sunday, March 05, 2017 12:24 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Subject: Re: Copy of language as discussed

CDR White,

(b)(5)

Michael L. Bartholomew, MD

On: 05 March 2017 12:15, "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:

Michael and Shanaan,

Since Michael's driving, I'm glad to act as scribe to capture the conversation. This is the language we discussed on the phone, for everyone's records:

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

This is what Michael approved on the phone.

Jonathan

Jonathan D. White
Commander, U.S. Public Health Service
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW
(202) 690-6984
jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/05 12:24:31
Delivered Date:	2017/03/05 12:24:00

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Davis, Gregory (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=47b15d866d8040ed839cdfd5c2b7cb89-Davis, Greg>"
Subject:	UCG Base Plan
Date:	2017/03/02 19:07:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Gregg,

This is the final draft that I have, which I believe is the current version. Elizabeth K may be able to provide anything more recent than this.

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Davis, Gregory (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=47b15d866d8040ed839cdfd5c2b7cb89-Davis, Greg>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/02 19:07:54
Delivered Date:	2017/03/02 19:07:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Barlow, Amanda (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0889c0c2ffb042afaedcfb6c76e2a8fd-Barlow, Ama>"; "Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Subject:	FW: Fwd: Attached Image
Date:	2017/03/05 12:45:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Sent: Sunday, March 05, 2017 12:40 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Subject: Re: Fwd: Attached Image

Please note the court appointed ad litem attorney's office may be reached at (b)(6) for immediate assistance.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2017 11:15:49 AM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Subject: Re: Fwd: Attached Image

You're welcome.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2017 11:08:48 AM
To: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Cc: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Subject: RE: Fwd: Attached Image

Thank you, Sir.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Sent: Sunday, March 05, 2017 12:09 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Subject: Fw: Fwd: Attached Image

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Please see requested docs.

Have a good day.

From: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>
Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2017 11:06:27 AM
To: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) MartinezBerrios, Diana (ACF) (CTR)
Subject: Fwd: Attached Image

Please see the request for court hearing filed on 2/24/17 and the judicial bypass granted by judge on 3/2/17.

Thank you,

(b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Southwest Key Programs- Casa Blanca-954
San Antonio, TX
P: (b)(6)
C: (936) (b)(6)
F: (210) 587-2420
(b)(6)@swkey.org

PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL: This communication, including attachments, is for the exclusive use of addressee and may contain proprietary, confidential and/or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, any use, copying, disclosure, dissemination or distribution is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately by return email, delete this communication and destroy all copies.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: <(b)(6)@swkey.org>
Date: March 5, 2017 at 12:03:43 PM CST
To: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>
Subject: Attached Image

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>";

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

	"Barlow, Amanda (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0889c0c2ffb042afaedcfb6c76e2a8fd-Barlow, Ama>"; "Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/05 12:45:03
Delivered Date:	2017/03/05 12:45:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Barlow, Amanda (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0889c0c2ffb042afaedcfb6c76e2a8fd-Barlow, Ama>"
Subject:	Fw: Gestational age
Date:	2017/03/12 07:27:31
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

FYSA.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Lloyd, Scott (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 11, 2017 11:12:50 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)

Cc: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Subject: Gestational age

(b)(5)

Scott

On Feb 28, 2017, at 5:10 PM, (b)(6) <ydelarosa@bcfs.net>wrote:

Copy.

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

Yasmin A. De La Rosa, MS, LCCA –
Associate Program Director

BCFS Health and Human Services

Residential Services Division- San Antonio Campus

7404 West US Highway 90 | San Antonio, Texas 78227

office
(210) 674.3010 | **fax** (210) 673.5331

direct
(210) 283.5853 | **cell**
(210) 215.4325

Corporate Website:
www.BCFS.net

Program Website:
www.DiscoverBCFS.net

***

E. Scott Lloyd

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 260-7387

(202) (b)(6) (cell)

scott.lloyd@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Barlow, Amanda (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0889c0c2ffb042afaedcfb6c76e2a8fd-Barlow, Ama>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/12 07:27:29
Delivered Date:	2017/03/12 07:27:31

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Barlow, Amanda (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0889c0c2ffb042afaedcfb6c76e2a8fd-Barlow, Ama>"; "Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Subject:	RE: Acting ORR Director Memo, 2008 medical policy, Tota ACF ID
Date:	2017/03/04 20:25:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

(b)(5)

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 8:19 PM
To: Barlow, Amanda (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Acting ORR Director Memo, 2008 medical policy, Tota ACF ID

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 4:47 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Barlow, Amanda (ACF)
Subject: Acting ORR Director Memo, 2008 medical policy, Tota ACF ID

Jonathan,

(b)(5)

Maggie

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Barlow, Amanda (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0889c0c2ffb042afaedcfb6c76e2a8fd-Barlow, Ama>"; "Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/04 20:25:57
Delivered Date:	2017/03/04 20:25:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Subject:	Re: "Report of Significant Incident," event (b)(6)
Date:	2017/03/02 21:22:47
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

(b)(5)

Can you give me a call at 202-(b)(6)? Sorry about the late notice.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2017 8:05:05 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Subject: FW: "Report of Significant Incident," event (b)(6)

Jonathan,

(b)(5)

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP

CDR, U.S. Public Health Service

Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)

Unaccompanied Children Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Mary E. Switzer Building

330 C St SW, MS 5123

Washington, DC 20201

Phone: 202-401-5375

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov

www.acf.hhs.gov

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2017 8:01 PM

To: 'Marlen Flores'; Calero, Wilfred (ACF); Boss, Mark (ACF); (b)(6) @gdit.com; ACF SIRHOTLINE (ACF); Centeno, Raquel (ACF) (CTR); Irizarry, Tamara (ACF) (CTR); (b)(6) @gdit.com; (b)(6) @GDIT.com; SIR Reports; Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) ORR DHUC; UMP Medical; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) 921 Medical

Subject: RE: "Report of Significant Incident," event (b)(6)

Importance: High

Good Evening,

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP

CDR, U.S. Public Health Service

Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)

Unaccompanied Children Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Mary E. Switzer Building

330 C St SW, MS 5123

Washington, DC 20201

Phone: 202-401-5375

michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov

www.acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Marlen Flores [mailto:(b)(6)@swkey.org]

Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2017 6:26 PM

To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); Boss, Mark (ACF); (b)(6)@gdit.com; ACF SIRHOTLINE (ACF); Centeno, Raquel (ACF) (CTR); Irizarry, Tamara (ACF) (CTR); (b)(6)@gdit.com; (b)(6)GDIT.com; SIR Reports

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) ORR DHUC; UMP Medical; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) 921 Medical

Subject: "Report of Significant Incident," event (b)(6)

SIR – Southwest Key, Casa Kokopelli

Event #(b)(6)

Summary of Event: On 03/02/2017 at approximately 9:00 am minor started pregnancy termination procedure.

Reported by (b)(6)

(b)(6) LPN

(b)(6)

Southwest Key Programs

Casa Kokopelli #921

(b)(6)@swkey.org

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/02 21:22:45
Delivered Date:	2017/03/02 21:22:47

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Acker Housman, Stephanie (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5ba3abf63f1144e198adcec3f07f05c6-Acker-Housm>"
Subject:	RE: U//FOUO: ORR UC Program Bed Cascades Memo for 7 March 2017
Date:	2017/03/08 08:38:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Sue. Although I hope I can negotiate to make this requirement go away soon—we will see…

From: Acker Housman, Stephanie (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2017 8:30 AM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: Re: U//FOUO: ORR UC Program Bed Cascades Memo for 7 March 2017

Can I get word copy?

On Tue, Mar 7, 2017 at 9:34 PM -0500, "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:

Colleagues:

Attached please find the ORR UC Program Bed Cascades Memo for 7 March 2017. Note that this week, we have begun running three different scenarios, only one of which requires adding beds to the national shelter capacity, and two of which require deactivation of beds and/or delaying beds scheduled to be added, in order to maintain the 85% occupancy capacity target. Note that there is now an activation table and a deactivation table reflecting these bed capacity change requirements. As a reminder, these tables do not represent a specific bed capacity plan, but only outline the requirements for ORR to maintain closet to the 85% target threshold.

This Bed Cascades memo is Sensitive But Unclassified/For Official Use Only.

If there are questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Best,
Jonathan

Jonathan D. White
Commander, U.S. Public Health Service

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW
(202) 690-6984
jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Acker Housman, Stephanie (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5ba3abf63f1144e198adcec3f07f05c6-Acker-Housm>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/08 08:38:11
Delivered Date:	2017/03/08 08:38:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
Subject:	Re: Update
Date:	2017/03/12 13:36:46
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

No background or history shared with me.

I assume it's to oversee the counseling of the minor on options and other steps.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 1:35:00 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Subject: Re: Update

Thanks Jonathan. Was there anything behind Scott's planning to go himself?

On: 12 March 2017 13:10, "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:

Update on "update":

-Jose will meet Scott tomorrow. They're connected up. Likely to be meeting at NCC office.

-Jose is briefed up.

-Scott and Jose are in possession of each other's contact info.

All appears to be good so far. Will be checking in to make sure everything is set up.

CDR Jonathan White

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 10:40:33 AM

To: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Cc: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Update

Looking into it. Standby.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 10:31:33 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Cc: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Update

Sir has BCFS been advised of meeting? If he wants to meet today I can be available. Can I recommend we meet at national call center? BCFS head of residential services and my offices are in this building.

Please let me know so I can get moving on it.

Thank you.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 9:09:13 AM

To: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Cc: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Fw: Update

Jose,

See email below. I will provide contact number for Scott to you and hotel information for him later today, but for now, would you plan to meet him at 7:30 CDT Monday AM? If you aren't

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

available, let me know another FFS who could meet him.

Will provide details when I get them myself.

Jonathan

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Lloyd, Scott (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 9:08:45 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Subject: Update

Jonathan,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I am heading to San Antonio today and will be at the BCFS facility first thing tomorrow to oversee the steps we outlined on Friday.

Please let local field staff know and inquire about the possibility of an early meeting with me tomorrow, I am thinking 07:30 CST. We could meet at my hotel (will send an update on hotel) or at a venue they suggest.

Thank you,

Scott

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/12 13:36:44
Delivered Date:	2017/03/12 13:36:46

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Wagner, Steven (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3cec05da51ab4c7c978051f08d947637-Wagner, Jam>"; "Moreno, Mr. Pedro (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ffd28ce9a1d8453591e74b700a6ce1e8-Moreno, Ped>"
CC:	"Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4caeb9900d27435daf018df146c4f075-Bowman, Mat>"
Subject:	RE: Compliance with Court Order
Date:	2017/10/18 17:24:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Received and understood.

Executing direction now.

From: Wagner, Steven (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2017 5:23 PM
To: Moreno, Mr. Pedro (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC)
Subject: Compliance with Court Order

Dear Pedro and Jonathan,

Attached is a court order concerning the abortion request by a specific UAC in Texas. In compliance with the court's order, please inform (b)(6) and the shelter that the shelter should release the UAC to her state-appointed guardian or attorney ad litem tomorrow (October 19), for a pre-abortion counseling appointment and travel to and from that appointment (she should be returned to the shelter after that appointment), and Friday or Saturday (October 20 or 21) for the abortion procedure (she should be returned to the shelter after that appointment when her medical condition allows it). Please also instruct them they should not:

- interfere with or obstruct the UAC's access to abortion counseling or an abortion;

- require the UAC to reveal her abortion decision to anyone, nor should ORR staff or the shelter reveal it to anyone themselves; or

- retaliate against the UAC based on her decision to have an abortion.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Likewise, ORR shall not retaliate or threaten to retaliate against the contractor that operates the shelter where the UAC currently resides for any actions it has taken or may take in facilitating the UAC's ability to access abortion counseling and an abortion.

(b)(5)

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Steven Wagner
Acting Assistant Secretary
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street, SW, Washington DC 20201
202-401-1822
Steven.Wagner@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Wagner, Steven (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3cec05da51ab4c7c978051f08d947637-Wagner, Jam>"; "Moreno, Mr. Pedro (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ffd28ce9a1d8453591e74b700a6ce1e8-Moreno, Ped>"; "Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4caeb9900d27435daf018df146c4f075-Bowman, Mat>"
Sent Date:	2017/10/18 17:24:48
Delivered Date:	2017/10/18 17:24:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Subject:	RE: medical services requiring heightened ORR involvement
Date:	2017/03/09 11:33:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

(b)(5)

I am looking to get clarification.

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 11:28 AM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: FW: medical services requiring heightened ORR involvement

Another program inquiry.

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Unaccompanied Children Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) [mailto (b)(6) @kidspeace.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 10:30 AM
To: ORR DHUC; Buckley, Kirsten (ACF)
Cc: Breiner, David
Subject: medical services requiring heightened ORR involvement

Good Morning,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thank you for the information regarding the ORR medical services requiring heightened ORR involvement memo. Kidshaven would like to ensure we are following all requirements for medical services requiring ORR written approval. Would you please provide a more definite list of services which require this action? For example: physical therapy, dental extractions, surgical procedures, abortions, extensive lab work, general anesthesia, local anesthesia, etc.

A more definitive list would provide great assistance in ensuring we are being compliant with the requirement.

Thank you for your assistance and attention to this request.

Have a great day!

(b)(6) (b)(6)
Residential Nurse Manager| KidsPeace-KidsHaven and Community Programs
Mail: 1650 Broadway| Bethlehem, PA 18015
Phone: 610-799-7665 | 1-800-25-PEACE, ext. (b)(6)
Fax: 610-866-4404
Web: http://www.kidspeace.org/ | http://www.fostercare.com/ | http://teencentral.net/

Giving hope, help and healing to children, families and communities

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Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/09 11:33:43
Delivered Date:	2017/03/09 11:33:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
Subject:	Re: Fwd: Report of Significant Incident-Event (b)(6)
Date:	2017/03/22 20:10:09
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Agree. We should maybe provide a very quick update to Scott, just to cover the bases. I can do that and respond to Teresa if you'd like.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 8:08:51 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Subject: Fwd: Report of Significant Incident-Event [(b)(6)]

Not sure why you were not on this one.

Does not look like additional follow-up is needed?

From: "Brooks, Teresa (ACF)" <Teresa.Brooks@ACF.hhs.gov>

Subject: Report of Significant Incident-Event [(b)(6)]

Date: 22 March 2017 18:04

To: "De LA Cruz, James (ACF)" <James.DeLACruz@acf.hhs.gov>, "Tota, Kenneth (ACF)" <kenneth.tota@acf.hhs.gov>, "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)" <Michael.Bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov>

All

This information is being provided to you for your information and awareness.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Please see the attached SIR for a female UC at the SWK Casa Presidente Program in Brownsville, TX. Per the attached document, the UC is pregnant as the result of a sexual assault which occurred in her country of origin. Also, per the attached document, the UC is not seeking to terminate her situation, but instead has voiced that she will be proceeding in her pregnancy.

Please advise as to if additional information is requested in this item.

Sincerely,

Teresa

Teresa Brooks

Federal Field Specialist Supervisor, South Texas

HHS ACF ORR DUCO

202.631.3775

Teresa.Brooks@acf.hhs.gov

From: Cantu, Kristopher (ACF)

Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 5:08 PM

To: Brooks, Teresa (ACF)

Cc: Cervantes, America

Subject: FW: Report of Significant Incident-Event (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

HI Teresa,

Not sure if this case was brought to your attention as per Jims guidance attached.

Kristopher Cantu- Federal Field Specialist

Department of Health and Human Services

Administration of Children &Families

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Division of Unaccompanied Children's Operations

Cell- (202(b)(6)

Kristopher.cantu@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) [mailto(b)(6)@swkey.org]

Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 11:07 AM

To: ACF SIRHOTLINE (ACF); Young, April (ACF); Cantu, Kristopher (ACF); Hernandez, Miguel (ACF) (CTR); (b)(6)@GDIT.com; (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) UMP Medical; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) 959 Medical; Irizarry, Tamara (ACF) (CTR); 959 Case Managers; 959 Clinical; UM - REDs - South Texas

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Subject: Report of Significant Incident-Event (b)(6)

SIR: CASA EL PRESIDENTE

CLIENTS NAME: (b)(6) A# (b)(6)

SUMMARY: Postive HCG/Sexual Abuse

E- Confirmation Number: (b)(6)

Reported By: (b)(6) (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

SWKey Casa El Presidente-959

Office: (b)(6)

Fax: 956-517-2024

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/22 20:10:08
Delivered Date:	2017/03/22 20:10:09

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"; "Gonzalez, Jose (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1e32d334f4814952912651ab60e4fde6-Gonzalez, J>"; "Acuna, Griselda (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8c83ee08f90d454dba24118c12fbd4fd-Acuna, Gris>"
Subject:	Update on SWK case
Date:	2017/03/05 13:07:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Team:

Here is where we are with regard to the very difficult and complex case of the girl at Southwest Key Casa Blanca. The HHS Policy Team in the Immediate Office of the Secretary has throughout been providing direction and authorization for all actions taken by ORR. The latest communication we have from them is that while ORR is not consenting to continuing the medical procedure, in the current case and these specific circumstances, we are confirming that the facility does not need ORR's authorization to allow the minor to continue with the medical procedure.

Please see below Ken's email to Southwest Key, and note the language of the instruction:

"Neither ORR nor you may provide consent to the minor continuing with this medical procedure, nor does ORR provide such consent. However, in the current case and these specific circumstances, including (but not limited to) the appearance of a legitimately granted judicial bypass application under state law, this email represents ORR's written confirmation that your facility does not need ORR's authorization to allow the minor, by refraining from impeding her, to continue with the medical procedure if she wishes to do so absent ORR's consent."

Therefore, as the minor has clearly communicated her wish to continue the medical procedure, she is able to do so now without written authorization from ORR.

Everyone on the medical and Field teams has demonstrated the highest level of professionalism and dedication in an extremely difficult situation, and I am grateful to all of you.

Best,
Jonathan

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Sent: Sunday, March 05, 2017 12:59 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: White, Jonathan (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Subject: Follow-up. Please confirm receipt.

(b)(6)

In reguard to the case of (b)(6)
neither ORR nor you may provide consent to the minor continuing with this medical procedure, nor does ORR provide such consent.

However, in the current case and these specific circumstances, including (but not limited to) the appearance of a legitimately granted judicial bypass application under state law, this email represents ORR's written confirmation that your facility does not need ORR's authorization to allow the minor, by refraining from impeding her, to continue with the medical procedure if she wishes to do so absent ORR's consent.

Please confirm receipt.

Thank you.

Ken

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"; "Gonzalez, Jose (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1e32d334f4814952912651ab60e4fde6-Gonzalez, J>"; "Acuna, Griselda (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8c83ee08f90d454dba24118c12fbd4fd-Acuna, Gris>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/05 13:07:17
Delivered Date:	2017/03/05 13:07:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
Subject:	TOP Procedure discussed today
Date:	2017/03/02 21:49:00
Priority:	Urgent
Type:	Note

Ken,

I just got off the phone with Michael Bartholomew. The girl whom we discussed with Maggie and Scott today appears to have already had the procedure performed today at 9AM AZ time. Our medical team learned this when the SIR on the procedure came over late today. It appears that the program scheduled her appointment when the Judge issued his order without waiting for approval for Federal funds from ORR. Michael and the FFS have communicated back with the program to confirm that no authorization was provided; it appears to be a miscommunication or misunderstanding on the part of the program, who had believed only that the Judge's order was required. The medical team and FFS are working to find out more about what happened.

If you need to discuss, give me a call at 202.(b)(6) I can be reached any time tonight if you would like.

Jonathan

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2017 8:05 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: FW: "Report of Significant Incident," event #(b)(6)
Importance: High

Jonathan,

Did you all sign off on this? This is the TOP request we submitted to you last evening.

Seeking clarification from the program.

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Unaccompanied Children Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2017 8:01 PM
To: 'Marlen Flores'; Calero, Wilfred (ACF); Boss, Mark (ACF); (b)(6) @gdit.com; ACF SIRHOTLINE (ACF); Centeno, Raquel (ACF) (CTR); Irizarry, Tamara (ACF) (CTR); (b)(6) @gdit.com; (b)(6) @GDIT.com; SIR Reports; Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) ORR DHUC; UMP Medical; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) 921 Medical
Subject: RE: "Report of Significant Incident," event (b)(6)
Importance: High

Good Evening,

I would like some clarification on this child's care.

(b)(5)

Therefore, the use of federal funds for this procedure is currently not authorized.

With this notification, is the program informing us that the request is no longer needed and can be rescinded?

I will forward this information to senior leadership for their awareness.

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Unaccompanied Children Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5375

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) [mailto: (b)(6) @swkey.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2017 6:26 PM
To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); Boss, Mark (ACF); (b)(6) @gdit.com; ACF SIRHOTLINE (ACF); Centeno, Raquel (ACF) (CTR); Irizarry, Tamara (ACF) (CTR); (b)(6) @gdit.com; (b)(6) @GDIT.com; SIR Reports
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) ORR DHUC; UMP Medical; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) 921 Medical
Subject: "Report of Significant Incident," event (b)(6)

SIR – Southwest Key, Casa Kokopelli
Event (b)(6)
Summary of Event: On 03/02/2017 at approximately 9:00 am minor started pregnancy termination procedure.
Reported by: (b)(6)

(b)(6) LPN
(b)(6)
Southwest Key Programs
Casa Kokopelli #921
(b)(6) @swkey.org

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/02 21:49:44
Delivered Date:	2017/03/02 21:49:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Holt, Lydia (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=679190009c0f4ad2b219f787dcca6a98-Holt, Lydia>"
Subject:	Re: Jane Doe case
Date:	2017/10/16 08:44:05
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Indeed. Thanks for running with it.

Jonathan White

Commander, US Public Health Service

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Jonathan.White@acf.hhs.gov

(202) (b)(6)

On: 16 October 2017 08:42, "Holt, Lydia (ACF)" <Lydia.Holt@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Hi Jonathan,

(b)(5)

Secondly, I will take it from here. This request is no different than the others we've encountered over the last few days. Politico will have to go through the same procedure as the others.

Sincerely,

Lydia

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Friday, October 13, 2017 7:59 PM

To: Holt, Lydia (ACF)

Subject: Fwd: Jane Doe case

Importance: High

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Lydia,

I do windows and seep floors but I don't talk to the press. Who should I refer this reporter to?

Jonathan

Jonathan White

Commander, US Public Health Service

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Jonathan.White@acf.hhs.gov

(202) (b)(6)

From:
"Renuka Rayasam" <rrayasam@politico.com>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Subject: Jane Doe case

Date: 13 October 2017 19:50

To: "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>

Hi Jonathan,

I hope all is well. I'm an Austin-based health care reporter for POLITICO and am working on a story this weekend about the "Jane Doe" case in Brownsville – regarding the unaccompanied minor that is trying to get an abortion.

Wondering if you have a few minutes to chat with me?

Thanks,

Renu

Renuka Rayasam

Health care reporter – Texas

POLITICO/ POLITICO Pro

Cell: + 1 (737) (b)(6)

Twitter: @renurayasam

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Holt, Lydia (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=679190009c0f4ad2b219f787dcca6a98-Holt, Lydia>"
Sent Date:	2017/10/16 08:44:04
Delivered Date:	2017/10/16 08:44:05

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
CC:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
Subject:	Re: Follow-up. Please confirm receipt.
Date:	2017/03/05 13:43:13
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Yes. I believe Ken is making or has made that request.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2017 1:40:14 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Subject: Re: Follow-up. Please confirm receipt.

Jonathan,

Can we ask (b)(6) to have the program notify the medical team if the child requests to continue with the procedure.

Michael

On: 05 March 2017 12:58, "Tota, Kenneth (ACF)" <kenneth.tota@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

(b)(6)

In reguard to the case of (b)(6)

neither ORR nor you may provide consent to the minor continuing with this medical procedure, nor does ORR provide such consent.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

However, in the current case and these specific circumstances, including (but not limited to) the appearance of a legitimately granted judicial bypass application under state law, this email represents ORR's written confirmation that your facility does not need ORR's authorization to allow the minor, by refraining from impeding her, to continue with the medical procedure if she wishes to do so absent ORR's consent.

Please confirm receipt.

Thank you.

Ken

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/05 13:43:12
Delivered Date:	2017/03/05 13:43:13

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
CC:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"; "Kurkjy, Brian (ACF) (CTR) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=faee3bcd11ca4d88b8e39a7a6a4b49e0-Kurkjy, Bri>"
Subject:	Fw: County/ORR Roles and Responsibilities
Date:	2017/03/03 06:33:49
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

FYSA.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Sent: Friday, March 3, 2017 12:15:25 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF)

Cc: Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF); Swartz, Tricia (ACF); Viola, Sarah (ACF); Biswas, Toby R M (ACF); Smith, Elicia (ACF)

Subject: FW: County/ORR Roles and Responsibilities

FYI

James S. De La Cruz

DHHS/ACF/ORR/DCS

Senior Federal Field Specialist Supervisor

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Division of Children's Services

Mary E. Switzer Building, 5th Floor (Room: 5223)

330 C Street SW

Washington, DC 20201

Office: 202-690-8477

Cell: (b)(6)

Fax: 202-401-1022

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/ucs

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 12:14 AM

To: 'Philip Pogledich'; Haron, Judith (HHS/OGC); Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF)

Cc: Smith, Elicia (ACF); Carrie Scarlata; Biswas, Toby R M (ACF)

Subject: RE: County/ORR Roles and Responsibilities

Hello Mr. Pogledich,

As requested I am connecting you to ORR's General Counsel, Judith Haron and ORR's Policy Division Director, Anna Marie Bena.

Judy and Anna Marie please see Mr. Pogledich's message below mine and the case of DB V. Cardall.

For a response I am providing you with a brief update about (b)(6) (b)(6) was granted asylum in January 2017. Since that time ORR has worked with several parties in California CPS to transition (b)(6) from Federal custody to State custody. Mr. Pogledich understands ORR's position that

asylum status affects ORR's jurisdiction in regards to the care and custody of (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

ORR has been working with YOLO County Secure and State Central Office Staff by arranging for (b)(6) to have a psychological. (Now complete.) ORR's understanding from State Central Office Staff is that a psychological
is needed because the State needs this information to determine where (b)(6) can be safely placed once he leaves ORR's care. (There are no known available options other than transition into State care.) Because ORR's position is that ORR no longer has jurisdiction
over (b)(6) I assured him that a response to his question will come in short time.

Thank you for your attention to this case.

James S. De La Cruz

DHHS/ACF/ORR/DCS

Senior Federal Field Specialist Supervisor

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Division of Children's Services

Mary E. Switzer Building, 5th Floor (Room: 5223)

330 C Street SW

Washington, DC 20201

Office: 202-690-8477

Cell: (b)(6)

Fax: 202-401-1022

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/ucs

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Philip Pogledich [mailto:Philip.Pogledich@yolocounty.org]

Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2017 6:28 PM

To: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Cc: Smith, Elicia (ACF); Carrie Scarlata

Subject: County/ORR Roles and Responsibilities

Jim,

As we discussed briefly this afternoon, I want to ensure I understand the scope of the County's roles and responsibilities (and those of ORR) with respect to the 15-year old currently housed at our Juvenile Detention Center. In that context, the basic legal question is whether ORR has a legal obligation to place the child with a suitable custodian subsequent to a change in immigration status (such as a grant of asylum). I believe D.B. v. Cardall, 826 F.3d 721 (2016) (4th Cir) speaks to this issue and affirms that ORR has such an obligation. Confirmation by counsel to ORR would be helpful.

Consistent with this general understanding of ORR's legal obligations, I am told that our Probation Department staff have been collaborating with ORR and others that are working to find a suitable placement for the child. I believe this is appropriate and consistent with the County's contractual responsibilities to ORR. If anything more or different is required of the County, please let me know.

Thanks,

Phil

Philip J. Pogledich

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

County Counsel

County of Yolo

625 Court Street, Room 201

Woodland, CA 95695

Tel: (530) 666-8275

Fax: (530) 666-8279

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"; "Kurkjy, Brian (ACF) (CTR) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=faee3bcd11ca4d88b8e39a7a6a4b49e0-Kurkjy, Bri>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/03 06:33:47
Delivered Date:	2017/03/03 06:33:49

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Gonzalez, Jose (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1e32d334f4814952912651ab60e4fde6-Gonzalez, J>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"; "Acuna, Griselda (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8c83ee08f90d454dba24118c12fbd4fd-Acuna, Gris>"
Subject:	Re: Update on SWK case
Date:	2017/03/05 14:32:07
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Ken has spoken with (b)(6) and has advised program. Medical Director is involved.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2017 2:24:17 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Subject: Re: Update on SWK case

Sir who will be informing the program to proceed with medical procedure?

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2017 12:07:17 PM

To: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Subject: Update on SWK case

Team:

Here is where we are with regard to the very difficult and complex case of the girl at Southwest Key Casa Blanca. The HHS Policy Team in the Immediate Office of the Secretary has throughout been providing direction and authorization for all actions taken by ORR. The latest communication we have from them is that while ORR is not consenting to continuing the medical procedure, in the current case and these specific circumstances, we are confirming that the facility does not need ORR's authorization to allow the minor to continue with the medical procedure.

Please see below Ken's email to Southwest Key, and note the language of the instruction:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

"Neither ORR nor you may provide consent to the minor continuing with this medical procedure, nor does ORR provide such consent. However, in the current case and these specific circumstances, including (but not limited to) the appearance of a legitimately granted judicial bypass application under state law, this email represents ORR's written confirmation that your facility does not need ORR's authorization to allow the minor, by refraining from impeding her, to continue with the medical procedure if she wishes to do so absent ORR's consent."

Therefore, as the minor has clearly communicated her wish to continue the medical procedure, she is able to do so now without written authorization from ORR.

Everyone on the medical and Field teams has demonstrated the highest level of professionalism and dedication in an extremely difficult situation, and I am grateful to all of you.

Best,

Jonathan

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 05, 2017 12:59 PM

To: (b)(6)

Cc: White, Jonathan (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Subject: Follow-up. Please confirm receipt.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6),

In reguard to the case of (b)(6)

neither ORR nor you may provide consent to the minor continuing with this medical procedure, nor does ORR provide such consent.

However, in the current case and these specific circumstances, including (but not limited to) the appearance of a legitimately granted judicial bypass application under state law, this
email represents ORR's written confirmation that your facility does not need ORR's authorization to allow the minor, by refraining from impeding her, to continue with the medical procedure if she wishes to do so absent ORR's consent.

Please confirm receipt.

Thank you.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Ken

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
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Sent Date:	2017/03/05 14:32:05
Delivered Date:	2017/03/05 14:32:07

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
CC:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Subject:	Fw: (b)(6) and mothers conversation - IMPORTANT UPDATE
Date:	2017/03/12 21:13:39
Priority:	Urgent
Type:	Note

FYSA.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Asennet Segura <asegura@bcfs.net>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 8:57:40 PM

To: Lloyd, Scott (ACF)

Cc: White, Jonathan (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Sonya Thompson; Scott Ollerman; Jesse Gutierrez; Yasmin De La Rosa; Tammy Phillips

Subject: FW: (b)(6) and mothers conversation - IMPORTANT UPDATE

Good evening Scott,

Please see email below. Let us know how you would like to proceed given this new information.

Thanks,

Asennet

Asennet G. Segura
EVP/COO – Community, International &Residential Operations

BCFS

Administrative &Foundation Office

1506 Bexar Crossing | San Antonio, TX 78232

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(210) 832-5000
| **fax** (210) 208-5234

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corporate website
www.BCFS.net

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

| **program website**
www.DiscoverBCFS.net

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From: Yasmin De La Rosa

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 7:14 PM

To: (b)(6) @bcfs.net>; Asennet Segura <asegura@bcfs.net>; Sonya Thompson <sthompson@orrncc.com>

Subject: FW: (b)(6) and mothers conversation

Hello,

Please see below a summary of the follow up with minor and her mother. (b)(6) has changed her mind. Please let me know what the next steps will be and how this will affect tomorrow's plans.

Thank you,

Yasmin A. De La Rosa, MS, LCCA –
Associate Program Director

BCFS Health and Human Services

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Residential Services Division- San Antonio Campus

7404 West US Highway 90 | San Antonio, Texas 78227

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| **fax** (210) 673.5331

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Corporate Website:
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Program Website:
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From: (b)(6)

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 7:08 PM

To: Yasmin De La Rosa <ydelarosa@bcfs.net>

Cc: (b)(6) @bcfs.net>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Subject: (b)(6) and mothers conversation

Good evening,

Below is detailed information of conversation with UC and mother. Please call me at 210-849-7741 for any questions or clarification's.

UC Visit: Case Manager (b)(6) meet with minor to discuss conversation minor had with mother on the evening of 03/11/2017 in reference to needed consent for termination of pregnancy. Minor stated that her conversation with her mother started well. Minor stated she greeted her mother and asked how she was and how her siblings where. Minor reported that her mother asked how she was, and minor stated she told her mother that she was calm and taking her placement day by day. Minor then informed her mother that she needed a letter of consent from her. Minor stated that she explained to her mother that she needed a letter of authorization of consent because she requested termination of pregnancy in the shelter.

Mother stated according to minor, "que no se iba a prestart para eso", meaning she is not going to lend herself to that. Mother stated to minor that it is against her religion to give consent to her daughter or to anyone to terminate a pregnancy no matter what the situation is. Minor informed CM that she did not disclose the reason why she wanted termination of pregnancy because her mother recently had a hysterectomy and was still recovering. Minor stated that she does not want to get her mother sick, and currently mother believes the baby is from her home country boyfriend. Minor stated that during her conversation with her mother, her mother disclosed to minor that she had an abortion when she was young, and still suffers the choice she made to this day. Minor stated that her mother dreamed her daughter paralyzed from the waist down in a shelter. Mother also stated to minor that she had informed her boyfriend, (b)(6) that the baby is his and that she is going to attempt to come to the US to help her daughter with her child. Minor stated that her mother reassured that her boyfriend (b)(6) would help in caring for any expenses.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

As of today 03/12/2017, minor reported to CM that she does not want to proceed with termination of pregnancy due to feeling remorseful. Minor stated that she is taking the amount of time it took for the Government
to approve her decision as a sign from God. Minor reported that she has thought about the future with her child and stated that she is unsure what will happen but will leave it in God's hands. She stated if her pregnancy is not meant to be, she would probably have a miscarriage. Minor also reported that she hopes her mother comes to the US to help her and infant. Minor stated that she is at peace with her choice and wanted to notify ORR to dismiss her request. CM stated to minor next step needed is to follow is to notify chain of command. Minor had no other questions or concerns. Observations: Minor was calm. Stated to be content.

Mother conversation: Case Manager (b)(6) called minor's mother, (b)(6) (b)(6) on 03/12/2017 in reference to conversation mother had with minor/daughter
(b)(6) CM asked mother what her conversation with her daughter entailed. Minor's mother stated that her daughter called her to ask her to give authorization of termination of pregnancy. Sponsor stated to CM that she is not going to authorize termination of pregnancy due to religious beliefs and because of personal experiences. Mother stated to CM that she is not going to consent to termination of a life. Minors' mother stated that she had a similar experience when she was 22 or 23 in where she had an abortion. Minors' mother stated she suffered emotional, physical, and legal consequences. Minor's mother stated that to this day, she still regrets it and repents daily for her sin. Minors mother stated that she asked God for her forgiveness and due to that, she could not go against God in authorizing her daughter's request. Mother stated that she explained to her daughter that she would not give consent. CM stated to mother that she would notify her leads on her statement and respectfully accept her refusal. Mother has no other questions or concerns pertaining to medical procedure at this time.

Thank You ,

(b)(6)
–
Case Manager – Central Texas

BCFS Health and Human Services

Residential Services Division

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

7404 West US Highway 90 | San Antonio, Texas 78227

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(210) 674-3010
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Sent Date:	2017/03/12 21:13:37
Delivered Date:	2017/03/12 21:13:39

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
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Subject:	Re: Follow-up. Please confirm receipt.
Date:	2017/03/05 14:45:21
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Thanks.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2017 2:44:49 PM

To: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF)

Subject: Re: Follow-up. Please confirm receipt.

The program will be connecting with the Medical Team with the update. They have confirmed (b)(6) wants to proceed.

On: 05 March 2017 13:46, "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)" <Michael.Bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

Thank you

On: 05 March 2017 13:43, "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:

Yes. I believe Ken is making or has made that request.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

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Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2017 1:40:14 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Cc: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Subject: Re: Follow-up. Please confirm receipt.

Jonathan,

Can we ask (b)(6) to have the program notify the medical team if the child requests to continue with the procedure.

Michael

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

On: 05 March 2017 12:58, "Tota, Kenneth (ACF)" <kenneth.tota@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

(b)(6)

In reguard to the case of (b)(6)

neither ORR nor you may provide consent to the minor continuing with this medical procedure, nor does ORR provide such consent.

However, in the current case and these specific circumstances, including (but not limited to) the appearance of a legitimately granted judicial bypass
application under state law, this email represents ORR's written confirmation that your facility does not need ORR's authorization to allow the minor, by refraining from impeding her, to continue with the medical procedure if she wishes to do so absent ORR's
consent.

Please confirm receipt.

Thank you.

Ken

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Sent Date:	2017/03/05 14:45:20
Delivered Date:	2017/03/05 14:45:21

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
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CC:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Subject:	RE: Update on BCFS case
Date:	2017/03/22 21:56:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

I wrote Jose to double-check—I think Scott provided that referral resource to Jose directly, but I have written to make sure it has been coordinated. I will update tomorrow.

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 9:14 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: FW: Update on BCFS case

Has the referral Scott indicated below been coordinated?

From: Lloyd, Scott (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 11:32 AM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Update on BCFS case

Jonathan,

I appreciate the update. Jose had asked for any additional pregnancy resources in the area, and I have had Crossroads Pregnancy Resource Center recommended to me, 105 St. Louis Street, Thibodaux, LA 70301: http://www.crossroadsprc.org/index.html

(b)(6)

(b)(6) which is not far, but a little further.

Thank you,
Scott

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 8:29 PM
To: Lloyd, Scott (ACF)
Cc: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Update on BCFS case

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Scott,

Just a quick note to let you know that I am advised that the UC (b)(6) with whom you met in San Antonio is close to release. I am advised that her case is being reviewed by the FFS for release, which would ordinarily mean that reunification is imminent. We will provide update tomorrow, I expect.

Jonathan

Jonathan D. White
Commander, U.S. Public Health Service
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW
(202) 690-6984
jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

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Recipient:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/22 21:56:05
Delivered Date:	2017/03/22 21:56:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Subject:	Re: Follow-up. Please confirm receipt.
Date:	2017/03/05 16:14:15
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

I have received no new info. Please proceed.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2017 4:13:37 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Subject: Re: Follow-up. Please confirm receipt.

I am going to ask for an update on her clinical condition....unless you have info that her requests have been answered

---

On: 05 March 2017 14:45, "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:

Thanks.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2017 2:44:49 PM

To: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF)

Subject: Re: Follow-up. Please confirm receipt.

The program will be connecting with the Medical Team with the update. They have confirmed (b)(6) wants to proceed.

On: 05 March 2017 13:46, "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)" <Michael.Bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

Thank you

On: 05 March 2017 13:43, "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Yes. I believe Ken is making or has made that request.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2017 1:40:14 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Cc: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Subject: Re: Follow-up. Please confirm receipt.

Jonathan,

Can we ask (b)(6) to have the program notify the medical team if the child requests to continue with the procedure.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Michael

On: 05 March 2017 12:58, "Tota, Kenneth (ACF)" <kenneth.tota@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

(b)(6)
,

In reguard to the case of (b)(6)

neither ORR nor you may provide consent to the minor continuing with this medical procedure, nor does ORR provide such consent.

However, in the current case and these specific circumstances, including (but not limited to) the appearance of a legitimately granted judicial bypass
application under state law, this email represents ORR's written confirmation that your facility does not need ORR's authorization to allow the minor, by refraining from impeding her, to continue with the medical procedure if she wishes to do so absent ORR's
consent.

Please confirm receipt.

Thank you.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Ken

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/05 16:14:14
Delivered Date:	2017/03/05 16:14:15

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
CC:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"; "Kurkjy, Brian (ACF) (CTR) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=faee3bcd11ca4d88b8e39a7a6a4b49e0-Kurkjy, Bri>"
Subject:	FW: pregnant girls estimate
Date:	2017/03/09 18:56:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Ken,

(b)(5)

I will provide to Scott once you OK me to do so.

(b)(5)

Jonathan

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"; "Kurkjy, Brian (ACF) (CTR) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=faee3bcd11ca4d88b8e39a7a6a4b49e0-Kurkjy, Bri>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/09 18:56:36
Delivered Date:	2017/03/09 18:56:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
Subject:	UAC SWK Procedure
Date:	2017/03/03 09:14:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

FYSA. See email chain below.

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2017 9:02 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: FW: (b)(6) Procedure scheduled

FYSA

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Unaccompanied Children Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2017 8:57 PM
To: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Subject: FW: (b)(6) Procedure scheduled

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2017 8:29 PM
To: Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Cc: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: (b)(6) Procedure scheduled

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Ivonne,

I wanted to update you all in regards to the above referenced procedure for Ms. (b)(6) There (b)(5)

The Conference is tentatively scheduled for 1:00 PM EST tomorrow, 3/3/2017. If everyone noted above can please email me to advise if that time works best, once I receive all of your responses I will then create a calendar event and invite all interested parties and provide a conference number.

Thanks for your attention on this matter.

Wilfred Calero
Federal Field Specialist
Agency for Children and Families
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Division of Unaccompanied Children Operations (DUCO)
202-695-4996
321-(b)(6)
wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 9:04 AM
To: Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Cc: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Subject: FW: (b)(6) Procedure scheduled

Ivonne,

See below, the TOP has been scheduled. If there is any further needed please advise.

Wilfred Calero
Federal Field Specialist
Division of Children's Services
Office of Refugee Resettlement
202-695-4996
321-(b)(6)
wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b)(6) [mailto:(b)(6)@swkey.org]
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2017 4:39 PM
To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: (b)(6) Procedure scheduled

Good evening all

(b)(6) has a 2 part appointment for her termination

First day is Wednesday March 1st at 215pm
This is when they plan to prepare her cervix for the procedure

Thursday March 2nd is the main procedure, this is scheduled at 7:45 am
This will take 4 to 6 hours
I will be present with her for both appointments

The cost is $1300

Let me know if you need any other information and thanks all for your teamwork

(b)(6) *MC, LPC*
(b)(6)
Program 921: Kokopelli
(b)(6)
Email: (b)(6)@swkey.org
Regular Work Schedule: Tuesday -- Saturday, 8am-4pm

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/03 09:14:27
Delivered Date:	2017/03/03 09:14:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
CC:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Kurkjy, Brian (ACF) (CTR) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=faee3bcd11ca4d88b8e39a7a6a4b49e0-Kurkjy, Bri>"
Subject:	Briefing Template with Jonathan edits
Date:	2017/03/13 16:54:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Revised version attached. Added UC key activities/challenges but also made a few technical edits elsewhere, including adding rank titles for PHS Officers in leadership list, and putting correct formal names of some Divisions.

Jonathan D. White
Commander, U.S. Public Health Service
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW
(202) 690-6984
jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"; "Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Kurkjy, Brian (ACF) (CTR) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=faee3bcd11ca4d88b8e39a7a6a4b49e0-Kurkjy, Bri>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/13 16:54:50
Delivered Date:	2017/03/13 16:54:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
CC:	"Misegades, Lara (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bb1ce43ecb18472b86f2b1dd90441103-Misegades,>"; "Somerville, Nicholas J (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5256083123ac46139457229af5e689ec-Sommerville>"
Subject:	RE: Zika Virus Testing Among UAC
Date:	2017/10/16 11:55:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Thanks, Michael. I will review. Assuming I have this complete by our weekly 1:1 meeting, let's discuss then.

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 11:48 AM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Misegades, Lara (ACF); Somerville, Nicholas J (ACF)
Subject: Zika Virus Testing Among UAC
Importance: High

Hi Jonathan,

As I mentioned to you during our 1 on 1 last week, DHUC has been working on providing recommendations regarding Zika Virus testing among pregnant UAC to leadership due to recent changes by CDC.

Attached is DHUC's 2 page brief for your review and consideration.

Please review, comment and provide any edits you might want.

If we can put this on the agenda for this week's 1 on 1 meeting, we can discuss next steps.

Michael

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Unaccompanied Children Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Misegades, Lara (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bb1ce43ecb18472b86f2b1dd90441103-Misegades,>"; "Somerville, Nicholas J (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5256083123ac46139457229af5e689ec-Sommerville>"
Sent Date:	2017/10/16 11:55:18
Delivered Date:	2017/10/16 11:55:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
CC:	"Kurkjy, Brian (ACF) (CTR) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=faee3bcd11ca4d88b8e39a7a6a4b49e0-Kurkjy, Bri>"
Subject:	RE: Follow up from Wed Meeting
Date:	2017/03/14 11:15:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

One small edit to correct my title. Otherwise, no edits.

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 11:11 AM
To: Gregg, Laura (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Kurkjy, Brian (ACF) (CTR)
Subject: RE: Follow up from Wed Meeting

Looks good Laura. It is my understanding OLAB will include the Budget. Minor addition of (b)(5)

Jonathan – do you have any edits? Thanks, Ken

From: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 9:09 AM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Cc: White, Jonathan (ACF); Kurkjy, Brian (ACF) (CTR)
Subject: RE: Follow up from Wed Meeting

Hi Ken,

Please see attached ORR briefing for Ben- I have one comment for your review. For the budget section, can you clarify with Ben if OA is working with OLAB to provide the budget chart or if we are expected to do that?

Thanks,
Laura

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 3:52 PM
To: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: FW: Follow up from Wed Meeting

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Can you help pull this together for ORR from our background docs?

Thanks, Ken

From: Goldhaber, Ben (ACF)
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 2:24 PM
To: ACF - Senior Career Officials
Cc: Mella, Emily (ACF); Cummins, Valman (ACF); Patterson, Michelle (ACF); Shaw, Tracy (ACF); Lee, Lila (ACF)
Subject: RE: Follow up from Wed Meeting

Its Friday…

From: Goldhaber, Ben (ACF)
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 2:24 PM
To: ACF - Senior Career Officials
Cc: Mella, Emily (ACF); Cummins, Valman (ACF); Patterson, Michelle (ACF); Shaw, Tracy (ACF); Lee, Lila (ACF)
Subject: RE: Follow up from Wed Meeting

All – slight evolution of the plan for the briefing document. Please see the attached.

The 3-pager format is easier to translate to a powerpoint (as needed) rather than the reverse, plus I think there are things you can steal from that more closely align to this format (transition book, https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fact-sheets, etc…). Generally designed into three themes: page 1/overview; page 2/internally facing; page 3/externally facing.

Val &Michelle – I've included you given the two pieces we'll need from OA and OLAB for each document - org chart and budget table.

Once you've got the content in place, please send the drafts to me and we'll coordinate getting the charts and tables in place.

Thanks,
Ben

From: Goldhaber, Ben (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2017 11:54 AM
To: ACF - Senior Career Officials
Cc: Mella, Emily (ACF)
Subject: Follow up from Wed Meeting

All-

As discussed, please see the attached draft/notional plan for orienting incoming IOAS leadership. Please take a look at both the schedule and the elements for program briefings. Feel free to send back comments/questions/thoughts. I'll be working toward locking this up by COB tomorrow to allow you time to develop your materials.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

In an abundance of caution, please plan to have the draft decks completed by the end of next week (2/10) and then send them to Emily.

Ben

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"; "Kurkjy, Brian (ACF) (CTR) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=faee3bcd11ca4d88b8e39a7a6a4b49e0-Kurkjy, Bri>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/14 11:15:16
Delivered Date:	2017/03/14 11:15:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Moreno, Mr. Pedro (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ffd28ce9a1d8453591e74b700a6ce1e8-Moreno, Ped>"
Subject:	Fwd: Instructions on UAC in care
Date:	2017/10/19 17:24:24
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

W/attachment

Jonathan White

Commander, US Public Health Service

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Jonathan.White@acf.hhs.gov

(202) (b)(6)

From: "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>

Subject: Fwd: Instructions on UAC in care

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Date: 19 October 2017 17:22

To: "Lloyd, Scott (ACF)" <Scott.Lloyd@acf.hhs.gov>, "Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC)" <Matthew.Bowman@hhs.gov>, "Wagner, Steven (ACF)" <Steven.Wagner@acf.hhs.gov>, "Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)" <Margaret.Wynne@hhs.gov>

Per your instructions.

Jonathan White

Commander, US Public Health Service

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Jonathan.White@acf.hhs.gov

(202) (b)(6)

From: (b)(6) @iestex.org>

Subject: [WARNING : MESSAGE ENCRYPTED] RE: Instructions on UAC in care

Date: 19 October 2017 17:03

To: "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>, "(b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @iestex.org>

Cc: "Brooks, Teresa (ACF)" <Teresa.Brooks@ACF.hhs.gov>, "Lloyd, Scott (ACF)" <Scott.Lloyd@acf.hhs.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Good Afternoon Mr. White,

I fully understand and we will proceed as directed pending further updates, as of this moment we
WILL NOT transport UAC to medical center tomorrow 10/20/17. With that said, please see detailed summary of today's consult below….

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Again, as of this moment, 10/19/17 at 4:00 p.m. (CST) care provider **WILL NOT** be transporting UAC to scheduled appointment on Friday, 10/20/17 at 8:00 a.m. Care provider will adhere to ORR Director's previously issued directives unless care provider receives subsequent explicit directives from ORR HQ officials to proceed otherwise.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns, we will gladly be of assistance.

*password for attachment to follow in separate correspondence

(b)(6)

IES Shelter Los Fresnos

International Educational Services, Inc.

P.O. Box 112

Los Fresnos, TX 78566

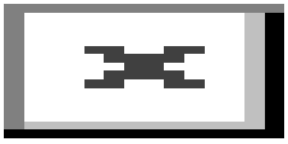
Phone: 956-(b)(6)

Cell: 956-(b)(6)

Fax: 956-233-3435

(b)(6)@iestex.org

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



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or use of the contents of this information is prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, please notify me immediately by telephone and permanently delete the e-mail and any attachments immediately. Thank you.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF) [mailto:Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov]

Sent: Thursday, October 19, 2017 3:00 PM

To: (b)(6) @iestex.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @iestex.org>

Cc: Brooks, Teresa (ACF) <Teresa.Brooks@ACF.hhs.gov>; Lloyd, Scott (ACF) <Scott.Lloyd@acf.hhs.gov>

Subject: (b)(5)

Importance: High

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

Court of Appeals Docket #: 17-5236 Docketed: 10/18/2017

Rochelle Garza v. Eric Hargan, et al

Appeal From: United States District Court for the District of Columbia

Docket Text:

PER CURIAM ORDER [1700058] filed ORDERED that the district court's temporary restraining order filed on October 18, 2017, be administratively stayed pending further order of this court to the extent that the order requires appellants to transport J.D. or allow J.D. to be transported by either her guardian or attorney ad litem to obtain an abortion procedure on October 20, 2017, and/or October 21, 2017. The portion of the order requiring appellants to transport J.D. or allow J.D. to be transported by either her guardian or attorney ad litem on October 19, 2017, to obtain the counseling required by state law remains in effect, as do paragraphs 3, 4, and 5 and the costs and contempt provisions of the order. The purpose of this administrative stay is to give the court sufficient opportunity to consider the emergency motion for stay and should not be construed in any way as a ruling on the merits of that motion. See D.C. Circuit Handbook of Practice and Internal Procedures 33 (2017). It is FURTHER ORDERED, on the court's own motion, that appellee file a response to the emergency motion for stay by 2:00 p.m. today, October 19, 2017. Any reply is due by 8:00 p.m. today, October

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

19, 2017. The parties are directed to hand-deliver the paper copies of their submissions to the court by the time and date due. It is FURTHER ORDERED that oral argument be scheduled before this panel on Friday, October 20, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. in Courtroom 31. Before Judges: Henderson, Kavanaugh and Millett. [17-5236]

Jonathan

Jonathan White

Commander, US Public Health Service

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Jonathan.White@acf.hhs.gov

(202) (b)(6)

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

	(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Moreno, Mr. Pedro (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ffd28ce9a1d8453591e74b700a6ce1e8-Moreno, Ped>"
Sent Date:	2017/10/19 17:24:22
Delivered Date:	2017/10/19 17:24:24

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Subject:	RE: medical services requiring heightened ORR involvement
Date:	2017/03/09 19:00:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

(b)(5)

Policy Team should have lead in drafting—you should be the SME informant. I will put together a call tomorrow for us to all talk it out together. When is best time for you in terms of Station Leave needs?

(b)(6)

up. I have other ways to attack this problem. Let me know what's up and how I can help.

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 6:57 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: RE: medical services requiring heightened ORR involvement

(b)(6) will be requesting station leave.

I am unsure of what the "something" is…..email clarification, formal guidance…it will likely need to be broad but specific…..clear as mud.

Any idea what they are thinking?

Michael

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Unaccompanied Children Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C St SW, MS 5123

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 6:05 PM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Subject: Re: medical services requiring heightened ORR involvement

Works for me. Looping in Michael B.

CDR Jonathan White
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response
(202) 690-6984 (office)
(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)
Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 9, 2017 6:03:36 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF)
Subject: RE: medical services requiring heightened ORR involvement

Can Policy draft something in coordination with UC Medial ASAP? We could then route to Amanda for clearance. Thanks

---

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 11:36 AM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF)
Subject: FW: medical services requiring heightened ORR involvement

See the question below. It would be very important to get clarification to programs. Some programs seem to be increasingly concerned about the non-abortion implications of the policy. I got a telephone inquiry from BCFS as well about what this meant for authorization for routine procedures which are not related to reproductive health at all.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 11:34 AM
To: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Subject: RE: medical services requiring heightened ORR involvement

Working on getting answers. My understanding is that (b)(5)
(b)(5)
(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I am looking to get clarification.

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 11:28 AM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: FW: medical services requiring heightened ORR involvement

Another program inquiry.

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Unaccompanied Children Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) [mailto (b)(6) @kidspeace.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 10:30 AM
To: ORR DHUC; Buckley, Kirsten (ACF)
Cc: Breiner, David
Subject: medical services requiring heightened ORR involvement

Good Morning,

Thank you for the information regarding the ORR medical services requiring heightened ORR involvement memo. Kidshaven would like to ensure we are following all requirements for medical services requiring ORR written approval. Would you please provide a more definite list of services which require this action? For example: physical therapy, dental extractions, surgical procedures, abortions, extensive lab work, general anesthesia, local anesthesia, etc.

A more definitive list would provide great assistance in ensuring we are being compliant with the requirement.

Thank you for your assistance and attention to this request.

Have a great day!

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6) **BSN, RN**
Residential Nurse Manager| KidsPeace-KidsHaven and Community Programs
Mail: 1650 Broadway| Bethlehem, PA 18015
Phone (b)(6) (b)(6)
Fax: 610-866-4404
Web: http://www.kidspeace.org/ | http://www.fostercare.com/ | http://teencentral.net/

Giving hope, help and healing to children, families and communities

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Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/09 19:00:17
Delivered Date:	2017/03/09 19:00:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Subject:	Re (b)(6) Denial of reunification appeal
Date:	2017/03/14 13:03:37
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Done.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 12:58:09 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Subject: FW: (b)(6) Denial of reunification appeal

This email is only for you.

This is getting VERY confusing.

Can you please clarify for the group (b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 12:55 PM

To: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Cc: Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Fields, Marivic (Maria) (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF)

Subject: RE: (b)(6) Denial of reunification appeal

+ jonathan

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 12:55 PM

To: Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Cc: Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Fields, Marivic (Maria) (ACF)

Subject: RE: (b)(6) Denial of reunification appeal

Thanks Anna Marie,

(b)(5)

James S. De La Cruz

DHHS/ACF/ORR/DCS

Senior Federal Field Specialist Supervisor

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Division of Children's Services

Mary E. Switzer Building, 5th Floor (Room: 5223)

330 C Street SW

Washington, DC 20201

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Office: 202-690-8477

Cell: (b)(6)

Fax: 202-401-1022

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/ucs

From: Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF)

Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 12:51 PM

To: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Cc: Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Fields, Marivic (Maria) (ACF)

Subject: RE: (b)(6) Denial of reunification appeal

(b)(6) was the one that went forward to OAS. And it is good news that (b)(6) will be released. It will also give the HHS Policy Team more time to evaluate the reconsideration process.

From: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 12:40 PM

To: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Fields, Marivic (Maria) (ACF)

Subject: RE: (b)(6) Denial of reunification appeal

For (b)(6) s I just sent it.

James S. De La Cruz

DHHS/ACF/ORR/DCS

Senior Federal Field Specialist Supervisor

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Division of Children's Services

Mary E. Switzer Building, 5th Floor (Room: 5223)

330 C Street SW

Washington, DC 20201

Office: 202-690-8477

Cell: (b)(6)

Fax: 202-401-1022

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/ucs

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 12:17 PM

To: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Cc: Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Fields, Marivic (Maria) (ACF)

Subject: RE: (b)(6) Denial of reunification appeal

The email you attached was related to (b)(6) not (b)(6) but the email you forwarded was about (b)(6)

Can you clarify which case you would like guidance on and attach the correct email from the (b)(6) attorney if that is the case you are referring to?

From: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 12:15 PM

To: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Cc: Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Fields, Marivic (Maria) (ACF)

Subject: Re: (b)(6) Denial of reunification appeal

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

There are two cases we know of on appeal. One for (b)(6) I believe and the other (b)(6) (b)(6) is the one with a recommended denial.

Jsd

From: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 12:07:14 PM

To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Cc: Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Fields, Marivic (Maria) (ACF)

Subject: RE: (b)(6) Denial of reunification appeal

HI Ken,

This is the case for minor (b)(6) which is the case we have the habeas on and have forwarded to Amanda and the HHS Policy team.

(b)(5)

Thanks,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Laura

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 11:59 AM

To: Gregg, Laura (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Cc: Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Fields, Marivic (Maria) (ACF)

Subject: Re: (b)(6) Denial of reunification appeal

It is the same case? Jim indicated they were considering approval to release..

On: 14 March 2017 11:56, "Gregg, Laura (ACF)" <Laura.Gregg@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

Hi all,

Anna Marie- this is the case that we have the habeas on and a draft response back to the attorney from Ken has been elevated to IOAS and the HHS Policy team for expedited review.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

Thanks,

Laura

From: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 11:48 AM

To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Cc: Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF)

Subject: FW: (b)(6) Denial of reunification appeal

Hello Ken and Laura,

This message is about a pending parent denial that was elevated to OAS in February. Please see the string of emails from the covering FFS (b)(5) child to her mother.
I attached an email from the mother's attorney that was also elevated last February.

This is possibility that someone for the OAS has reached out to the mother and or attorney but we in DUCOs have no visibility of that. Let me know if you have any questions.

James S. De La Cruz

DHHS/ACF/ORR/DCS

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Senior Federal Field Specialist Supervisor

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Division of Children's Services

Mary E. Switzer Building, 5th Floor (Room: 5223)

330 C Street SW

Washington, DC 20201

Office: 202-690-8477

Cell: (b)(6)

Fax: 202-401-1022

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/ucs

From: Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF)

Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 7:54 AM

To: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Cc: Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF)

Subject: Re: (b)(6) Denial of reunification appeal

Jim,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I'm not sure which case this is. If you haven't already, I think you need to check with Ken and Laura and make sure there's no letter in process.

AM

On: 13 March 2017 23:43, "De LA Cruz, James (ACF)" <James.DeLACruz@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

Thank You Natasha,

Anna Marie this is one of the parent denial cases that I previously elevated to you and which is being appealed by the UC mother. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

be denied.

Jsd

From: David, Natasha (ACF)

Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 9:54:00 PM

To: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Cc: Fink, David (ACF); Miller, Amanda J. (ACF)

Subject: RE: (b)(6) Denial of reunification appeal

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Good evening Jim,

(b)(5)

Thank you

Natasha David

Federal Field Specialist

U.S. Department of Health &Human Services

Administration for Children &Families

Office of Refugee &Resettlement

Division of Unaccompanined Children Operations

202-205-4949 (Office)

202-(b)(6) *(Cell)*

natasha.david@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: David, Natasha (ACF)

Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 2:17 PM

To: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Cc: 'Fink, David (ACF)'; Miller, Amanda J. (ACF)

Subject: FW: (b)(6) Denial of reunification appeal

Importance: High

Good afternoon Jim,

Updating you on this case and my current analysis. I received the email below from the case manager and the BI email sent by the Young Center. In reviewing
this information as well as Amanda's last denial update, I advised the program of the following:

1. *Contact the mother and assess her current status for reunification.*

2. *Send the mother a new FRP, as much of her information has changed.*

3. *Inquire about any community supports or natural supports in the home.*

4. *Provide local Department of Social Services resources to the mother for additional assistance, as needed.*

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From my understanding there are no safety concerns identified, however proceeding with these steps will address any concerns. The mother now appears engaged
and willing to complete the process, which I advised to proceed. The daughter has increased her comments wanting to reunify.

(b)(5)

David- Please let me know if you require additional information.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you

Natasha David

Federal Field Specialist

U.S. Department of Health &Human Services

Administration for Children &Families

Office of Refugee &Resettlement

Division of Children Services

202-205-4949 (Office)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

202(b)(6) (Cell)

natasha.david@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) [mailto:(b)(6)@bethany.org]

Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 12:50 PM

To: David, Natasha (ACF)

Subject: (b)(6) BID Young Center

Hello,

Attached, please find the Young Center recommendation regarding (b)(6) (b)(6)
Please note, at this time, her mother has a full-time job and home. Previously, she was un/under-employed and had just had a baby (summertime). She
is also illiterate, so it was exceedingly difficult for her to fulfill tasks regarding Family Reunification packets, mailings, making/keeping appointments etc. She has found stable work and has been at her job since November 1st. She also has made
a friend who is bilingual who is able to help her with tasks requiring literacy and language skills.

Best,

(b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Refugee Case Manager, MA Counseling

UC Long Term Foster Care

Bethany Christian Services

(b)(6)

Grand Rapids MI (b)(6)

O - (b)(6)

F - 616.254.7750

C - (b)(6)

- Bethany's OneFamily
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Vimeo

http://misc.bethany.org/files/bcslogo2.jpg

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Recipient:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/14 13:03:35
Delivered Date:	2017/03/14 13:03:37

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Barlow, Amanda (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0889c0c2ffb042afaedcfb6c76e2a8fd-Barlow, Ama>"
CC:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Subject:	FW: Third case
Date:	2017/03/05 16:47:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

FYSA.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Sunday, March 05, 2017 4:46 PM
To: Lloyd, Scott E. (ACF)
Subject: RE: Third case

The UC is sheltered in BCFS San Antonio, one of the shelters operated by the large grantee BCFS. No action has been taken yet. I am advised that on Friday (3 March) the UC had a hearing related to Judicial Bypass but I do not know what the outcome of that hearing was or if the hearing actually took place. The medical team understands that this is a case that we expect to come forward as a request for authorization and federal funding, I would anticipate early this week.

To prevent any unauthorized actions, on Friday the medical team provided the Medical Director at BCFS explicit direction not to proceed with any actions without written authorization by ORR, and Medical Director acknowledged direction. On Friday I also communicated this direction to the CEO of BCFS, who also confirmed receipt of directions and transmitted them to all his operations and medical management. This was prior to the more official and general instruction to grantees that went out late Friday night from the Director of ORR.

I don't know much about the case yet but we will learn more as this one comes through the official submission and review.

From: Lloyd, Scott E. (ACF)
Sent: Sunday, March 05, 2017 4:33 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: Re: Third case

Thank you!

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2017 4:32:02 PM
To: Lloyd, Scott E. (ACF)
Subject: Re: Third case

Scott,

Sure thing. Give me a few minutes to get pieces together.

Jonathan

CDR Jonathan White
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response
(202) 690-6984 (office)
(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)
Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Lloyd, Scott E. (ACF)
Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2017 4:30:36 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: Third case

Jonathan,

Could you provide me just the very basic facts of the third case-- the location and the name of the provider facility? As I understand it, the UC has requested an abortion, but nothing has happened?

(b)(5)

Thank you!

Scott

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Recipient:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Barlow, Amanda (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0889c0c2ffb042afaedcfb6c76e2a8fd-Barlow, Ama>"; "Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/05 16:47:21
Delivered Date:	2017/03/05 16:47:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Subject:	RE: FW: Follow Up Pregnant UC Guidance for ORR FFS 03/09/2017
Date:	2017/03/14 14:12:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Michael,

Yes, until we have additional guidance in the form of a new policy and procedure, we are requiring programs to submit SIR for positive pregnancy tests. Additionally, they should submit SIRs and notify us immediately of any termination request or request for information related to termination options from any UC—before taking any other steps such as appointments.

Jonathan

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 11:16 AM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: FW: FW: Follow Up Pregnant UC Guidance for ORR FFS 03/09/2017

More clarification emails.

In light of what leadership is requesting, are we requiring programs to submit and SIR for pregnancy and termination requests?

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Unaccompanied Children Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6) [mailto:(b)(6) @cayugacenters.org]
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 9:45 AM
To: ORR DHUC

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: Melinda Jimenez; (b)(6) (b)(6) ; (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: Fwd: FW: Follow Up Pregnant UC Guidance for ORR FFS 03/09/2017

Good morning,

I am requesting clarification on the ORR FSS Guidance regarding Follow Up Pregnant UC.- date 3/9/17 statement **in advance of taking additional action**

When a pregnant UC is transferred to our agency we always discuss care options (i.e continuation or termination of the pregnancy) as a POC during the IME. The CM/ CL's are involved in this process. It is not always possible to have that decision expressed by the minor at the IME and it might come 24 hours later. If a minor is found to be pregnant (unexpectedly) during the IME , we follow the same process. I looked in the ORR Medical Module and I did not see any guidance on Pregnant UC in ORR care . We have been entering into the portal as a working diagnosis .

I am not sure if a SIR is being done for pregnancy? . I know that SIR is done if the UC reports sexual abuse or assault.

Are you now requesting the ORR FFS be made aware of the UC decision by email communication ?

We received a Wellness Wednesday regarding "Heightened Medical procedures " date 3/6/17 in which it included termination of pregnancy requiring written authorization from ORR medical team .

Dear ORR Care Providers:

I am writing to reinforce the importance of ORR policies and procedures related to Heightened Medical Procedures, including “significant medical or surgical procedures, abortions, and services that may threaten the life of a UAC.”

Per the policy, “Grantees are prohibited from taking any actions in these cases without direction and approval from ORR.” Approval for such procedures would be provided in the form of a signed authorization from the Director of ORR. To restate and reinforce the existing policy, ***grantees may not perform Heightened Medical Procedures without written authorization from the ORR Director***, except in emergency medical situations (as described in Emergency Medical Services, 3.05). Grantees should not conduct procedures, or take any steps that facilitate future procedures such as scheduling appointments, transportation, or other arrangements without signed written authorization from the ORR Director. Note that the requirement for written authorization by the ORR Director applies whether the procedure will be paid for with Federal funds or by other means.

Please ensure close adherence and understanding of the policy. Approval for such procedures can only be authorized by the ORR Director in writing. Failure to adhere to this policy will be a significant issue of non-compliance.

The policy on Heightened Medical Procedures is attached. If there are questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact ORR for clarification.

Please advise .

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Best regards,

(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Cayuga Centers
(b)(6)
Bronx ,NY (b)(6)
646 (b)(6)

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Melinda Jimenez** <melinda.jimenez@cayugacenters.org>
Date: Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 11:45 AM
Subject: Fwd: FW: Follow Up Pregnant UC Guidance for ORR FFS 03/09/2017
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@cayugacenters.org>, (b)(6) <(b)(6)@cayugacenters.org>, (b)(6) <(b)(6)@gmail.com>, (b)(6) <(b)(6)@cayugacenters.org>, (b)(6) <(b)(6)@cayugacenters.org>
Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@cayugacenters.org>

Good Morning,

Please review the guidance provided for pregnant UCs in our care and review with your staff.

Thank You,

Melinda Jimenez, LCSW, ACHP-SW
Vice President
Cayuga Centers
Unaccompanied Children TFC Program
Tel:(646)760-9100 x(b)(6)

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Flippin, Joseph (ACF)** <Joseph.Flippin@acf.hhs.gov>
Date: Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 9:54 AM
Subject: FW: Follow Up Pregnant UC Guidance for ORR FFS 03/09/2017
To: A New Leaf -(b)(6)@turnanewleaf.org>, (b)(6) (b)(6)@catholicguardian.org)" <(b)(6)@catholicguardian.org>, "Melinda Jimenez (melinda.jimenez@cayugacenters.org)" <melinda.jimenez@cayugacenters.org>, "Leake &Watts - (b)(6) <(b)(6)@leakeandwatts.org>, LSS NY - (b)(6) <(b)(6)@lssny.org>, (b)(6) (b)(6)@svjc.org)" <(b)(6)@svjc.org>, (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@davidandmargaret.org)" <(b)(6)@davidandmargaret.org>, (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@noankcss.org>, (b)(6)@hfi-pgh.org" <(b)(6)@hfi-

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

pgh.org>, (b)(6) ((b)(6) @rop.com)" <(b)(6) @rop.com>,
"(b)(6) @cayugacenters.org" <(b)(6) @cayugacenters.org>

Good morning,

I was asked to follow up with you all to ensure you received the below language and attachment.

As you are aware ORR is reviewing case process for pregnant UC. This includes when a UC is found to be pregnant and what to do **BEFORE** the care provider proceeds to explore with the UC what her options are. That guidance is:

- If the care provider discovers that they have a pregnant UC in their facility they should immediately submit an SIR as they normally would. (You the FFS and the ORR Medical Team should be copied.)

- The care provider should contact you the FFS directly with any questions or requests in writing. Requests should include clarification and instruction, **in advance**, about how to proceed with offering the girl guidance for her birth options or medical procedures.

- It is important to know that ORR's Acting Director, Ken Tota, should be informed of the case by your FFS Supervisor as soon as cases are identified and as care providers request guidance.

- You the FFS will need to follow up with your supervisor, and medical staff (to be identified by Dr. Bartholomew) before the care provider takes next steps in the girl's case. Until instructions are provided to the shelters they should not proceed with next steps in the case.

- If the UC has an emergency medical concern then the care provider should immediately seek emergency medical care and immediately notify you, their FFS, FFS Supervisor, or on call ORR staff during non-business hours.

Thanks,
Joe

Joseph Flippin
Office of Refugee Resettlement
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street, SW #5123
Washington DC 20201
joseph.flippin@acf.hhs.gov
202.401.4863

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From:
To:
Cc:
Bcc:
Date:
Subject: Additional Pregnant UC Guidance for Care Providers 03/09/2017
Hello Care Provider Case Managers, Clinicians, and Medical Staff,

As you are aware ORR is reviewing case process for pregnant UC. This includes when a UC is found to be pregnant and what to do **BEFORE** you as a care provider proceed to explore with the UC what her options are. If you have a pregnant UC in your care or you discover that a UC is pregnant it is important that you proceed with the following steps:

- Immediately submit an SIR, and copy your assigned FFS and ORR Medical Care Coordinator **in advance of taking additional action.**

- For each case you should send to your assigned FFS questions about how to proceed and include all questions and concerns expressed by the UC. (Copy the supervisor for your assigned FFS.)

- Before taking additional steps you should wait for WRITTEN instructions from your FFS or FFS Supervisor.

- If the UC is experiencing an emergency medical event that requires immediate emergency medical services you should proceed to seek emergency medical care and immediately contact your assigned FFS or on-call ORR staff.

Thank you for your patience in assisting ORR by following the interim or temporary guidance in this email. ORR Senior Management, the ORR Medical Team, and ORR Policy Team are all working hard to develop guidance for pregnant UC. In the near future you will receive updated long term guidance.

James S. De La Cruz
DHHS/ACF/ORR/DCS
Senior Federal Field Specialist Supervisor
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Division of Children's Services
Mary E. Switzer Building, 5th Floor (Room: 5223)
330 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20201
Office: 202-690-8477
Cell: (b)(6)
Fax: 202-401-1022

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/ucs

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From:
To:
Cc:
Bcc:
Date:
Subject: Additional Pregnant UC Guidance for Care Providers 03/09/2017
Hello Care Provider Case Managers, Clinicians, and Medical Staff,

As you are aware ORR is reviewing case process for pregnant UC. This includes when a UC is found to be pregnant and what to do **BEFORE** you as a care provider proceed to explore with the UC what her options are. If you have a pregnant UC in your care or you discover that a UC is pregnant it is important that you proceed with the following steps:

- Immediately submit an SIR, and copy your assigned FFS and ORR Medical Care Coordinator **in advance of taking additional action.**

- For each case you should send to your assigned FFS questions about how to proceed and include all questions and concerns expressed by the UC. (Copy the supervisor for your assigned FFS.)

- Before taking additional steps you should wait for WRITTEN instructions from your FFS or FFS Supervisor.

- If the UC is experiencing an emergency medical event that requires immediate emergency medical services you should proceed to seek emergency medical care and immediately contact your assigned FFS or on-call ORR staff.

Thank you for your patience in assisting ORR by following the interim or temporary guidance in this email. ORR Senior Management, the ORR Medical Team, and ORR Policy Team are all working hard to develop guidance for pregnant UC. In the near future you will receive updated long term guidance.

James S. De La Cruz
DHHS/ACF/ORR/DCS
Senior Federal Field Specialist Supervisor
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Division of Children's Services
Mary E. Switzer Building, 5th Floor (Room: 5223)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

330 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20201
Office: 202-690-8477
Cell: (b)(6)
Fax: 202-401-1022
http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/ucs

--
(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Cayuga Centers
(b)(6)
Bronx ,NY (b)(6)
(b)(6)

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/14 14:12:04
Delivered Date:	2017/03/14 14:12:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
CC:	"Misegades, Lara (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bb1ce43ecb18472b86f2b1dd90441103-Misegades,>"
Subject:	Re: Questions from today about pregnant girls in UAC Program care
Date:	2017/10/17 19:00:56
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Perfect. Thanks.

Jonathan White

Commander, US Public Health Service

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Jonathan.White@acf.hhs.gov

(202) (b)(6)

On: 17 October 2017 18:57, "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)" <Michael.Bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Hi Jonathan

Thank you for the email. Talking with Lara (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Please let me know if you need anything further.

Michael

On: 17 October 2017 17:04, "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Good afternoon,

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

If there are questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Jonathan

Jonathan D. White

Commander, U.S. Public Health Service

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

330 C Street SW

(202) 690-6984

jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Misegades, Lara (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bb1ce43ecb18472b86f2b1dd90441103-Misegades,>"
Sent Date:	2017/10/17 19:00:55
Delivered Date:	2017/10/17 19:00:56

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"(b)(6) @rcn.com"
Subject:	Fwd: ACF Media Clips for Oct. 19, 2017
Date:	2017/10/19 17:40:59
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Forwarding media clips to review. No sensitive content; media clips only.

Jonathan White

Commander, US Public Health Service

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Jonathan.White@acf.hhs.gov

(202) (b)(6)

From: "ACF Media Clips (ACF)" <MediaClips@acf.hhs.gov>

Subject: ACF Media Clips for Oct. 19, 2017

Date: 19 October 2017 15:11

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: "ACF - All ACF Staff" <All-ACFStaff@acf.hhs.gov>

ACF Media Clips for Oct. 19, 2017

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Unaccompanied Alien Children

Court

to review ruling allowing abortion for immigrant teen *(featuring ACF)*

**An appeals court on Thursday temporarily stayed a judge's ruling that would have allowed a pregnant 17-year-old being held in a Texas facility for unaccompanied immigrant children to obtain an abortion. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia
issued a short ruling that still allowed the teenager to be taken to a counseling meeting with the doctor who would perform the abortion. If the appeals court lifts the stay during a hearing Friday morning, the teen might still be able to have the procedure
later Friday or on Saturday.**

Associated Press, TX

Oct. 19, 2017

Federal
judge: Immigrant teen in Texas can have abortion
(featuring ACF)

A federal appeals court on Thursday halted a lower court judge's order one day earlier that would have allowed a pregnant undocumented teenager in U.S. custody to have an abortion in Texas. The
U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled the 17-year-old, which is only identified as Jane Doe, can receive
abortion counseling and a sonogram -- required first steps for an abortion in Texas.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

United Press International, DC

Oct. 19, 2017

Trump administration still trying to block undocumented teen's abortion
(featuring ACF)

The Justice Department on Thursday appealed a D.C. district judge's ruling ordering a government-operated detention facility in Texas to let a pregnant, undocumented teen get the abortion she's been seeking. If the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals doesn't act on the appeal, it's likely that the Central American teen, called "Jane Doe" in court papers, will undergo abortion counseling Thursday. Under Texas law, a woman must undergo such counseling 24 hours before receiving the procedure.

Vice News, NY

Oct. 19, 2017

Appeals Court puts hold on undocumented teen's abortion
(featuring ACF)

An appeals court has halted a lower court ruling that would have allowed an undocumented teenager, who is in detention in south Texas, to have an abortion. The U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington stayed Wednesday's ruling in order to hold a hearing Friday on the merits of the case.

Voice of America, DC

Oct. 19, 2017

Court puts hold on order permitting undocumented teen to have abortion
(featuring ACF)

A day after a federal judge ruled the Trump administration must permit an undocumented teen to have an abortion while she's detained in Texas, an appeals court temporarily

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

blocked the order and scheduled additional arguments to be heard Friday morning. The U.S. Court of Appeals on Thursday issued the administrative stay, which still allows for the teen to receive abortion counseling and a sonogram — steps legally required by Texas before a pregnancy can be terminated.

New York Daily News, NY

Oct. 19, 2017

Appeals
court halts order allowing abortion for teenage immigrant detainee
(featuring ACF)

In response to a federal judge's decision on Wednesday, an appeals court in Washington today temporarily halted an order that Trump officials must allow an undocumented, unaccompanied minor being detained in Texas to obtain an abortion. Texas requires all people
seeking abortions to have a counseling session 24 hours before a procedure. The stay issued Thursday does not block Jane Doe from finishing that part of the process. However, it does prevent her from obtaining the abortion, her lawyers said.

Mic, NY

Oct. 19, 2017

Trump's DOJ opposes abortion for an undocumented teen &it won't give up
(featuring ACF)

On Wednesday a federal judge ruled in favor of a teenage undocumented immigrant's right to obtain an abortion, something the Trump administration has actively
tried to stop. The Health &Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement and the Department of Justice had taken moves to stop the teen, who arrived from Central America and was caught crossing the U.S.-Mexico border in September, from visiting an abortion
provider. That victory, however, could be short-lived as the Department of Justice has appealed the decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, hoping for a stay on the decision.

Bustle, NY

Oct. 19, 2017

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Commentary:

Why Trump's pick for refugee office deserves more scrutiny
(featuring ACF)

This is not the first case — and I expect, will not be the last case — where an anti-abortion advocate from Washington is making very personal decisions for a pregnant immigrant who's thousands of miles away. As a family lawyer, I am familiar with coercion and abuse. The fact that the federal government proactively denied this Jane Doe access to the medical care that has been approved by the state district judge is abuse. It appears as though the Trump administration intends to detain all Jane Does until they submit to their religious opinions or agree to be deported to the violent countries they have fled.

Opinion

Austin American-Statesman, TX

Oct. 19, 2017

Trump administration

appeals abortion ruling *(featuring ACF)*

The Trump administration is appealing a judge's order requiring that the government allow an undocumented pregnant minor in a federally funded Texas shelter receive an abortion. The administration Wednesday night appealed the ruling to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

Politico, DC

Oct. 18, 2017

Judge: Trump administration must allow undocumented teen to have abortion
(featuring ACF)

A federal judge in Washington on Wednesday ordered the Trump administration to allow an undocumented pregnant minor at a federally funded Texas shelter to receive an

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

abortion. Judge Tanya S. Chutkan issued an order restraining the administration from interfering
with the girl's access to an abortion hours after oral arguments Wednesday. The Trump administration is seeking an emergency stay to block the order. Since March, the Trump administration has been preventing undocumented pregnant minors being held in federally
funded shelters from having abortions. The decision Wednesday could hamper the administration's argument that it has a right to make such decisions.

Politico, DC

Oct. 18, 2017

Judge

orders Trump administration to allow abortion for undocumented teen
(featuring ACF)

A federal judge on Wednesday ordered the U.S. government to allow an undocumented teenager in its custody to have an abortion, after saying she was "astounded" the Trump administration was trying to prevent the procedure.
Lawyers for Attorney General Jeff Sessions signaled to U.S. District Judge Tanya S. Chutkan in Washington that the 17-year-old did not have a constitutional right to an elective abortion in federal custody, unless it was a medical emergency. "I am astounded by that position," Chutkan said in a 40-minute hearing that was mostly consumed by a back-and-forth between the judge and Scott Stewart, a deputy assistant attorney general. She ordered the government to transport the teenager to have the procedure — or allow her guardian to transport her — "promptly and without delay."

Washington Post, DC

Oct. 18, 2017

Federal judge rules illegal-immigrant
minor has right to abortion
(featuring ACF)

Illegal-immigrant minors in the U.S. have an unfettered constitutional right to obtain an abortion, a federal judge ruled Wednesday, ordering both the Trump administration and Texas officials to

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

back off and allow a 17-year-old girl being held in a government-run shelter to be taken to a clinic. District Judge Tanya S. Chutkan, who was appointed by President Obama, said during a hearing she was “astounded”
that the administration was trying to hinder the girl, identified in court papers only as “J.D.” “Despite the fact that she’s in this country illegally, she still has constitutional rights,” the judge said.

Washington Times,
DC

Oct. 18, 2017

Texas fights ACLU to avoid becoming

‘sanctuary state for abortions’
(featuring ACF)

Texas and seven other states argued
to a federal court Wednesday that illegal immigrants shouldn’t be granted an unfettered constitutional right to abortion in the U.S., backing the federal government’s refusal to help an young girl who sneaked into the country and is being held at a government-run shelter.
The American Civil Liberties Union was in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia Wednesday demanding that
the girl, who is a juvenile and wasn’t named, be permitted abortion access.

But Texas and the other states say they have local abortion laws that need to be respected, and urged the courts to butt out.

Washington Times,
DC

Oct.

18, 2017

Judge
rules teen in US illegally must be allowed to obtain an abortion
(featuring ACF)

A federal judge in Washington ordered the Trump administration to allow a teen who is in the U.S. illegally and under the custody of the U.S. government to have an abortion.
U.S. District Judge
Tanya Chutkan, who was appointed by former President Barack Obama, said Wednesday she was "astounded" to learn that the 17-year-old girl from Mexico, who is being

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

detained in South Texas, was not allowed to obtain the procedure. She ordered the federal government
to transport the girl to an abortion facility or to allow a guardian to take her "promptly and without delay" to have a counseling appointment on Thursday and an abortion by Friday or Saturday.

Washington Examiner, DC

Oct. 18, 2017

-

Trump
admin sought to block undocumented teen from getting abortion
(featuring ACF)

The Trump administration sought to block an undocumented teenager from having an abortion, though a federal judge on Wednesday rejected officials' claims they couldn't allow her to leave a shelter
unless she exits the country or is released to a U.S. sponsor. U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan ordered the government to "promptly and without delay" allow the girl to visit a nearby abortion provider. Chutkan said she was “astounded” by the administration appearing to claim that the girl must carry her pregnancy to term or leave the U.S. “Just because she’s here illegally doesn’t mean she doesn’t have constitutional
rights,” Chutkan said.

Hill, DC

Oct. 18, 2017

Judge orders
Trump administration to let undocumented immigrant minor obtain abortion
(featuring ACF)

On Wednesday, U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan ordered
the Trump administration to let an unaccompanied, undocumented immigrant minor obtain an abortion. Although she received judicial approval to terminate her pregnancy, her shelter refused
to let her travel to an abortion clinic at the direction of the Trump administration. Chutkan issued a temporary restraining order compelling
Doe’s shelter to let her receive state-mandated counseling, then obtain the abortion “promptly and without delay.”

Slate Magazine, DC

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Oct. 18, 2017

A judge just
ordered the Trump administration to allow an undocumented teen to obtain an abortion
(featuring ACF)

A federal judge on Wednesday ordered the Trump administration to allow a pregnant, undocumented teenager to obtain an abortion.
The government, the judge wrote, must "promptly and without delay" allow the 17-year-old to be transported to an abortion provider closest to the shelter where she is being held.
The judge wrote that federal officials are "restrained from interfering with or obstructing [Jane Doe's] access to abortion counseling or an abortion."

BuzzFeed News, DC

Oct. 18, 2017

Trump admin must let illegal get abortion,

judge says *(featuring ACF)*

A federal judge ordered President Donald Trump's administration to allow a teenage illegal immigrant access to an abortion, after the administration tried to prevent her from having one. U.S. District
Judge Tanya Chutkan ruled the government must either take the 17 year-old pregnant Texas teenager to have the abortion done or allow her guardian to take her to a clinic, Politico reported Wednesday.

Daily Caller, DC

Oct. 18, 2017

Illegal aliens have no constitutional

right to abortion, says HHS *(featuring ACF)*

The Trump administration stated on Tuesday that pregnant illegal immigrants have no right to abortion in the United States. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) made it clear that

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

illegal minors do not have the right to abortion because they are not U.S. citizens. “The Office of Refugee Resettlement is providing excellent care to this young woman and her unborn child and fulfilling our duty to the American people. There is no constitutional right for a pregnant minor to illegally cross the U.S. border and get an elective abortion while in federal custody,” the Administration for Children and Families said in a statement according to Politico.

Daily Caller, DC

Oct. 17, 2017

Judge orders Trump administration to facilitate illegal immigrant's abortion
(featuring ACF)

A federal judge nominated by Barack Obama today ordered the Trump Administration to allow an undocumented teenage girl in the state of Texas to have an abortion that could be funded partly at taxpayer expense. Lawyers for Attorney General Jeff Sessions signaled to U.S. District Judge Tanya S. Chutkan in Washington that the 17-year-old, who crossed the border from Mexico illegally last month, did not have a constitutional right to an elective abortion in federal custody, unless it was a medical emergency.

Life News, DC

Oct. 18, 2017

US must allow undocumented 17-year-old to have abortion, judge says
(featuring ACF)

A federal judge on Wednesday ordered top United States government officials to allow a pregnant 17-year-old immigrant to get an abortion — the first ruling in a case that could eventually grow to include hundreds of other undocumented minors who seek access to an abortion while in federal custody. In issuing a temporary restraining order on Wednesday, the United States District Court judge, Tanya S. Chutkan, said the minor, who is in federal custody and is referred to in court documents as Jane Doe, was legally entitled to an abortion and would suffer increased health risks if not given transportation to an abortion facility and access to the procedure.

New York Times, NY

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Oct. 18, 2017

Federal judge orders Trump administration to let undocumented teen obtain an abortion
(featuring ACF)

On Tuesday, a federal district judge had to order the Office of Refugee Resettlement to let an undocumented 17-year-old in its custody at a Texas detention facility secure an abortion — you know, the medical procedure that is allegedly protected by constitutional law up until (and sometimes beyond) the point of fetal viability. ORR had repeatedly tried to keep that from happening, and had even forced the young woman to undergo religiously based "counseling" in an effort to convince her to carry her pregnancy to term.

Opinion

New York Magazine, NY

Oct. 18, 2017

Judge sides with ACLU: Orders Trump admin to allow undocumented immigrant in shelter to have abortion
(featuring ACF)

On Friday, the American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit against three members of President Donald Trump's administration, including Acting Secretary of Health and Human Services Eric Hargan. U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan told the Hill that
Doe's legal status doesn't negate her "constitutional rights," and dismissed the argument that she is not allowed to leave the facility because officials reportedly allowed her to go to a religious center to receive pro-life counseling. On Wednesday, the judge ruled the government must allow the teen to travel to a facility to have an abortion, according to the ACLU website.

Independent Journal Review, NY

Oct. 18, 2017

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Illegal
immigrant teen in Texas has right to abortion access, judge rules
(featuring ACF)

A federal judge ruled Wednesday that the federal government must grant a pregnant 17-year-old illegal immigrant access to publicly funded abortion services in Texas. U.S. District Court Judge Tanya Chutkan ordered the authorities to transport the minor or allow
her to be transported by someone else to the abortion clinic "promptly and without delay." Last week, Texas State Attorney General Ken Paxton came out in opposition to the legal challenge, saying Texas should not become "a sanctuary state for abortions."

Fox News, NY

Oct. 19, 2017

Judge orders government to allow abortion for immigrant teen
(featuring ACF)

A federal judge on Wednesday ordered the government to allow a pregnant 17-year-old immigrant, who was detained after entering the country illegally, to undergo an abortion. After a brief hearing
that included a testy exchange with government lawyers, Judge Tanya Chutkan ordered the government to move "promptly and without delay" to transport the teenager or allow her to be transported by others to the nearest abortion provider. Government lawyers late Wednesday filed an emergency motion to ask the appeals court in Washington, D.C., to halt the effect of the judge's ruling.

Associated Press, TX

Oct. 18, 2017

Federal judge rules pregnant, undocumented teen in
Texas has right to abortion access*(featuring ACF)*

A federal judge ruled Wednesday that a pregnant, undocumented teenager under federal custody has the right to access abortion services in Texas. Jane Doe, as she's referred to in court filings, is expected to attend a mandatory abortion counseling appointment

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

tomorrow and have the abortion procedure on Friday. The pregnant 17-year-old undocumented immigrant is at the center of a legal dispute over whether unaccompanied immigrant minors have the right to an abortion in the United States.

Texas Tribune, TX

Oct. 18, 2017

DC court grants undocumented minor access to legal abortion
(*featuring ACF)*

A federal court has approved an emergency restraining order against the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement, granting a teenage immigrant in Texas the right to access an abortion. But in defending this case, lawyers have unveiled a new directive created under the Trump Administration's watch: No undocumented minors living in federal housing are allowed legal abortions.

San Antonio Current, TX

Oct. 18, 2017

Undocumented pregnant teen in Texas can have an abortion 'promptly and without delay'
(featuring ACF)

A federal judge ruled Wednesday that unauthorized teen immigrant "Jane Doe" can have an abortion, directing she be taken "promptly and without delay" to the nearest provider. U.S. District Court Judge Tanya Chutkan ruled that the federal agencies responsible for Doe's care in Texas can't prevent her from having an abortion, retaliate against her for doing so or reveal her decision to have one to anyone else.

Dallas Morning News, TX

Oct. 18, 2017

Judge grants teen in country illegally abortion procedure
(featuring ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

An abortion case involving an undocumented teen in federal custody was granted permission to obtain an abortion last month, but she was refused transportation or temporarily release. In a late decision
Wednesday, a federal judge ruled she'll be allowed to go to the nearest abortion provider by Oct. 21.

KRGV, TX

Oct. 18, 2017

Despite
state's opposition, judge grants abortion to undocumented minor held "hostage"
(featuring ACF)

Held "hostage" by the Trump administration, an undocumented Texas minor seeking abortion has finally been granted her constitutional right after struggling
to obtain abortion care for one month. In a reportedly growing trend, the federal government's Office of Refugee Resettlement blocked the young girl from accessing abortion, a move
fully backed by Texas officials.

Austin Chronicle, TX

Oct. 19, 2017

Court overrules US abortion ban for undocumented
teen in custody
(featuring ACF)

Trump administration officials must allow a pregnant 17-year-old to leave an immigration shelter in Texas to have an abortion, a federal judge ruled Wednesday in the first legal rebuff for the administration's ban on abortions for undocumented minors in federal
custody. The Trump administration criticized the ruling and filed an immediate appeal.

San Francisco Chronicle, CA

Oct. 18, 2017

Trump

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

administration tries to block abortion for pregnant undocumented immigrant
(featuring ACF)

Lawyers for the Trump administration asked a court Wednesday night for an emergency order allowing officials to block a pregnant 17-year-old immigrant in federal custody from having an abortion.
Doe won a round in court earlier in the day when a federal district judge here ordered the government to allow her to obtain an abortion by Saturday. But within hours, lawyers for Atty. Gen. Jeff Sessions asked the court of appeals to put that ruling on hold, saying that she could still wait "a number of weeks" to end her pregnancy.

Los Angeles Times, CA

Oct. 18, 2017

Judge
upholds abortion for teenage immigrant held in custody
(featuring ACF)

The Trump administration must stop blocking a pregnant teenage immigrant currently being held in custody in Texas from getting an abortion, a federal judge ruled Wednesday. In a hearing in the case,
a Justice Department lawyer had suggested that because the woman was not legally a U.S. resident, she was not covered by the constitutional right to end her pregnancy. U.S. District Judge Tanya S. Chutkan rebuked the government lawyers. Her order directs immigration
officials to transport Jane Doe to the clinic of her choice and allow her to obtain an abortion by Saturday.

Los Angeles Times, CA

Oct. 18, 2017

Government
must allow access to abortion for migrant girl in custody, judge rules
(featuring ACF)

Update: Late Wednesday, the Justice Department appealed the ruling by a federal judge that a teenage migrant girl in federal custody should be able to obtain an abortion. This sets up tight timing

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

for an appeal, given the dates mentioned in the judge's order, that Jane Doe be allowed to visit a nearby abortion clinic on October 19 and 20. A federal judge in Washington, D.C., ruled Wednesday that the government
must step aside and allow a migrant girl in federal custody to get an abortion "promptly and without delay."

Reveal/The Center for Investigative Reporting, CA

Oct. 18, 2017

Trump's
DOJ lawyers just made a shocking argument about the right to abortion
(featuring ACF)

Judge Chutkan issued
an order on Wednesday afternoon requiring the Trump administration to cease "interfering with or obstructing
J.D.'s access to abortion counseling or an abortion," allowing Jane Doe to travel to her medical appointments and obtain the procedure. The order applies only to Doe, but the ACLU has also asked the court to strike down ORR's policy of blocking abortion care for other unaccompanied minors. In a hearing in federal court today, lawyers from Trump's Justice Department argued why their actions blocking abortion access for an unaccompanied
minor currently being held at a federal refugee shelter in Texas are constitutional.

Mother Jones, CA

Oct. 18, 2017

ACLU
wins court order against Trump administration that blocked a young woman from an abortion
(featuring ACF)

Talk about government overreach. It is a complete invasion of privacy for the Office of Refugee Resettlement to be weighing in
on the reproductive health issues of a young woman in custody, particularly because their job is to make sure that refugees are safely integrated into the United States and American culture. Among the scope of their duties would be to make sure unaccompanied
immigrant children are cared for and have all they need to ensure their well-being. Policing their right to make decisions about procreating is not among their scope of work.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Opinion

Daily Kos, CA

Oct. 18, 2017

Controversy
erupts over unaccompanied minor seeking abortion in US custody
(featuring ACF)

The attorneys general from eight U.S. states are attempting to stop a foreign unaccompanied
minor's request to have an abortion while she is in federal custody for illegally entering the country. The attorneys general are supporting the federal government's position that an illegal immigrant does not have a "right" to an abortion. The states lined
up to stop the court's granting of approval are from Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma and South Carolina.

Breitbart News, CA

Oct. 18, 2017

Judge: Government must allow
undocumented teen to receive abortion care
(featuring ACF)

After weeks of
denying an unaccompanied immigrant minor access to abortion care, U.S. District Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on Wednesday ordered the
federal government to allow the teenager to have the medical procedure.
"Just because she's here illegally doesn't mean she doesn't have constitutional rights," Chutkan said during Wednesday's hearing.

Rewire, MD

Oct. 18, 2017

Breaking: Judge orders Trump
gov't to allow illegal immigrant teen to abort her baby immediately
(featuring ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

An Obama-appointed judge ordered the government today to allow an illegal immigrant minor in its custody to abort her preborn child “promptly and without delay.” The mother seeking the abortion
is a 17-year-old from Mexico. Justice Department lawyers argued the government has “strong and constitutionally legitimate interests in promoting childbirth, in refusing to facilitate abortion, and in not providing incentives for pregnant minors to illegally cross the border to obtain elective abortions while in federal custody.”

Lifesite, VA

Oct. 18, 2017

Paxton’s posse
of state attorneys general weighs in on Texas detention center abortion case
(featuring ACF)

This afternoon in Washington, D.C., the American Civil Liberties Union and Trump administration will square off in an ongoing legal skirmish over the
attempt of a teenage immigrant in a detention center to get an abortion. With Texas law in the spotlight, it's not surprising that the state Attorney General Ken Paxton has inserted himself into the case. The attorneys general of Arkansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma and South Carolina joined Paxton in filing an amicus brief supporting the federal
government's position. Paxton and the other AGs say the ACLU is arguing that the Constitution "confers on unlawfully present aliens the right to an abortion on demand."

Dallas Observer, TX

Oct. 18, 2017

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As Trump denies 17-year-old abortion

access, court battle exposes broader problem
(featuring ACF)

The Trump administration's refugee office is preventing an undocumented 17-year-old from receiving a court-approved abortion, and according to documents and reports that have surfaced since the ACLU filed two lawsuits on the teen's behalf, she's not the first. The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) has effectively banned abortions for undocumented

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

pregnant minors who enter the U.S. alone and are detained in federal immigration shelters by requiring "shelters to get its approval before releasing girls for abortion-related services—approval that officials have refused to grant," Elise Foley explains for the *Huffington Post.*

Common Dreams, ME

Oct. 18, 2017

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Trump administration: Immigrants don't have constitutional right to abortion
(featuring ACF)

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is accusing the Trump administration of blocking an underage illegal immigrant from aborting her unborn child.
The ACLU filed a lawsuit Friday against the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on behalf of a pregnant 17-year-old illegal immigrant who claims she was denied access to abortion. The young woman, identified by the anonymous pseudonym "Jane Doe,"
is an undocumented alien held in custody at an Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) facility near Houston, Texas.

Church Militant, MI

Oct. 18, 2017

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Trump admin reverses Obama-era support for abortions for undocumented minors
(featuring ACF)

The Trump administration has reversed an Obama era practice of helping undocumented minors receive abortions, arguing that they now provide quality care for both mother and unborn child. Last week, the American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit against the government for the Office of Refugee Resettlement's halting an undocumented minor's attempt to get an abortion. The Administration for Children and Families, which oversees the ORR, released a statement Monday declaring that there "is no constitutional right for a pregnant minor to illegally cross the U.S. border and get an elective abortion while in federal custody."

Christian Post, DC

Oct. 18, 2017

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

'Astounded'
Judge orders Donald Trump administration to allow immigrant teen to have an abortion
(featuring ACF)

A federal judge has ordered the Trump administration to allow a pregnant 17-year-old immigrant, who was held in custody after entering the country illegally, to undergo an abortion in Texas. On Wednesday, Judge Tanya Chutkan said she was "astounded" that the Trump administration was trying to block the procedure, and ordered the government to move "promptly and without delay" to take the teenager to the nearest abortion provider.

Evening Standard, UK

Oct. 19, 2017

US judge orders government to allow abortion for undocumented teen
(featuring ACF)

A 17-year-old immigrant who was detained after entering the country illegally should not be "obstructed" by government officials from having an abortion,
a US federal judge ruled on Wednesday in Washington DC. Judge Tanya Chutkan ordered US President Donald Trump's administration to move "promptly and without delay" to transport or allow the teen to be brought by others to the abortion provider closest to her
shelter in Texas.

Deutsche Welle, Germany

Oct. 19, 2017

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Child Care

The crazy economics

of childcare costs in America

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

As the conventional wisdom goes, rising childcare costs has put a financial squeeze on US families. More than 60% of parents across all income brackets in a 2015 Pew Research Center survey said it was difficult to find affordable, high-quality childcare in their community. A closer look at the data, however, reveals a more complicated story.

Quartz, NY

Oct. 19, 2017

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Businesses

discuss need for early childcare programs

Business leaders and members of the Legislature said Wednesday that the state needs to make improving early childhood programs its top priority in the upcoming year because of the benefits to families
and businesses. "I don't know what our priorities are, but we need to make early childhood No. 1," said state Rep. Steve Carter, R-Baton Rouge. Carter said there's bipartisan support for early childhood programs.

Baton-Rouge Advocate, LA

Oct. 18, 2017

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Children, Youth &Families

Md. lawmakers consider more incentives for affordable housing

Additionally, nearly 70 percent of youth entering out-of-home placement, which includes foster care, had prior issues with neglect, causing developmental and psychological problems, according to the Maryland Department of Human Services.

WTOP, DC

Oct. 19, 2017

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Manchin on drug abuse epidemic: 'We have people talking about orphanages again'

"Foster care is almost impossible to get," Manchin said. "We have people talking about orphanages again, to try to get them out of a drug-infested home."

CNS News, VA

Oct. 19, 2017

It's time to broaden America's safe haven laws

A very small number of these parents will kill their children. Many more will abuse or neglect their children, which is a path to having their child removed from their care and placed into foster care. In many other families, children will be dragged through life by a resentful parent.

Opinion

Chronicle of Social Change, CA

Oct. 19, 2017

State struggling with increase in foster children

The best thing to reverse the trend, she said, is gaining control of the opioid epidemic that plagues the state, because that is a major factor in the growth of children who have been placed in the foster care system.

Williamson Daily News, WV

Oct. 18, 2017

Foster families sought after number of kids in care doubles

There are over 4,000 kids in foster care in the state of Montana. That's a huge jump from four years ago where there were fewer than 2,000.

KECI, MT

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Oct. 18, 2017

Bringing sex ed home: Let's talk about the talk

School districts around the country are locked in a battle between groups that prioritize abstinence as the only 100-percent effective method of protection, and groups that teach casual sex, gender ideology, and abortion.

Opinion

Christian Post, DC

Oct. 18, 2017

Child Support

Jobs and Family client to commissioners: 'People are suffering'

Addressing the county commissioners Wednesday during their meeting, the mother of six said she is having problems with her family's health care and child support payments, things she would normally bring to her caseworkers to resolve.

Elyria Chronicle-Telegram, OH

Oct. 17, 2017

Community Services

LIHEAP benefits to increase for 20,000 families
(featuring ACF)

The federal government provides most of the money for LIHEAP, and the state of Vermont appropriates additional money, according to Brown, the deputy commissioner of the

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Department for Children and Families.

VT Digger, VT

Oct.14, 2017

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Family Assistance

With a strong economy,
Tennessee welfare reform is good for state

By reinstituting work requirements, approximately 58,000 able-bodied adults without dependents who are not currently meeting the work requirement but still receive assistance
will now be able to capitalize on an overabundance of jobs in order to secure meaningful employment. This will help move them along a pathway from dependency to independence and self-sufficiency.

Opinion

Nashville Tennessean, TN

Oct. 18, 2017

A fifth-generation Californian laments his state's ongoing economic collapse.
(featuring ACF)

If California is such a prosperous state as liberals claim, why does it have the highest poverty rate in the nation? According to the Census Bureau, the poverty rate
is 23.4%, which is 17% higher than second place Nevada. Indeed, while California has 12% of the nation's population, it is home to 33% of the nation's TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) welfare recipients, more than the next seven states combined.

Opinion

American Spectator, CA

Oct. 18, 2017

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Letter:
Let's compare, contrast Trump and Obama records
(featuring ACF)

President Donald Trump is re-instating the work requirement. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) was successful, welfare rolls dropped by
50 percent, and poverty rates for children, especially black children, reached record lows. Trump's change will put America back on the right track.

Opinion

Moline Dispatch and Rock Island Argus,
IL

Oct. 18, 2017

With new budget proposal, nonprofits remain concerned
(featuring ACF)

The governor's DSS budget includes the elimination of Human Resource Development — Hispanic Programs, Family Programs through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and two teen pregnancy prevention line items.

New London Day, CT

Oct. 17, 2017

Head Start

Santa Clara County schools chief reportedly on his way out
(featuring ACF)

Although low profile and not well-known by the general public, the office of education plays an influential role serving the county's 31 school districts

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

and 273,000 public-school students. The office runs special-education classes, Head Start and state-funded preschool, and schools for students who are incarcerated, on probation or expelled from their home schools. For school districts it provides accounting, payroll, technology and training, and oversees their budgets and education plans.

Mercury News,
CA

Oct. 19, 2017

Rodney Davis talks healthcare reform during Head Start visit
(featuring ACF)

Congressman Rodney Davis took a tour of Urbana's Head Start Program Center Wednesday morning. The program provides kindergarten readiness programs to children that come from income-eligible families.

WCCU,
IL

Oct. 19, 2017

Head Start cuts ribbon on new playground

Head Start is part of the Community Action Agency through Upper Des Moines Opportunity. The local Head Start program, for 3- to 5-year-olds, started in 1964 and Early Head Start, for newborn to 3-year-olds, began in 1995. The Spencer-based center is ranked in the top 10 percent of CLASS scores which looks at quality of instruction and environment. Head Start is a full-day program in Spencer, offering WRAP
care for income eligible participants before and after school. The program is designed to help enhance school readiness in children by developing social and cognitive development.

Spencer Daily Reporter,
IA

Oct. 19, 2017

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Save the Children spreads awareness about local Head Start program
(featuring ACF)

A big part of those stages here in Alexandria is the Head Start Program, where social interaction is introduced to kids as young as six weeks up to
five years old. The program focuses on introducing children to their peers early on, as well as engaging them in reading and speech activities.

KALB,
LA

Oct. 18, 2017

How a
Memphis pre-K giant is changing the way early childhood educators are taught

Bradley is one of more than 500 educators who will go through Porter-Leath's training this year in an effort to boost the quality of early education
instruction in Memphis. Porter-Leath is the city's largest provider of early childhood education and has a partnership with Shelby County Schools for Head Start and other services, including training.

Chalkbeat, TN

Oct. 18, 2017

Refugee Resettlement

Agency reduces

refugee resettlement plans

Rutland has recently received word that the number of refugees the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program plans to resettle in
the city in federal fiscal year 2018 has been reduced from 100 to 75 in a "preliminary revised plan" by the U.S. State Department. Denise Lamoureux, state refugee coordinator, sent an email Monday to leaders of community organizations in Rutland discussing
the change.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Mountaintimes, VT

Oct. 18, 2017

Trafficking

A 3-month-old girl was among 84 children rescued from sex traffickers

More than 80 children, including a 3-month-old girl, were rescued in a nationwide crackdown on child sex trafficking, federal authorities said. As part of "Operation Cross Country XI," the FBI arrested 120 alleged traffickers and saved 84 children who were involved in child sex trafficking operations, the agency said in a news release Wednesday.

A 3-month-old girl, the youngest of the victims, was rescued in Denver last Friday, along with a 5-year-old girl, the FBI said. Their suspected trafficker, authorities say, was a friend of the family who had offered an undercover officer sex with the girls for $600. The average age of the rescued victims was 15 years old.

Time, NY

Oct. 19, 2017

Opinion:

Teaching kids to protect themselves from human trafficking

Because of forward thinking legislators and a governor committed to protecting our children, every student in California will learn about both sex and labor trafficking and how to avoid victimization. The Human Trafficking Prevention Education and Training Act was introduced as AB 1227 has made California a national and global leader in the fight against human trafficking. Beginning Jan. 1, California public schools will be required to provide our school-age population with comprehensive human trafficking prevention education.

Opinion

Mercury News, CA

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Oct. 19, 2017

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Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	(b)(6) @rcn.com"
Sent Date:	2017/10/19 17:40:58
Delivered Date:	2017/10/19 17:40:59

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
CC:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
Subject:	Re: Follow up/ Action items
Date:	2017/03/05 20:23:01
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Thanks.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2017 7:46:26 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Cc: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Subject: RE: Follow up/ Action items

Hi Jonathan,

(b)(6)

I have attached a timeline that I quickly drafted and hope that it will help whoever has to fill in the information. The basis is (b)(5)

(b)(5)

I am happy to help fill in the gaps if you need assistance.

Enjoy your Sunday- you deserve it!

From: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 9:41 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Subject: Follow up/ Action items

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Hi Team,

Ken mentioned that the Policy team will brief Secy on Monday evening (I think). Can you all anticipate what type of paper they will need or circle back with the Policy team tomorrow re: materials

that would be helpful?

Ken also mentioned it is likely they we will need an internal timeline of the events that occurred. I am not sure if someone is already working on this- I wanted to put it on your radars.

Let me know how I can help.

L

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Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"; "Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/05 20:22:59
Delivered Date:	2017/03/05 20:23:01

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
CC:	"Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"
Subject:	RE: Minor (b)(
Date:	2017/03/06 10:12:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

We need to transfer management of her care to the local medical authorities, since we cannot do it remotely. Proceed as you have outlined. I would encourage the SWK team to advise the Clinic of the change in date/time of administration of her medicine. We should not wait for policy approval to make sure that a physician with access to the patient is actually managing her care. I will advise policy decision makers and if they want to give a changed direction, we will react to that, but please do clearly communicate to the SWK Medical personnel that they are in charge and should do whatever they think medically appropriate for her care.

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 9:54 AM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Subject: RE: Minor (b)(6
Importance: High

Am I standing by for continuing to request permission or the actual request.

FYI I talked with Shaanan and we have developed a response to the specific request etc.

My view point is (b)(5)

(b)(5)

My recommendation is (b)(5)

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

My own opinion is (b)(5)
(b)(5)

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Unaccompanied Children Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
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330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 9:05 AM
To: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Subject: RE: Minor (b)(6)

Stand by.

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 9:02 AM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Subject: FW: Minor (b)(6)

Jonathan,

I know the program is trying not to do anything without permission but is the program to seek permission on all care related to this UC?

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Michael

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
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Office of Refugee Resettlement
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Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 8:59 AM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Cc: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: FW: Minor (b)(6)

Shaanan,

I am not sure I see what the need is for her evaluation this AM in the ED at another medical facility? I know the ED physicians on Saturday recommended follow-up on Monday but I think that was in reference to determine next steps and how to proceed given the notion that the procedure was stopping.

If she is stable, I am not sure she needs an evaluation unless she is needing emergent services etc.

It appears that the clinic is not currently worried about their patient given that they are still maintaining a March 17 appt for the child.

Thoughts?

Can you reach out to the facility and get an update?

Michael

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Unaccompanied Children Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) [mailto:(b)(6)@swkey.org]
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 8:43 AM
To: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); (b)(6) Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: Minor (b)(6)

At 0732 this morning I called Women's Reproductive Services and scheduled a follow-up as instructed by (b)(6) and minor will be seen at the soonest available date which is Friday, March 17, 2017 at 3:30 pm.

Nurse instructed me a full medical record can be requested on the date of appointment and can be available as soon as the Saturday after (18th). Nurse stated medications administered and discharge instructions/notes for Friday's visit (3/3/17) can be requested for a fee of $25 and we would need to have the minor present to sign off request. Minor will be transported to clinic tomorrow morning and we will request notes to be uploaded on UAC Portal right after.

I am requesting permission to transport minor to the local ER at North Central Baptist to have a sonogram performed and be evaluated by MD this morning. Please reply at your earliest convenience.

1481902393800_untitled.png

(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Southwest Key Casa Blanca 954

San Antonio, TX

Work Cell: (b)(6)

Office Phone: 830(b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Note: Privileged/Confidential information may be contained in this message and may be subject to legal privilege. Access to this e-mail by anyone other than the intended is unauthorized. If you are not the intended recipient (or responsible for delivery of the message to such person), you may not use, copy, distribute or deliver to anyone this message (or any part of its contents) or take any action in reliance on it. In such case, you should destroy this message, and notify us immediately. If you have received this email in error, please notify us immediately by e-mail or telephone and delete the e-mail from any computer.

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/06 10:12:05
Delivered Date:	2017/03/06 10:12:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Kevin Dinnin (kdinnin@bcfs.net)"
Subject:	Medical authorization for procedure
Date:	2017/03/03 18:38:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Kevin,

ORR will be following up with official guidance related to our Heightened Medical Procedures policy, but I understand that there is a UC in BCFS San Antonio who may be requesting termination of pregnancy. I am just reiterating a message now that today was conveyed by the ORR Medical Team to Scott Olerman.

Per ORR policy on "Heightened Medical Procedures," ***no appointments should be scheduled or procedures performed without written authorization from the Director of ORR.*** This is not limited to procedures funded with Federal funding but applies to any procedure on any UC. I understand that Mr. Olerman confirmed receipt of this message but just wanted to share with you for your visibility.

Let me know any questions or concerns. I would appreciate your ensuring that at all BCFS locations, there are no procedures performed without the written authorization of the ORR Director.

Thank you,

Jonathan

Jonathan D. White
Commander, U.S. Public Health Service
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW
(202) 690-6984
jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Kevin Dinnin (kdinnin@bcfs.net)"
Sent Date:	2017/03/03 18:38:33

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Delivered Date:	2017/03/03 18:38:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Holt, Lydia (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=679190009c0f4ad2b219f787dcca6a98-Holt, Lydia>"; "Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"; "Brown, Anastasia (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=504943f4a32143f9b007879481c72fc6-Brown, Anas>"
Subject:	RE: ACF - ORR, CNN, UC transportation costs
Date:	2017/03/23 09:20:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

No, first I've heard of it. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: Holt, Lydia (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 9:18 AM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Brown, Anastasia (ACF)
Subject: Fwd: ACF - ORR, CNN, UC transportation costs

FYI...

Don't know if you'd been made aware of this inquiry.

Best regards,
Lydia Holt
Office of Refugee Resettlement

Begin Forwarded Message:
From: "Richards, Monique (ACF)" <Monique.Richards@acf.hhs.gov>
Subject: FW: ACF - ORR, CNN, UC transportation costs
Date: 23 March 2017 09:06
To: "Palmer, Victoria (ACF)" <Victoria.Palmer@acf.hhs.gov>
Cc: "Fisher, Patrick (ACF)" <Patrick.Fisher@acf.hhs.gov>, "Holt, Lydia (ACF)" <Lydia.Holt@acf.hhs.gov>

I will send this response to the reporter.

Monique Richards
Public Affairs Specialist
Office of Communications

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
330 C. St. SW
Washington, DC 20201
Monique.Richards@acf.hhs.gov | 202-401-5529
Please visit ACF's Family Room Blog and www.acf.hhs.gov

From: Weber, Mark (HHS/ASPA)
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 9:05 AM
To: Palmer, Victoria (ACF); OS - Interviews
Cc: Wolfe, Kenneth (ACF); Monroe, Johnathan (ACF); Fisher, Patrick (ACF); Richards, Monique (ACF); Holt, Lydia (ACF); Acker Housman, Stephanie (ACF)
Subject: RE: ACF - ORR, CNN, UC transportation costs

OK

From: Palmer, Victoria (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 8:10 AM
To: OS - Interviews
Cc: Wolfe, Kenneth (ACF); Monroe, Johnathan (ACF); Fisher, Patrick (ACF); Richards, Monique (ACF); Holt, Lydia (ACF); Acker Housman, Stephanie (ACF)
Subject: ACF - ORR, CNN, UC transportation costs

Reporter: Julian Cummings, Supervising Producer

Organization: CNN New York

Contact info: 917-(b)(6) (b)(6)@turner.com

Subject: unaccompanied children transportation costs

Deadline: March 23, 2017

Spokesperson: ACF

Query: I'm working on the story regarding (b)(6) He is the 18 year old who is now (b)(6) MD and was previously picked up by border patrol in Texas and detained by ORR for 12 days on August 14th 2016. It's our understanding from (b)(6) 's lawyers that he was reunited with his family in Maryland after being released, taking a flight to Baltimore from Texas. ICE has told us that ORR took part in reuniting (b)(6) with his family in Maryland. I was hoping for some more information on how this played out. Did ORR arrange the flight to Baltimore? Was it a charter or paid flight? Or did his family pay for the flight? Any info is greatly appreciated.

Proposed Response:

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(b)(5)

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Holt, Lydia (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=679190009c0f4ad2b219f787dcca6a98-Holt, Lydia>"; "Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"; "Brown, Anastasia (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=504943f4a32143f9b007879481c72fc6-Brown, Anas>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/23 09:20:05
Delivered Date:	2017/03/23 09:20:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Kevin Dinnin <kdinnin@bcfs.net>"
Subject:	RE: Need quick call
Date:	2017/03/06 10:57:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Yes—please stand by. I'm in a meeting but will be out in just a minute for a quick call.

From: Kevin Dinnin [mailto:kdinnin@bcfs.net]
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 10:56 AM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: Need quick call

Can you take a quick phone call. Need clarification on guidance, please.

Kevin C. Dinnin President &CEO
BCFS Headquarters
1506 Bexar Crossing
San Antonio, TX 78232
office (210) 832-5000
fax (210) 283-5181
direct (210) 283-5151
corporate website www.BCFS.net

On Mar 3, 2017, at 6:10 PM, Kevin Dinnin <kdinnin@bcfs.net>wrote:

> Please give me call. Important not urgent. Need a clarification.
>
> **Kevin C. Dinnin** President &CEO
> **BCFS Headquarters**
> 1506 Bexar Crossing
> San Antonio, TX 78232
> **office** (210) 832-5000
> **fax** (210) 283-5181
> **direct** (210) 283-5151
> **corporate website** www.BCFS.net
>
> On Mar 3, 2017, at 5:43 PM, White, Jonathan (ACF) <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I appreciate your help.

From: Kevin Dinnin [mailto:kdinnin@bcfs.net]
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 6:42 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: Re: Medical authorization for procedure

Got it. Will reiterate the requirement.

Kevin C. Dinnin President &CEO
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1506 Bexar Crossing
San Antonio, TX 78232
office (210) 832-5000
fax (210) 283-5181
direct (210) 283-5151
corporate website www.BCFS.net

On Mar 3, 2017, at 5:38 PM, White, Jonathan (ACF) <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:

> Kevin,
>
> ORR will be following up with official guidance related to our Heightened Medical Procedures policy, but I understand that there is a UC in BCFS San Antonio who may be requesting termination of pregnancy. I am just reiterating a message now that today was conveyed by the ORR Medical Team to Scott Olerman.
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> Per ORR policy on "Heightened Medical Procedures," ***no appointments should be scheduled or procedures performed without written authorization from the Director of ORR.***This is not limited to procedures funded with Federal funding but applies to any procedure on any UC. I understand that Mr. Olerman confirmed receipt of this message but just wanted to share with you for your visibility.
>
> Let me know any questions or concerns. I would appreciate your ensuring that at all BCFS locations, there are no procedures performed without the written authorization of the ORR Director.
>
> Thank you,
>
> Jonathan

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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Deputy Director for Children's Programs
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(202) 690-6984
jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Kevin Dinnin <kdinnin@bcfs.net>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/06 10:57:50
Delivered Date:	2017/03/06 10:57:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
CC:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"; "Kurkjy, Brian (ACF) (CTR) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=faee3bcd11ca4d88b8e39a7a6a4b49e0-Kurkjy, Bri>"
Subject:	Re: pregnant girls estimate
Date:	2017/03/09 19:34:19
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Update: we now have the list of programs identified as having one or more pregnant UC sheltered:

Currently housing at least 1 pregnant UC as of 3/8/2017:

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

Several of these are programs with faith-based objections to participating in abortion. We will do some targeted outreach tomorrow to the others.

Jonathan

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Thursday, March 9, 2017 6:56:36 PM

To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Kurkjy, Brian (ACF) (CTR)

Subject: FW: pregnant girls estimate

Ken,

To respond to Scott's request earlier this week, the DHUC staff and DUCO Data Team have identified

(b)(5)

I will provide to Scott once you OK me to do so.

Tomorrow I will be asking DHUC Medical staff to identify if possible those 18 programs for specific targeted outreach by FFS and Medical Team, in addition to current outreach to all programs being conducted.

Jonathan

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"; "Kurkjy, Brian (ACF) (CTR) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=faee3bcd11ca4d88b8e39a7a6a4b49e0-Kurkjy, Bri>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/09 19:34:18
Delivered Date:	2017/03/09 19:34:19

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Kevin Dinnin <kdinnin@bcfs.net>"
Subject:	RE: Need quick call
Date:	2017/03/06 11:28:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

I will. Called into meeting with agency leadership. Will be done at 1115 your time and will call then.

From: Kevin Dinnin [mailto:kdinnin@bcfs.net]
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 11:26 AM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: Re: Need quick call

Tagged you back. Please call my cell: 210-863-0127.

Re: Medical Procedures Guidance

Kevin C. Dinnin President &CEO
BCFS Headquarters
1506 Bexar Crossing
San Antonio, TX 78232
office (210) 832-5000
fax (210) 283-5181
direct (210) 283-5151
corporate website www.BCFS.net

On Mar 6, 2017, at 9:58 AM, White, Jonathan (ACF) <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:

> Yes—please stand by. I'm in a meeting but will be out in just a minute for a quick call.
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Kevin Dinnin [mailto:kdinnin@bcfs.net]
> **Sent:** Monday, March 06, 2017 10:56 AM
> **To:** White, Jonathan (ACF)
> **Subject:** Need quick call
>
> Can you take a quick phone call. Need clarification on guidance, please.
>
> **Kevin C. Dinnin** President &CEO
> **BCFS Headquarters**
> 1506 Bexar Crossing

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

San Antonio, TX 78232
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> **direct** (210) 283-5151
> **corporate website** www.BCFS.net
>
> On Mar 3, 2017, at 5:43 PM, White, Jonathan (ACF) <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:
>
> > I appreciate your help.
> >
> > **From:** Kevin Dinnin [mailto:kdinnin@bcfs.net]
> > **Sent:** Friday, March 03, 2017 6:42 PM
> > **To:** White, Jonathan (ACF)
> > **Subject:** Re: Medical authorization for procedure
> >
> > Got it. Will reiterate the requirement.
> >
> > **Kevin C. Dinnin** President &CEO
> > **BCFS Headquarters**
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> >
> > On Mar 3, 2017, at 5:38 PM, White, Jonathan (ACF) <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:
> >
> > > Kevin,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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Thank you,

Jonathan

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Deputy Director for Children's Programs
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330 C Street SW
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Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Kevin Dinnin <kdinnin@bcfs.net>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/06 11:28:32
Delivered Date:	2017/03/06 11:28:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
Subject:	FW: Medical authorization for procedure
Date:	2017/03/03 18:38:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

FYI. Michael has spoken with BCFS Medical Director.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 6:39 PM
To: Kevin Dinnin (kdinnin@bcfs.net)
Subject: Medical authorization for procedure

Kevin,

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Recipient:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/03 18:38:53
Delivered Date:	2017/03/03 18:38:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Kevin Dinnin <kdinnin@bcfs.net>"
Subject:	RE: Medical authorization for procedure
Date:	2017/03/03 18:43:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

I appreciate your help.

From: Kevin Dinnin [mailto:kdinnin@bcfs.net]
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 6:42 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: Re: Medical authorization for procedure

Got it. Will reiterate the requirement.

Kevin C. Dinnin President &CEO
BCFS Headquarters
1506 Bexar Crossing
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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thank you,

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330 C Street SW
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Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Kevin Dinnin <kdinnin@bcfs.net>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/03 18:43:29
Delivered Date:	2017/03/03 18:43:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Misegades, Lara (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bb1ce43ecb18472b86f2b1dd90441103-Misegades,>"
Subject:	Re: OB-GYN Medical information
Date:	2017/03/03 19:01:40
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

(b)(5)

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Friday, March 3, 2017 6:55:09 PM

To: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Misegades, Lara (ACF)

Subject: RE: OB-GYN Medical information

Speaking with OB-GYN now

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 6:53 PM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Misegades, Lara (ACF)

Subject: Re: OB-GYN Medical information

At this point, the health and safety of the child is our top priority.

I would defer to the OB/GYN physicians to aid us in this decision. Is the DNC still the safest option at this point in this child's care? Did they say?

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

On: 03 March 2017 18:42, "Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)" <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

I spoke with a nurse at the Reproductive Health Clinic – they were never told about our explicit instructions not to (b)(6)

They explained to me that today the minor took (b)(6) – around 12pm today (b)(6)

(b)(6)

*If she (b)(6) and she decides she is uncomfortable with the (b)(6) she can go back to Center tom to have (b)(6) if she is interested, she will call need to call
ASAP, to determin (b)(6) tatus prior to tom. AM procedure

We need to decide as a team whether we prefer her to go to the Center tom for a (b)(6) r continue with the (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP

LCDR, US Public Health Service

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-4639 (office)

(301) (b)(6) (cell)

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 6:26 PM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

Subject: RE: URGENT - PLEASE GET DIRECT PHONE NUMBER OF OB-GYN AND SEND IT TO ME

(b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6)

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 5:08 PM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

Subject: RE: URGENT - PLEASE GET DIRECT PHONE NUMBER OF OB-GYN AND SEND IT TO ME

On it.

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 5:08 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Subject: URGENT - PLEASE GET DIRECT PHONE NUMBER OF OB-GYN AND SEND IT TO ME

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Misegades, Lara (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bb1ce43ecb18472b86f2b1dd90441103-Misegades,>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/03 19:01:39
Delivered Date:	2017/03/03 19:01:40

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"
CC:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Misegades, Lara (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bb1ce43ecb18472b86f2b1dd90441103-Misegades,>"
Subject:	Re: Medical Recommendations for UC tom -
Date:	2017/03/03 20:59:59
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Stand by.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Friday, March 3, 2017 8:59:15 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Cc: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Misegades, Lara (ACF)

Subject: Medical Recommendations for UC tom -

Jonathan,

As expected, the documents provided by the shelter are not helpful.

(b)(5)

The only remaining thing to do is notify the program staff of our medical guidance. I just wanted to make sure you are on board.

Will you notify the shelter or would you like me to do so?

Shaanan

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 8:27 PM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Misegades, Lara (ACF)

Subject: RE: Timeline and Summary for TOP

Thank you. I appreciate all your help.

I think what will be most helpful is to know what the plan will be for the UC tomorrow.

It's fine to update me by email later.

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 8:05 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Misegades, Lara (ACF)

Subject: Timeline and Summary for TOP

Jonathan,

Please find attached timeline of events of the past week for (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) SWK Casa Blanca as I see them and what I have in my email. I am going to eat dinner for a few minutes with (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I have my phone on me to discuss further if you need any further clarification or need to have a conference call.

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP

LCDR, US Public Health Service

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-4639 (office)

(301) (b)(6) **(cell)**

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Misegades, Lara (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bb1ce43ecb18472b86f2b1dd90441103-Misegades,>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/03 20:59:58
Delivered Date:	2017/03/03 20:59:59

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Gonzalez, Jose (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1e32d334f4814952912651ab60e4fde6-Gonzalez, J>"
Subject:	Re: (b)(6) PRS Plan
Date:	2017/03/14 18:15:14
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Take your time. All is well.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 6:13:09 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Subject: FW: (b)(6) PRS Plan

FYSA below. I am still trying to finish a small report of SL visit to SAT sir. please give me some time but I am very behind on regular duties.

To be short and to the point visit was incredible! Good time!

Jose Gonzalez, LMSW, FFS Supervisor

USDHHS-ACF-ORR-DUCO

Jose.gonzalez@acf.hhs.gov

202-631-3777

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/ucs

From: Sonya Thompson [mailto:sthompson@orrncc.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 5:10 PM

To: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Jesse Gutierrez

Cc: Pelayo, Ruben; Polen, Alexis (ACF)

Subject: RE: (b)(6) PRS Plan

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

AH! Makes my heart feel good. Thanks for sharing
☺

Sonya Thompson, MSSW, MA, LCSW-S
Executive Director

BCFS Health &Human Services

Residential Services Division

4406 Piedras Drive West | San Antonio, TX 78228

office
(210) 233-5898
| **fax** (210) 832-5005

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF) [mailto:Jose.Gonzalez@ACF.hhs.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 5:07 PM

To: Jesse Gutierrez <Jesse.Gutierrez@bcfs.net>

Cc: Pelayo, Ruben <Ruben.Pelayo@acf.hhs.gov>; Sonya Thompson <sthompson@orrncc.com>; Alexis Polen <Alexis.polen@acf.hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: (b)(6) PRS Plan

Solid sir. please remember to keep Don Ruben on email… as he will adjudicate the case..

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I also wanted to let you all know about the kiddos responses today during our round table discussion. The boys and girls left an incredible impression on Mr. Lloyd! This was his introduction to ORR and we kicked
ace!!!

The kids all spoke candidly, and from the heart. They said how good they get treated at the facility, and that the staff, and services are second to none! The UAC all said that your staff make them feel as
if they were their biological children, the boy from EC actually said the treatment was better here than at home!

Please keep up good work!

Great job all!!! one team one goal!!!

Jose Gonzalez, LMSW, FFS Supervisor

USDHHS-ACF-ORR-DUCO

Jose.gonzalez@acf.hhs.gov

202-631-3777

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/ucs

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Jesse Gutierrez [mailto:Jesse.Gutierrez@bcfs.net]

Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 4:59 PM

To: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Cc: Pelayo, Ruben; Sonya Thompson

Subject: Re (b)(6) PRS Plan

Hi Jose,

We will address you feedback below and update you.

Thanks,

Jesse A. Gutierrez, MBA, LCCA

Regional Director - Central Texas

BCFS HHS - Residential Services

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Office (210) 208-5602

Cell (210) (b)(6)

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 14, 2017, at 4:44 PM, Gonzalez, Jose (ACF) <Jose.Gonzalez@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:

> Jesse can you ask the CM to complete the responsible person section and list possible HHM's, other than that I think it looks fine. Ruben do you see anything else?
>
> Also Mr. Lloyd sent me this message to me after he talked to (b)(6)
>
> 1. (b)(6) she is craving more Honduran food. I suggest Suyapa shelter cook assist with this. she mentioned she wants bananas, I am assuming she wants Plantains, ,and soup). If there is a way to accommodate at BCFS with any food requests, please find a way. She's feeling very nauseous because of the pregnancy.
>
> 2. She also says she has pain in her arms and legs at night and thinks it might be the mattress. This is one to keep in mind, if there is an extra mattress laying around, maybe plywood instead of the planks underneath as you were saying at the extended

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

care facility, maybe foam or something on top of the mattress. Something to look into.

Again this request was made by Mr. Scott Lloyd, incoming ORR Director. I appreciate any update I can get when request is completed.

Jose Gonzalez, LMSW, FFS Supervisor

USDHHS-ACF-ORR-DUCO

Jose.gonzalez@acf.hhs.gov

202-631-3777

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/ucs

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 12:36 PM

To: Pelayo, Ruben; Jesse. Gutierrez

Cc: Sonya Thompson

Subject: Fw: (b)(6) PRS Plan

Ok thank you. Ruben will continue to work case.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thank you.

From: Yasmin De La Rosa <ydelarosa@bcfs.net>

Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 12:31:33 PM

To: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Cc: Jesse Gutierrez; Sonya Thompson

Subject: (b)(6) PRS Plan

Hello Jose, please see the attached Post Release Service Plan they have prepared for (b)(6) We will continue to be in contact with the PRS provider to start services immediately upon approval for PRS referral.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Yasmin A. De La Rosa, MS, LCCA
– Associate Program Director

BCFS Health and Human Services

Residential Services Division- San Antonio Campus

7404 West US Highway 90 | San Antonio, Texas 78227

office
(210) 674.3010
| **fax** (210) 673.5331

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

direct
(210) 283.5853
| cell
(210) (b)(6)

Corporate Website:
www.BCFS.net

Program Website:
www.DiscoverBCFS.net

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Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Gonzalez, Jose (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1e32d334f4814952912651ab60e4fde6-Gonzalez, J>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/14 18:15:13

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Delivered Date:	2017/03/14 18:15:14

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
CC:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Subject:	Fw: Update
Date:	2017/03/15 06:44:17
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Read this carefully. Matches reports I hear.

Maybe we should expect a phone call to Ken from HHS...

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 1:59:12 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Cc: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Update

Update

Monday March 13, 2017

0700

Scott Lloyd and Jose G. met with San Antonio Federal Field Staff Ruben Pelayo, Omar Corrales, Griselda Acuna, and CFS Diana M. Berrios, Jaime Maldonado,
and Mayra Lopes Nieto at ORR National Call center. Mr. Lloyd introduced himself and held a discussion concerning his new role in ORR. Mr. Lloyd stated that he will be the new ORR Director and wanted to learn as much as he could while he was in town for the site visit. He was very candid and inquired about topics from the field such as the Termination Process, transfers, and overall program related questions.

Monday March 13, 2017

0900

Met at BCFS Campus with BCFS Staff, Asennet Segura, Sonya Thompson, Scott Ollerman, and program staff. Mr. Lloyd led a very robust conversation about his
soon to be role as the new ORR Director and asked questions concerning Termination policies, guidance, and follow through from the program level and from ORR. The program proceeded to answer his questions concerning the local Termination Case of SD. We
reviewed the updates and UC has decided to continue with the pregnancy and not terminate. Program Case Manager states that the change was due to a conversation with her mother and her mother's experience with an abortion at a young age in the home country.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Mom told her Daughter that she lives with guilt, and that an abortion is not the right decision because she will be bothered by her actions forever. Mom did not consent to proceed with abortion. UC decided against the procedure stating it was against their religion.

The program also provided an update concerning her reunification, and the plan is still for her to go to her Aunt in Louisiana. UC will be approved with
PRS which will be done by BCFS PRS staff. UC may be released as early as next week if all the reunification packet is completed.

1200 Lunch

Monday March 13, 2017

1300

Tour St Peter's and St. Joseph's Shelter

Tour and meeting with San Antonio Catholic Charities Vice President Gladis Gonzalez, Shelter staff, and local FFs.

Mr. Lloyd also held a round table discussion with 6 UAC. Mr. Lloyd's intention and goal of meeting was to ask the children about their journeys, life in
the home country, and the journey to the U.S. The kids were very talkative and felt very comfortable talking to him and shared their experiences. It was a very productive discussion with the kids as per Mr. Lloyd. The kids did a great job and spoke genuinely about their care and custody. All of the kids said they feel safe and respected at the facility.

Monday March 13, 2017

1430

Tour and UAC meeting at Seton Home Casa de Milagros for pregnant and parenting UAC.

Met with Seton Home Team for tour of the facility. Mr. Lloyd toured the program and met with the current administration, Angelica C and PD Mirasol, at Seton
home. The ladies led the tour and had a debriefing with Mr. Lloyd to discuss current pregnancy termination policy at Seton and ORR. Meeting was very productive, and Mr. Lloyd asked many questions about the pro-life philosophy of this current administration

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

and at Seton home under the Catholic Charities umbrella. He was very impressed with the overall program, services, and philosophy of the grantee.

Monday March 13, 2017

1600.

Conclude tours and debrief with Mr. Lloyd.

Tuesday March 14, 2017

0800 meet Mr. Lloyd at hotel.

0900

Met with UAC (b)(6) at the BCFS SAC. Griselda Acuna and Mr. Lloyd met alone with her for about an hour. Mr. Lloyd made some recommendations to me concerning (b)(6) stay at BCFS. This request was relayed to PD at BCFS by me and will be addressed immediately. The request was for more Honduran food, which is an easy fix because they have a Honduran cook. The other was an uncomfortable bed issue which is also an easy
fix. BCFS Regional director will address.

Tuesday March 14, 2017

1000

Mr. Lloyd, FFS J. Gonzalez, and FFS R. Pelayo met with (b)(6) who is a medically fragile case due to kidney failure. She was in great spirits and was very
happy about her care (b)(6) provided Mr. Lloyd her incredible story of her journey to get to the USA and her troubles with her near death, due to her kidney failure. (b)(6) is very intelligent for a (b)(6) year old. She is a survivor, resilient and a champion
for herself. She continues to do very well in custody and is currently awaiting a kidney transplant. She is greatly appreciative of the help we have given her and looks like any other (b)(6) year old. She is not sad and shows no signs of being ill.

Tuesday March 14, 2017

1100

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Met with a group of six boys from BCFS shelter, Staff Secure, and Extended care. The boys answered questions about their journey and the difficult trek to get here. The boys described their desires, hopes, and dreams for their current situation and for the future. One of the boys had actually just received his high school diploma and said he would have never achieved his goals in Mexico. The UC was recruited at the age of 9 to work for the (b)(6) cartel and now has his SIJ visa. ORR has changed his life and is so excited about his life. The young man will be enlisting in the armed service to become an engineer. UC's sister has been found, and he will be moving out of custody soon to go to his sister in California. Mr. Lloyd was very impressed with theUC's determination and equally moved by the others boys' life experiences. Overall, the meetings were very positive and educational for Mr. Lloyd.

Tuesday March 14, 2017

1200

Mr. Lloyd and myself toured the Extended care program on our way out as we hustled to get him to the airport.

Tuesday March 14, 2017

1420

Mr Lloyd left to Washington, D.C.

Jose Gonzalez, LMSW, FFS Supervisor

USDHHS-ACF-ORR-DUCO

Jose.gonzalez@acf.hhs.gov

202-631-3777

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/ucs

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 1:08 PM

To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Cc: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Subject: Fw: Update

For everyone's SA on plan for Scott in San Antonio.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 1:57:18 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Lloyd, Scott (ACF)

Subject: Re: Update

Mr. Lloyd it was great to meet via phone.

To recap our conversation.

Scott Lloyd HHS.

Arrives San Antonio today Sunday, March 12, 2017 at or about 10:30 CST.

Travel to hotel from airport is taken care of as per conversation.

Monday, March 13, 2017

0700 Jose gonzalez will pick up Scott Lloyd at hotel that will be sent to me later today.
0730

Sott Lloyd and Jose G. to meet with San Antonio field staff at ORR National Call center.

0900 meet with grantee to discuss case elevated case at BCFS San Antonio Campus.

1200 lunch with Jose.

1330. Meet with St. Pj's and Seton Home for tour if time permits and Mr. Lloyd schedule permits.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

1530. Conclude tours and debrief with Mr Loyd.

Gentleman this is very rough agenda and does not take into account any of what mr. Lloyd may have on his agenda.

Mr. Lloyd we are flexible and will look for you to steer this vessel.

Safe travels sir.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 11:22:07 AM

To: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Lloyd, Scott (ACF)

Subject: Re: Update

Jose,

Also please be advised contact info for Scott is (202) (b)(6) email scott.lloyd@acf.hhs.gov.
Appears in Global as Edward Lloyd.

Jonathan

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 11:33:58 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Lloyd, Scott (ACF)

Subject: Re: Update

Good morning Mr. Lloyd, please let me know how I can assist. As commander White noted, I am available to pick you up and meet with the administration from
bcfs as we are all in same building.

.

I look forward to speaking to you. I am available today to discuss or meet. My direct number is 2026313777.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

PS I can also recommend some great local spots for food options as I live here.

Safe travels.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 10:16:13 AM

To: Lloyd, Scott (ACF)

Cc: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Subject: Re: Update

Scott,

Looping in Jose Gonzalez, the FFS Supervisor.

Spoke with Jose, who'll be the one to meet with you tomorrow AM. He suggests AM meeting at the ORR UC National Call Center, which is centrally located to his office and BCFS. The address of the NCC is 4406 Piedras Drive West, San Antonio, Texas 78228.

Jose is also glad to pick you up at your hotel first thing tomorrow AM, which might be helpful.

Jonathan

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Lloyd, Scott (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 9:08:45 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Subject: Update

Jonathan,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I am heading to San Antonio today and will be at the BCFS facility first thing tomorrow to oversee the steps we outlined on Friday.

Please let local field staff know and inquire about the possibility of an early meeting with me tomorrow, I am thinking 07:30 CST. We could meet at my hotel (will send an update on hotel) or at a venue they suggest.

Thank you,

Scott

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

	(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/15 06:44:15
Delivered Date:	2017/03/15 06:44:17

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"; "Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
Subject:	Re: Fwd: Update
Date:	2017/03/15 06:45:10
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

I'm hearing from the field that this appointment was predicted, but we haven't gotten an announcement from IOS.

So--clear as mud?

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 6:25:44 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Subject: Fwd: Update

Is Scott the ORR Director?

From: "Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)" <Jose.Gonzalez@ACF.hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: Update

Date: 15 March 2017 01:59

To: "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>, "Tota, Kenneth (ACF)" <kenneth.tota@acf.hhs.gov>

Cc: "De LA Cruz, James (ACF)" <James.DeLACruz@acf.hhs.gov>, "Sualog, Jallyn (ACF)" <Jallyn.Sualog@ACF.hhs.gov>, "Gregg, Laura (ACF)" <Laura.Gregg@acf.hhs.gov>

Update

Monday March 13, 2017

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

0700

Scott Lloyd and Jose G. met with San Antonio Federal Field Staff Ruben Pelayo, Omar Corrales, Griselda Acuna, and CFS Diana M. Berrios, Jaime Maldonado,
and Mayra Lopes Nieto at ORR National Call center. Mr. Lloyd introduced himself and held a discussion concerning his new role in ORR. Mr. Lloyd stated that he will be the new ORR Director and wanted to learn as much as he could while he was in town for the site visit. He was very candid and inquired about topics from the field such as the Termination Process, transfers, and overall program related questions.

Monday March 13, 2017

0900

Met at BCFS Campus with BCFS Staff, Asennet Segura, Sonya Thompson, Scott Ollerman, and program staff. Mr. Lloyd led a very robust conversation about his
soon to be role as the new ORR Director and asked questions concerning Termination policies, guidance, and follow through from the program level and from ORR. The program proceeded to answer his questions concerning the local Termination Case of (b)(6) We
reviewed the updates and UC has decided to continue with the pregnancy and not terminate. Program Case Manager states that the change was due to a conversation with her mother and her mother's experience with an abortion at a young age in the home country.
Mom told her Daughter that she lives with guilt, and that an abortion is not the right decision because she will be bothered by her actions forever. Mom did not consent to proceed with abortion. UC decided against the procedure stating it was against their religion.

The program also provided an update concerning her reunification, and the plan is still for her to go to her Aunt in Louisiana. UC will be approved with
PRS which will be done by BCFS PRS staff. UC may be released as early as next week if all the reunification packet is completed.

1200 Lunch

Monday March 13, 2017

1300

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Tour St Peter's and St. Joseph's Shelter

Tour and meeting with San Antonio Catholic Charities Vice President Gladis Gonzalez, Shelter staff, and local FFs.

Mr. Lloyd also held a round table discussion with 6 UAC. Mr. Lloyd's intention and goal of meeting was to ask the children about their journeys, life in the home country, and the journey to the U.S. The kids were very talkative and felt very comfortable talking to him and shared their experiences. It was a very productive discussion with the kids as per Mr. Lloyd. The kids did a great job and spoke genuinely about their care and custody. All of the kids said they feel safe and respected at the facility.

Monday March 13, 2017

1430

Tour and UAC meeting at Seton Home Casa de Milagros for pregnant and parenting UAC.

Met with Seton Home Team for tour of the facility. Mr. Lloyd toured the program and met with the current administration, (b)(6) at Seton home. The ladies led the tour and had a debriefing with Mr. Lloyd to discuss current pregnancy termination policy at Seton and ORR. Meeting was very productive, and Mr. Lloyd asked many questions about the pro-life philosophy of this current administration and at Seton home under the Catholic Charities umbrella. He was very impressed with the overall program, services, and philosophy of the grantee.

Monday March 13, 2017

1600.

Conclude tours and debrief with Mr. Lloyd.

Tuesday March 14, 2017

0800 meet Mr. Lloyd at hotel.

0900

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Met with UAC (b)(at the BCFS SAC. Griselda Acuna and Mr. Lloyd met alone with her for about an hour. Mr. Lloyd made some recommendations to me concerning (b)(6) stay at BCFS. This request was relayed to PD at BCFS by me and will be addressed immediately. The request was for more Honduran food, which is an easy fix because they have a Honduran cook. The other was an uncomfortable bed issue which is also an easy
fix. BCFS Regional director will address.

Tuesday March 14, 2017

1000

Mr. Lloyd, FFS J. Gonzalez, and FFS R. Pelayo met with (b)(6) who is a medically fragile case due to kidney failure. She was in great spirits and was very
happy about her care (b)(6) provided Mr. Lloyd her incredible story of her journey to get to the USA and her troubles with her near death, due to her kidney failure. (b)(6) is very intelligent for a (b)(6) ear old. She is a survivor, resilient and a champion for herself. She continues to do very well in custody and is currently awaiting a kidney transplant. She is greatly appreciative of the help we have given her and looks like any other (b)(6) year old. She is not sad and shows no signs of being ill.

Tuesday March 14, 2017

1100

Met with a group of six boys from BCFS shelter, Staff Secure, and Extended care. The boys answered questions about their journey and the difficult trek to
get here. The boys described their desires, hopes, and dreams for their current situation and for the future. One of the boys had actually just received his high school diploma and said he would have never achieved his goals in Mexico. The UC was recruited at the age of 9 to work for the (b)(6) cartel and now has his SIJ visa. ORR has changed his life and is so excited about his life. The young man will be enlisting in the armed service to become an engineer. UC's sister has been found, and he will be moving out of custody soon to go to his sister in California. Mr. Lloyd was very impressed with theUC's determination and equally moved by the others boys' life experiences. Overall, the meetings were very positive and educational for Mr. Lloyd.

Tuesday March 14, 2017

1200

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Mr. Lloyd and myself toured the Extended care program on our way out as we hustled to get him to the airport.

Tuesday March 14, 2017

1420

Mr Lloyd left to Washington, D.C.

Jose Gonzalez, LMSW, FFS Supervisor

USDHHS-ACF-ORR-DUCO

Jose.gonzalez@acf.hhs.gov

202-631-3777

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/ucs

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 1:08 PM

To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Cc: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Subject: Fw: Update

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

For everyone's SA on plan for Scott in San Antonio.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 1:57:18 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Lloyd, Scott (ACF)

Subject: Re: Update

Mr. Lloyd it was great to meet via phone.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To recap our conversation.

Scott Lloyd HHS.

Arrives San Antonio today Sunday, March 12, 2017 at or about 10:30 CST.

Travel to hotel from airport is taken care of as per conversation.

Monday, March 13, 2017

0700 Jose gonzalez will pick up Scott Lloyd at hotel that will be sent to me later today.
0730

Sott Lloyd and Jose G. to meet with San Antonio field staff at ORR National Call center.

0900 meet with grantee to discuss case elevated case at BCFS San Antonio Campus.

1200 lunch with Jose.

1330. Meet with St. Pj's and Seton Home for tour if time permits and Mr. Lloyd schedule permits.

1530. Conclude tours and debrief with Mr Loyd.

Gentleman this is very rough agenda and does not take into account any of what mr. Lloyd may have on his agenda.

Mr. Lloyd we are flexible and will look for you to steer this vessel.

Safe travels sir.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 11:22:07 AM

To: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Lloyd, Scott (ACF)

Subject: Re: Update

Jose,

Also please be advised contact info for Scott is (202) (b)(6) email scott.lloyd@acf.hhs.gov.
Appears in Global as Edward Lloyd.

Jonathan

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 11:33:58 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Lloyd, Scott (ACF)

Subject: Re: Update

Good morning Mr. Lloyd, please let me know how I can assist. As commander White noted, I am available to pick you up and meet with the administration from
bcfs as we are all in same building.

.

I look forward to speaking to you. I am available today to discuss or meet. My direct number is 2026313777.

PS I can also recommend some great local spots for food options as I live here.

Safe travels.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 10:16:13 AM

To: Lloyd, Scott (ACF)

Cc: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Subject: Re: Update

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Scott,

Looping in Jose Gonzalez, the FFS Supervisor.

Spoke with Jose, who'll be the one to meet with you tomorrow AM. He suggests AM meeting at the ORR UC National Call Center, which is centrally located to his office and BCFS. The address of the NCC is 4406 Piedras Drive West, San Antonio, Texas 78228.

Jose is also glad to pick you up at your hotel first thing tomorrow AM, which might be helpful.

Jonathan

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Lloyd, Scott (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 9:08:45 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Subject: Update

Jonathan,

I am heading to San Antonio today and will be at the BCFS facility first thing tomorrow to oversee the steps we outlined on Friday.

Please let local field staff know and inquire about the possibility of an early meeting with me tomorrow, I am thinking 07:30 CST. We could meet at my hotel (will send an update on hotel) or at a venue they suggest.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thank you,

Scott

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"; "Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/15 06:45:08
Delivered Date:	2017/03/15 06:45:10

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Kevin Dinnin <kdinnin@bcfs.net>"
Subject:	Re: Need quick call
Date:	2017/03/06 11:34:55
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Absolutely.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Kevin Dinnin <kdinnin@bcfs.net>

Sent: Monday, March 6, 2017 11:31:58 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Subject: Re: Need quick call

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thanks, will watch for your call. Just need to confirm medical guidance so we are 100% on the same page with ORR.

Kevin C. Dinnin President &CEO

BCFS Headquarters

1506 Bexar Crossing

San Antonio, TX 78232

office (210) 832-5000

fax (210) 283-5181

direct (210) 283-5151

corporate website www.BCFS.net

On Mar 6, 2017, at 10:28 AM, White, Jonathan (ACF) <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:

> I will. Called into meeting with agency leadership. Will be done at 1115 your time and will call then.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Kevin Dinnin [mailto:kdinnin@bcfs.net]

Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 11:26 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Subject: Re: Need quick call

Tagged you back. Please call my cell: 210 (b)(6)

Re: Medical Procedures Guidance

Kevin C. Dinnin President &CEO

BCFS Headquarters

1506 Bexar Crossing

San Antonio, TX 78232

office (210) 832-5000

fax (210) 283-5181

direct (210) 283-5151

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

corporate website www.BCFS.net

On Mar 6, 2017, at 9:58 AM, White, Jonathan (ACF) <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:

> Yes—please stand by. I'm in a meeting but will be out in just a minute for a quick call.
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Kevin Dinnin [mailto:kdinnin@bcfs.net]
>
> **Sent:** Monday, March 06, 2017 10:56 AM
>
> **To:** White, Jonathan (ACF)
>
> **Subject:** Need quick call
>
> ---
>
> Can you take a quick phone call. Need clarification on guidance, please.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Kevin C. Dinnin President &CEO

BCFS Headquarters

1506 Bexar Crossing

San Antonio, TX 78232

office (210) 832-5000

fax (210) 283-5181

direct (210) 283-5151

corporate website www.BCFS.net

On Mar 3, 2017, at 6:10 PM, Kevin Dinnin <kdinnin@bcfs.net>wrote:

> Please give me call. Important not urgent. Need a clarification.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Kevin C. Dinnin President &CEO

BCFS Headquarters

1506 Bexar Crossing

San Antonio, TX 78232

office (210) 832-5000

fax (210) 283-5181

direct (210) 283-5151

corporate website www.BCFS.net

On Mar 3, 2017, at 5:43 PM, White, Jonathan (ACF) <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:

I appreciate your help.

From: Kevin Dinnin [mailto:kdinnin@bcfs.net]

Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 6:42 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Subject: Re: Medical authorization for procedure

Got it. Will reiterate the requirement.

Kevin C. Dinnin President &CEO

BCFS Headquarters

1506 Bexar Crossing

San Antonio, TX 78232

office (210) 832-5000

fax (210) 283-5181

direct (210) 283-5151

corporate website www.BCFS.net

On Mar 3, 2017, at 5:38 PM, White, Jonathan (ACF) <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote :

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Kevin,

ORR will be following up with official guidance related to our Heightened Medical Procedures policy, but I understand that there is a UC in BCFS San Antonio who may be requesting termination of pregnancy. I am just reiterating a message now that today was conveyed by the ORR Medical Team to Scott Olerman.

Per ORR policy on "Heightened Medical Procedures," ***no appointments should be scheduled or procedures performed without written authorization from the Director of ORR.*** This is not limited to procedures funded with Federal funding but applies to any procedure on any UC. I understand that Mr. Olerman confirmed receipt of this message but just wanted to share with you for your visibility.

Let me know any questions or concerns. I would appreciate your ensuring that at all BCFS locations,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

there are no procedures performed without the written authorization of the ORR Director.

Thank you,

Jonathan

Jonathan D. White

Commander, U.S. Public Health Service

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

330 C Street SW

(202) 690-6984

jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Kevin Dinnin <kdinnin@bcfs.net>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/06 11:34:54
Delivered Date:	2017/03/06 11:34:55

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Holt, Lydia (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=679190009c0f4ad2b219f787dcca6a98-Holt, Lydia>"; "Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"; "Brown, Anastasia (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=504943f4a32143f9b007879481c72fc6-Brown, Anas>"
Subject:	RE: ACF - ORR, CNN, UC transportation costs
Date:	2017/03/23 10:18:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Nope, first I've heard of it.

From: Holt, Lydia (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 10:19 AM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Brown, Anastasia (ACF)
Subject: Re: ACF - ORR, CNN, UC transportation costs

This response was not cleared through me which is why I wanted to know if it had been run through any of you.

Sometimes in haste folks want to provide a quick response. I always prefer an accurate response.

I will reach out to Jallyn and Jim for specifics to this case.

Best regards,
Lydia Holt
Office of Refugee Resettlement

On: 23 March 2017 09:20, "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:

No, first I've heard of it. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: Holt, Lydia (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 9:18 AM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Brown, Anastasia (ACF)
Subject: Fwd: ACF - ORR, CNN, UC transportation costs

FYI...

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Don't know if you'd been made aware of this inquiry.

Best regards,
Lydia Holt
Office of Refugee Resettlement

Begin Forwarded Message:
From: "Richards, Monique (ACF)" <Monique.Richards@acf.hhs.gov>
Subject: FW: ACF - ORR, CNN, UC transportation costs
Date: 23 March 2017 09:06
To: "Palmer, Victoria (ACF)" <Victoria.Palmer@acf.hhs.gov>
Cc: "Fisher, Patrick (ACF)" <Patrick.Fisher@acf.hhs.gov>, "Holt, Lydia (ACF)" <Lydia.Holt@acf.hhs.gov>

I will send this response to the reporter.

Monique Richards
Public Affairs Specialist
Office of Communications
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
330 C. St. SW
Washington, DC 20201
Monique.Richards@acf.hhs.gov | 202-401-5529
Please visit ACF's Family Room Blog and www.acf.hhs.gov

From: Weber, Mark (HHS/ASPA)
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 9:05 AM
To: Palmer, Victoria (ACF); OS - Interviews
Cc: Wolfe, Kenneth (ACF); Monroe, Johnathan (ACF); Fisher, Patrick (ACF); Richards, Monique (ACF); Holt, Lydia (ACF); Acker Housman, Stephanie (ACF)
Subject: RE: ACF - ORR, CNN, UC transportation costs

OK

From: Palmer, Victoria (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 8:10 AM
To: OS - Interviews
Cc: Wolfe, Kenneth (ACF); Monroe, Johnathan (ACF); Fisher, Patrick (ACF); Richards, Monique (ACF); Holt, Lydia (ACF); Acker Housman, Stephanie (ACF)
Subject: ACF - ORR, CNN, UC transportation costs

Reporter: Julian Cummings, Supervising Producer

Organization: CNN New York

Contact info: 917-968-1146, Julian.Cummings@turner.com

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Subject: unaccompanied children transportation costs

Deadline: March 23, 2017

Spokesperson: ACF

Query: I'm working on the story regarding (b)(6) He is the 18 year old who is now (b)(6) MD and was previously picked up by border patrol in Texas and detained by ORR for 12 days on August 14th 2016. It's our understanding from (b)(6) lawyers that he was reunited with his family in Maryland after being released, taking a flight to Baltimore from Texas. ICE has told us that ORR took part in reuniting (b)(6) with his family in Maryland. I was hoping for some more information on how this played out. Did ORR arrange the flight to Baltimore? Was it a charter or paid flight? Or did his family pay for the flight? Any info is greatly appreciated.

Proposed Response:

(b)(5)

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Holt, Lydia (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=679190009c0f4ad2b219f787dcca6a98-Holt, Lydia>"; "Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"; "Brown, Anastasia (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=504943f4a32143f9b007879481c72fc6-Brown, Anas>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/23 10:18:54
Delivered Date:	2017/03/23 10:18:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Subject:	Re: Update
Date:	2017/03/15 06:47:24
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Heard nothing official. Maybe that was supposed to happen and affected by snow?

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 6:45:39 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Subject: Re: Update

Is this the first we are hearing about this? Did anyone tell you or Ken?

On: 15 March 2017 06:44, "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:

Read this carefully. Matches reports I hear.

Maybe we should expect a phone call to Ken from HHS...

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 1:59:12 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Cc: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Update

Update

Monday March 13, 2017

0700

Scott Lloyd and Jose G. met with San Antonio Federal Field Staff Ruben Pelayo, Omar Corrales, Griselda Acuna, and CFS Diana M. Berrios, Jaime Maldonado,
and Mayra Lopes Nieto at ORR National Call center. Mr. Lloyd introduced himself and held a discussion concerning his new role in ORR. Mr. Lloyd stated that he will be the new ORR Director and wanted to learn as much as he could while he was in town for the site visit. He was very candid and inquired about topics from the field such as the Termination Process, transfers, and overall program related questions.

Monday March 13, 2017

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Met at BCFS Campus with BCFS Staff, Asennet Segura, Sonya Thompson, Scott Ollerman, and program staff. Mr. Lloyd led a very robust conversation about his
soon to be role as the new ORR Director and asked questions concerning Termination policies, guidance, and follow through from the program level and from ORR. The program proceeded to answer his questions concerning the local Termination Case of
(b)(6)
We

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

reviewed the updates and UC has decided to continue with the pregnancy and not terminate. Program Case Manager states that the change was due to a conversation with her mother and her mother's experience with an abortion at a young age in the home country.
Mom told her Daughter that she lives with guilt, and that an abortion is not the right decision because she will be bothered by her actions forever. Mom did not consent to proceed with abortion. UC decided against the procedure stating it was against their religion.

The program also provided an update concerning her reunification, (b)(5)

(b)(5)

1200 Lunch

Monday March 13, 2017

1300

Tour St Peter's and St. Joseph's Shelter

Tour and meeting with San Antonio Catholic Charities Vice President Gladis Gonzalez, Shelter staff, and local FFs.

Mr. Lloyd also held a round table discussion with 6 UAC. Mr. Lloyd's intention and goal of meeting was to ask the children about their journeys, life in
the home country, and the journey to the U.S. The kids were very talkative and felt very comfortable talking to him and shared their experiences. It was a very productive discussion with the kids as per Mr. Lloyd. The kids did a great job and spoke genuinely about their care and custody. All of the kids said they feel safe and respected at the facility.

Monday March 13, 2017

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

home. The ladies led the tour and had a debriefing with Mr. Lloyd to discuss current pregnancy termination policy at Seton and ORR. Meeting was very productive, and Mr. Lloyd asked many questions about the pro-life philosophy of this current administration and at Seton home under the Catholic Charities umbrella. He was very impressed with the overall program, services, and philosophy of the grantee.

Monday March 13, 2017

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Conclude tours and debrief with Mr. Lloyd.

Tuesday March 14, 2017

0800 meet Mr. Lloyd at hotel.

0900

Met with UAC (b)(6) at the BCFS SAC. Griselda Acuna and Mr. Lloyd met alone with her for about an hour. Mr. Lloyd made some recommendations to me concerning (b)(6) stay at BCFS. This request was relayed to PD at BCFS by me and will be addressed immediately. The request was for more Honduran food, which is an easy fix because they have a Honduran cook. The other was an uncomfortable bed issue which is also an easy
fix. BCFS Regional director will address.

Tuesday March 14, 2017

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Mr. Lloyd, FFS J. Gonzalez, and FFS R. Pelayo met with (b)(6) who is a medically fragile case due to kidney failure. She was in great spirits and was very
happy about her care. (b)(6) provided Mr. Lloyd her incredible story of her journey to get to the USA and her troubles with her near death, due to her kidney failure (b)(6) is very intelligent for a (b)(6) year old. She is a survivor, resilient and a champion
for herself. She continues to do very well in custody and is currently awaiting a kidney transplant. She is greatly appreciative of the help we have given her and looks like any other (b)(6) year old. She is not sad and shows no signs of being ill.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Tuesday March 14, 2017

1100

Met with a group of six boys from BCFS shelter, Staff Secure, and Extended care. The boys answered questions about their journey and the difficult trek to get here. The boys described their desires, hopes, and dreams for their current situation and for the future. One of the boys had actually just received his high school diploma and said he would have never achieved his goals in Mexico. The UC was recruited at the age of 9 to work for the (b)(6) and now has his SIJ visa. ORR has changed his life and is so excited about his life. The young man will be enlisting in the armed service to become an engineer. UC's sister has been found, and he will be moving out of custody soon to go to his sister in California. Mr. Lloyd was very impressed with theUC's determination and equally moved by the others boys' life experiences. Overall, the meetings were very positive and educational for Mr. Lloyd.

Tuesday March 14, 2017

1200

Mr. Lloyd and myself toured the Extended care program on our way out as we hustled to get him to the airport.

Tuesday March 14, 2017

1420

Mr Lloyd left to Washington, D.C.

Jose Gonzalez, LMSW, FFS Supervisor

USDHHS-ACF-ORR-DUCO

Jose.gonzalez@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

202-631-3777

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/ucs

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 1:08 PM

To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Cc: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Subject: Fw: Update

For everyone's SA on plan for Scott in San Antonio.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 1:57:18 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Lloyd, Scott (ACF)

Subject: Re: Update

Mr. Lloyd it was great to meet via phone.

To recap our conversation.

Scott Lloyd HHS.

Arrives San Antonio today Sunday, March 12, 2017 at or about 10:30 CST.

Travel to hotel from airport is taken care of as per conversation.

Monday, March 13, 2017

0700 Jose gonzalez will pick up Scott Lloyd at hotel that will be sent to me later today.
0730

Sott Lloyd and Jose G. to meet with San Antonio field staff at ORR National Call center.

0900 meet with grantee to discuss case elevated case at BCFS San Antonio Campus.

1200 lunch with Jose.

1330. Meet with St. Pj's and Seton Home for tour if time permits and Mr. Lloyd schedule permits.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

1530. Conclude tours and debrief with Mr Loyd.

Gentleman this is very rough agenda and does not take into account any of what mr. Lloyd may have on his agenda.

Mr. Lloyd we are flexible and will look for you to steer this vessel.

Safe travels sir.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 11:22:07 AM

To: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Lloyd, Scott (ACF)

Subject: Re: Update

Jose,

Also please be advised contact info for Scott is (202) (b)(6) email scott.lloyd@acf.hhs.gov.
Appears in Global as Edward Lloyd.

Jonathan

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

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(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 11:33:58 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Lloyd, Scott (ACF)

Subject: Re: Update

Good morning Mr. Lloyd, please let me know how I can assist. As commander White noted, I am available to pick you up and meet with the administration from
bcfs as we are all in same building.

.

I look forward to speaking to you. I am available today to discuss or meet. My direct number is 2026313777.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

PS I can also recommend some great local spots for food options as I live here.

Safe travels.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 10:16:13 AM

To: Lloyd, Scott (ACF)

Cc: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Subject: Re: Update

Scott,

Looping in Jose Gonzalez, the FFS Supervisor.

Spoke with Jose, who'll be the one to meet with you tomorrow AM. He suggests AM meeting at the ORR UC National Call Center, which is centrally located to his office and BCFS. The address of the NCC is 4406 Piedras Drive West, San Antonio, Texas 78228.

Jose is also glad to pick you up at your hotel first thing tomorrow AM, which might be helpful.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Jonathan

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

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(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Lloyd, Scott (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 9:08:45 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Subject: Update

Jonathan,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I am heading to San Antonio today and will be at the BCFS facility first thing tomorrow to oversee the steps we outlined on Friday.

Please let local field staff know and inquire about the possibility of an early meeting with me tomorrow, I am thinking 07:30 CST. We could meet at my hotel (will send an update on hotel) or at a venue they suggest.

Thank you,

Scott

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

	(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/15 06:47:23
Delivered Date:	2017/03/15 06:47:24

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
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Subject:	Re: Update
Date:	2017/03/15 06:59:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

I have a 9:00-9:30 mtg. I could meet before 9:00, say at 8:30?

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

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Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

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Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 6:51:16 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Subject: Re: Update

What time are you available this am?

On: 15 March 2017 06:47, "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:

Heard nothing official. Maybe that was supposed to happen and affected by snow?

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

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(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 6:45:39 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Subject: Re: Update

Is this the first we are hearing about this? Did anyone tell you or Ken?

On: 15 March 2017 06:44, "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:

Read this carefully. Matches reports I hear.

Maybe we should expect a phone call to Ken from HHS...

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Jose Gonzalez, LMSW, FFS Supervisor

USDHHS-ACF-ORR-DUCO

Jose.gonzalez@acf.hhs.gov

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To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Cc: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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Appears in Global as Edward Lloyd.

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CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

bcfs as we are all in same building.

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Cc: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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Thank you,

Scott

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/15 06:58:59
Delivered Date:	2017/03/15 06:59:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Belay, Olympia (ACF) (CTR) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2ef22460343c4fab91915eb6ba3b1283-Belay, Olym>"
Subject:	Any way for us to know this info?
Date:	2017/03/06 12:22:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

(b)(5)

Jonathan D. White
Commander, U.S. Public Health Service
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW
(202) 690-6984
jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Belay, Olympia (ACF) (CTR) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2ef22460343c4fab91915eb6ba3b1283-Belay, Olym>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/06 12:22:09
Delivered Date:	2017/03/06 12:22:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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To:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
CC:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"; "Kurkjy, Brian (ACF) (CTR) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=faee3bcd11ca4d88b8e39a7a6a4b49e0-Kurkjy, Bri>"
Subject:	RE: pregnant girls estimate
Date:	2017/03/09 21:43:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

A positive pregnancy test should result in a SIR. Urine pregnancy test is a required element of the Initial Medical Examination (IME) for all female UC who have attained menarche. But, as you know, SIR adherence is not necessarily 100%.

I think this is likely our most important tool to track follow-up but that is something I am working with the Medical and the FFS teams to figure out.

(b)(5)

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 9:39 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Kurkjy, Brian (ACF) (CTR)
Subject: Re: pregnant girls estimate

Great. Thanks Jonathan. Fine to forward.

Do we get an SIR notice for every pregnancy?

Would we also get an SIR if identified at Intake?

Just wondering how we can track to ensure appropriate follow-up.

Thanks.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

On: 09 March 2017 18:56, "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:

Ken,

(b)(5)

I will provide to Scott once you OK me to do so.

Tomorrow I will be asking DHUC Medical staff to identify if possible those 18 programs for specific targeted outreach by FFS and Medical Team, in addition to current outreach to all programs being conducted.

Jonathan

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
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Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Check out the Slate article.

Jonathan White

Commander, US Public Health Service

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Jonathan.White@acf.hhs.gov

(202) (b)(6)

From: "ACF Media Clips (ACF)" <MediaClips@acf.hhs.gov>

Subject: ACF Media Clips for Oct. 20, 2017

Date: 20 October 2017 12:48

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: "ACF - All ACF Staff" <All-ACFStaff@acf.hhs.gov>

ACF Media Clips for Oct. 20, 2017

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Unaccompanied Alien Children

Appeals

court to review case of undocumented teenager seeking abortion
(featuring ACF)

A lawsuit at the intersection of two emotional issues—illegal immigration and abortion—is speeding through the courts, as judges consider whether an undocumented teen in U.S. custody may terminate her pregnancy over the wishes of the Trump administration.

Wall Street Journal, NY

Oct. 19, 2017

Federal appeals court halts undocumented "Jane Doe's" abortion in Texas
(featuring ACF)

A federal appeals court has overturned a judge's ruling that would have allowed an undocumented pregnant teen to get an abortion. The unaccompanied minor is currently being held at an immigration detention center near Brownsville. A judge issued an emergency order on Wednesday, requiring Doe to be transported from her shelter to an abortion clinic. Less than 24 hours later the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia temporarily halted that ruling. A hearing on the matter has been set for Friday morning.

Texas Public Radio, TX

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Oct. 19, 2017

Appeals court
temporarily blocks abortion for undocumented teen in Texas
(featuring ACF)

An appeals court has temporarily blocked a federal judge's order to allow an unauthorized teen immediate access to have an abortion, one day after the decision. U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan ruled Wednesday that
"Jane Doe," a 17-year-old unaccompanied immigrant in Texas, must be allowed to have an abortion without delay. The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled that Doe can still receive abortion counseling and a sonogram, which are required
in order to have an abortion in Texas, but blocked the judge's order requiring officials to transport her to a clinic to have the procedure until the court takes further action. The court will hear oral arguments in the case Friday morning.

Dallas Morning News, TX

Oct. 19, 2017

Court overrules US abortion

ban for undocumented teen in custody
(featuring ACF)

Trump administration officials must allow a pregnant 17-year-old to leave an immigration shelter in Texas to have an abortion, a federal judge ruled Wednesday in the first legal rebuff for the administration's ban on abortions
for undocumented minors in federal custody. The Trump administration criticized the ruling and filed an immediate appeal. The ruling "sets a dangerous precedent by opening our borders to any illegal children seeking taxpayer-supported, elective abortions,"
said the Administration for Children and Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

San Antonio Express-News, TX

Oct. 19, 2017

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Teenage
immigrant blocked — again — from accessing legal abortion in Texas
(featuring ACF)

The Trump Administration is using a 17-year-old undocumented immigrant to announce a sweeping anti-abortion stance. The Department of Health and Human Services — which
oversees the Office of Refugee Resettlement — appealed Chutkan's decision, arguing that there's nothing in the constitution that lets undocumented immigrants get an abortion in the U.S. In response, the U.S. Court of Appeals in D.C. issued a stay, meaning
the court will hear oral arguments Friday morning.

San Antonio Current, TX

Oct. 19, 2017

Federal judge rules undocumented teenager
can have an abortion
(featuring ACF)

A federal judge ruled Wednesday that a pregnant, undocumented teenager held in federal custody in Texas can access an abortion. She found herself in the middle of
a legal dispute over whether unaccompanied immigrant minors have a right to an abortion in the U.S. The federal judge ordered that the teen must be transported to an abortion appointment "promptly and without delay." However, the Trump administration has appealed
the ruling and asked for a decision by tonight.

Texas Standard, TX

Oct. 19, 2017

Appeals
court to review judge's order allowing abortion for undocumented teen immigrant
(featuring ACF)

A young undocumented immigrant's legal
battle to end her pregnancy will move to a federal appeals court Friday, with lawyers for the Trump administration arguing that the government is not obligated to facilitate an abortion for someone in the country illegally. Government lawyers are seeking to halt a judge's ruling Wednesday that ordered officials to allow the teen, who is being held in Texas after crossing the border illegally, to have the abortion this week "without delay."

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Washington Post, DC

Oct. 19, 2017

Trump
administration appeals ruling that allowed undocumented teen to get abortion
(featuring ACF)

The Trump administration filed an appeal Thursday with the D.C. Court of Appeals aimed at blocking a judge's ruling recognizing an undocumented immigrant woman's right to an abortion. The D.C. Court of Appeals issued an administrative stay Thursday morning as a result, potentially delaying the woman, identified only as Jane Doe, from receiving the medical procedure.

Hill, DC

Oct. 19, 2017

Court
puts a hold on order that approved undocumented teen's abortion
(featuring ACF)

A federal appeals court has temporarily blocked a judge's ruling that would have allowed a detained teenager who is
in the U.S. illegally to have an abortion, in the latest twist in a legal battle between the ACLU and the Trump administration. The case will return to court on Friday, when oral arguments will be heard at 10 a.m. ET.

National Public Radio, DC

Oct. 19, 2017

Judges

halt ruling allowing illegal immigrant girl to get abortion
(featuring ACF)

A federal appeals court ordered the ACLU not to rush a pregnant 17-year-old illegal immigrant to an abortion clinic, with the judges saying Thursday

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

they wanted more time to consider the case. The order by the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, stays a lower court's order, issued Wednesday, that had said the girl could have the abortion either Friday or Saturday. The girl is still to be taken for a counseling session Thursday as required under Texas law, where she is currently being held in a government-contracted shelter.

Washington Times, DC

Oct. 19, 2017

Justice Department appeals decision ordering government to let undocumented teen get an abortion
(featuring ACF)

On Wednesday afternoon, a federal judge ordered the Trump administration to let an undocumented teenager being held in a federally funded Texas shelter terminate her pregnancy. By Wednesday evening, the Department of Justice had appealed the ruling to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, urging the court to block the abortion. The DOJ argued that the government's "interest in promoting fetal life and childbirth over abortion" justified its refusal to allow the minor to go to an abortion clinic. A panel of judges from the D.C. Circuit will hear arguments in the case on Friday morning.

Slate Magazine, DC

Oct. 19, 2017

Appeals court temporarily blocks undocumented teen immigrant from getting abortion
(featuring ACF)

A federal appeals court has temporarily stayed a judge's ruling to allow an undocumented teenage immigrant held in a federally-funded facility to receive an abortion. On Thursday, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia issued a ruling saying that the order "should not be construed in any way as a ruling on the merits" of a Trump administration attempt to overturn a federal judge order to allow the teen to get her abortion. "The purpose of this administrative stay is to give the court sufficient opportunity to consider the emergency motion for stay," the ruling reads in

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

part. A hearing for oral arguments is set for Friday morning at 10 a.m.

Think Progress, DC

Oct. 19, 2017

Illegal immigrant teen suing to get taxpayer-funded abortion
(featuring ACF)

An appeals court on Thursday blocked a federal judge's order that the government take an illegal immigrant 17-year-old to get an abortion, or allow someone else to take her. The abortion was to take place on Friday or Saturday morning. On Thursday, the D.C. Court of Appeals stopped Judge Chutkan's order that the abortion take place pending a 10 a.m. hearing on Friday, with oral arguments to be presented by both sides before a three-judge panel.

LifeZette, DC

Oct. 19, 2017

Judge's order to give illegal alien abortion overruled
(featuring ACF)

A judge's demand – under threat of a contempt citation – that U.S. government officials provide a taxpayer-funded abortion to an illegal alien teenager has been temporarily halted. Another hearing is expected to be held as early as Friday in the case, which was brought on behalf of a teen held at a Texas detention center for illegal aliens.
According to Fox News, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, responding to an appeal from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, temporarily suspended an order from the pro-abortion judge in Texas, Tanya Chutkan.

World Net Daily, DC

Oct. 19, 2017

Young, pregnant migrant's case becomes a test

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

of Trump policies on abortion and immigration
(featuring ACF)

When the Trump administration
chose E. Scott Lloyd, a prominent antiabortion activist and attorney, to head the federal agency that oversees refugee affairs, he quickly set about enforcing strict policies. For months, even as he personally intervened in cases and tried to talk young women out of getting abortions, his efforts drew little attention.
The case of a 17-year-old pregnant girl in an immigration detention center in Texas has suddenly changed that.

Los Angeles Times, CA

Oct. 18, 2017

DC
appeals court temporarily halts ruling that HHS must let illegal immigrant teen access abortion
(featuring ACF)

An appeals court is set to review Wednesday's decision by Judge Tanya Chutkan that an unaccompanied minor, Jane Doe, who came to the country illegally must be allowed to access an abortion. Chutkan
wrote that the 17-year-old must be transported to an abortion clinic near her shelter in Texas "promptly and without delay." She said federal officials are "restrained from interfering with or obstructing [the teen's] access to abortion counseling or an abortion." The Department of Justice appealed the decision saying it "sets a dangerous precedent by opening our borders to any illegal children seeking taxpayer-supported, elective abortions."

Townhall, CA

Oct. 19, 2017

60
to 80% of migrant women and girls are raped on way to US, studies find, but Trump administration blocks abortions for detainees
(featuring ACF)

A federal judge on Wednesday ruled that the Trump administration has violated the rights of a 17-year-old undocumented immigrant detained in Texas
by refusing to allow her to have an abortion. The Trump administration has appealed.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

East County Magazine, CA

Oct. 19, 2017

Trump tries to save life of illegal immigrant baby

"I do have a bit of information here that I can squeeze in this time.
Headline: 'The
Trump Administration Is Trying to Protect an Immigrant Baby. A Leftist Judge Ordered Him Killed. — An Obama-appointed judge has ordered that an illegal immigrant currently in federal custody for being illegal 15 weeks pregnant,' three and a half months, 'must be allowed to have an abortion in the U.S.' She has constitutional rights. Even though she doesn't. She's not a citizen. The Trump administration is trying to protect the baby of an illegal immigrant."

Rush Limbaugh, FL

Oct. 19, 2017

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Trump's

administration is blocking an undocumented teen from having an abortion (VIDEO)
(featuring ACF)

There have been further delays in the case of Jane Doe, an undocumented 17-year-old from Central America who has fought the Trump administration to get an abortion in Texas. On Wednesday, Jane Doe received an initial victory from a district judge who chastised federal officials for their treatment of the 17-year-old and ruled that she had a legal right to the abortion. Jane and her legal team learned that the DC District Court of Appeals granted the Justice Department a temporary administrative stay on her case.

Vice News, NY

Oct. 19, 2017

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

A detained 17-year-old

immigrant wants an abortion. The government went to court to stop her.
(featuring ACF)

At a shelter in South Texas, a teenager is fighting the federal government to get an abortion. On Wednesday, United States District Judge Tanya Chutkan ordered the government to allow Doe to leave for the procedure. On Thursday, a circuit court issued a stay of Judge Chutkan's order. Doe will be allowed to go to a state-mandated pre-abortion counseling appointment Thursday. On Friday, the court will hear oral arguments in the case.

Vox, NY

Oct. 19, 2017

An undocumented
girl is trying to get an abortion &the Trump admin is doing everything to stop her
(featuring ACF)

There is currently an ongoing court case about an undocumented girl who is trying to get an abortion and the Trump administration is doing everything to stop her. This Jane Doe case, which has made national headlines, will be brought to a federal court of appeals in Washington on Friday, and courts will hopefully soon make a decision on this immigrant teenager's right to an abortion.

Elite Daily, NY

Oct. 19, 2017

Detained immigrant teen's abortion
delayed again by appeals court
(featuring ACF)

A 17-year-old immigrant detained by the U.S. government may not be able to obtain an abortion after an appeals court temporarily halted a judge's ruling that she must be allowed to undergo the procedure "promptly without delay." On Thursday, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals blocked part of the lower court's ruling from the day before. The court announced that it will hold oral arguments on

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Friday over whether the Trump administration has the right to keep the teen, who entered the U.S. as an unaccompanied minor, from leaving a shelter and using her own money to undergo the procedure.

Huffington Post, NY

Oct. 19, 2017

Judge order Trump administration to allow undocumented teen to have abortion
(featuring ACF)

A federal judge ordered the Trump administration to allow an undocumented immigrant teenager in its custody to get an abortion, which officials have obstructed for weeks while instead sending her to a religious crisis
pregnancy center to dissuade her from terminating the pregnancy. On Wednesday, U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan ruled that government officials must "promptly and without delay" allow the 17-year-old girl, referred to in the lawsuit as Jane Doe, to temporarily
leave custody to obtain an abortion. The Department of Justice filed an appeal to the judge's ruling later on Wednesday.

Huffington Post, NY

Oct. 18, 2017

US
judge orders feds to let undocumented teen in Texas have an abortion
(featuring ACF)

A federal judge has ordered the U.S. government to let an undocumented 17-year-old in federal custody in Texas have an abortion "promptly and without delay." U.S. District Judge Tanya S. Chutkan in Washington, D.C., issued a temporary restraining order Wednesday, calling on federal officials to allow the teenager, called Jane Doe in court documents, to have an abortion procedure Friday or Saturday.

Corpus Christi Caller-Times, TX

Oct. 18, 2017

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The Trump administration's power over a pregnant girl

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(featuring ACF)

Repaying his loyal supporters on the religious right, Donald Trump has given federal appointments to a number of
anti-abortion activists. They've been working quietly to dismantle access to reproductive health care while the country is distracted by the president's pyrotechnic outrages. For almost a month, some of these Trump appointees have been waging a crusade to
force the young woman, whose future in this country is extremely uncertain, to carry her pregnancy to term. Their standoff shows us the real-world consequences of this administration's radical disregard for women's autonomy.

Opinion

New York Times, NY

Oct. 20, 2017

The US government can't hold undocumented pregnant teens hostage when they want an abortion
(featuring ACF)

It is unconscionable that the federal government would so flagrantly undermine the rights of a person in its custody. The girl, known in court papers
simply as Jane Doe, may not be here legally, but, while she is here, she has a constitutional right — like every other pregnant girl or woman in the United States — to a legal abortion. Even U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan, who ruled Wednesday that Doe could
get the abortion, shook her head in disbelief when a U.S. Department of Justice lawyer at the hearing would not concede that Doe has constitutional rights. Among other constitutional principles, due process and equal protection — which underlie the right to an abortion — apply to everyone in the United States, regardless of where they came from.

Editorial

Los Angeles Times, CA

Oct. 20, 2017

Jane Doe vs. Donald Trump: A young woman fights for her rights
(featuring ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Jane's story is shocking. The abuse of power, invasion of privacy and coordinated, federally-funded campaign to shame, bully, and deny care to this young woman is yet another outrage from an administration bent on taking away women rights. And the details of her case only deepen the horror. At every turn, Jane is doing all she can to protect her health and safety, and those efforts are being sabotaged by agents of the Trump administration. And Jane's is not an isolated case. ORR is now blocking all unaccompanied minors in its custody from receiving abortion care, and shelters are being directed not to let minors seek judicial bypasses or even allow them to meet with attorneys — a flagrant violation of state law and their constitutional rights.

Opinion

TribTalk/Texas Tribune, TX

Oct. 20, 2017

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Trump's Dred Scott
(featuring ACF)

This week, the Department of Justice is arguing in court that undocumented, unaccompanied minors have no right to abortions—and that undocumented immigrants may have no constitutional rights at all. This argument does not only contravene Supreme Court precedent. It also draws upon an inhuman notion of constitutional liberty most notoriously espoused in *Dred Scott v. Sandford*. The Justice Department's radical new theory arose out of a disturbing case in Texas that revolves around a 17-year-old referred to as Jane Doe in court filings.

Opinion

Slate Magazine, DC

Oct. 19, 2017

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Trump administration successfully stays court decision granting young immigrant woman an abortion
(featuring ACF)

She was already granted permission to get an abortion but the government has refused to allow her permission to travel to a clinic. They have

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

no legitimate right to do this. It is not within the mandate of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Administration of Child and Family Services nor the Office of Refugee Resettlement. Yet, each of these agencies, and the people running them (all men by the way) seem to think they know what's in the best interest of this young woman more than she does. These anti-abortion crusaders are holding this woman captive and forcing her into motherhood.

Opinion

Daily Kos, CA

Oct. 19, 2017

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Child Care

Outcry from child care

community sinks state's attempt to overhaul licensing rules

The state's attempt to overhaul its childcare rules has been stalled yet again, after childcare
providers across the state mobilized against the proposed changes. The Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules sent the Department of Health and Human Services back to the drawing board after a hearing on the issue Thursday morning. An earlier draft of the rules elicited hundreds of pages of public comments, many from daycare owners concerned that the new requirements would make it hard for them to stay in business.

New Hampshire Public Radio, NH

Oct. 19, 2017

New day care rules
hit roadblock at State House

A two-year effort by health and human services officials to implement new licensing rules for child care centers hit another roadblock on Thursday, as center operators convinced a legislative committee to hold off on approving

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

the new regulations. The rules have been in the works since 2015, and were the subject of two well-attended public hearings earlier this year. Two previously scheduled votes before JLCAR were rescheduled to allow DHHS more time to negotiate with day care providers.

Manchester
Union Leader, NH

Oct. 19, 2017

California

governor signs bill to expand child care in Central Coast

On Monday, Gov. Jerry Brown signed AB 300, sponsored by Assembly member Anna Caballero, which will allow more flexibility for subsidized child care providers (private preschool programs and daycare centers) in Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz counties. This change will increase options for low-income families. It will also assist child care providers who are struggling to stay in business and allow counties to make immediate use of child care subsidy money.

Salinas Californian, CA

Oct. 19, 2017

Ivanka's

tax credit won't help kids

Ivanka Trump likes to talk about the costs of child care. News reports also indicate that she's raised the costs of child care
in her efforts to influence the congressional debate on tax reform. There's a problem, though: The policy she's promoting, an increased child tax credit, doesn't really help families pay for child care.

Opinion

U.S. News &World Report, DC

Oct. 19, 2017

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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Children, Youth &Families

Grandparents raising grandkids: 3 things to know before taking on the new role

As the opioid epidemic continues more grandparents find themselves in the unexpected position of raising their grandchildren. It's become so common that for every child in foster care, 20 are being raised by a family member. This generosity saves the nation about $4 billion a year, according to the nonprofit Generations United, but there are unique challenges that come with the joy of raising a grandchild.

Today Show, NY

Oct. 20, 2017

'It's a nationwide problem beyond anything we've seen'. Overdose problem demands rehab centers, resources (VIDEO)

Many do wind up in foster care, a program that is groaning right now in the Illinois Valley. Jami Valenzuela of Youth Service Bureau said there upwards of 375 children in foster care at any given moment, and most fall into two categories: Children born addicted to mothers on drugs, or children plucked from homes neglected by addicted parents.

La Salle, IL

Oct. 20, 2017

Meyers holds hearing sessions on foster care reform

Wisconsin's foster child system suffers from a lack of resources, particularly in the northwestern part of the state, where the lack of appropriate services for children who must be removed from troubled homes and into the foster care system is particularly acute.

Ashland Daily Press, WI

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Oct. 20, 2017

Privatized foster care a failure in Florida

Launched in 2015, of the 33 states that did respond, Senate investigators found that failures and flaws in state and federal oversight structures and data collection have made it difficult to impossible to "monitor the operations of the child welfare system, especially its private providers," according a joint statement from the senators.

Opinion

Miami Herald, FL

Oct.20, 2017

Transitional housing for young homeless in St. Joseph County
(featuring ACF)

The nonprofit Youth Service Bureau of St. Joseph County will start the program with a $1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to be used over the next five years.

South Bend Tribune, IN

Oct. 20, 2017

Senate
Foster care bill would incentivize kin, monitor private providers and child fatalities
(featuring ACF)

The committee's investigation report recommends that Congress consider mandating that Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) penalize states that fail to demonstrate progress on their Child and Family Services Review (CFSR), a periodic assessment conducted by HHS. After three rounds of the CFSR, which began in 2001, no state has passed but almost no state has been hit with a financial penalty.

Chronicle of Social Change, CA

Oct. 19, 2017

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Senate report slams public management of private foster care industry
(featuring ACF)

The rates of abuse and neglect in foster homes was higher in all 33 states than existing federal data suggests. The Department of Health and Human Services recently reported that the state median for maltreatment in care was about .35 percent, or about one-third of one percent.

Chronicle of Social Change, CA

Oct. 19, 2017

Playing by the rules after breaking them in foster care

Every new foster home came with a fresh set of rules. It did not matter how many or how few. It did not matter if they were lax or unreasonable. They would not be obeyed.

New York Times, NY

Oct. 18, 2017

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Family Assistance

Block grants could kill vital food stamp program: Esquenazi
(featuring ACF)

Things may change, however. Block grants are Speaker of the House Paul Ryan's solution for everything. In 1996, Bill Clinton's welfare reform turned the TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) program into a block grant. This means they looked at how much the federal government was spending on the program, slashed that down and just gave it to the state to manage.

Opinion

Reno Gazette-Journal, NV

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Oct. 20, 2017

Arkansas Career Pathways Initiative: A lesson in cross-system collaboration to support adult student success
(featuring ACF)

In 2005, Arkansas began its Career Pathways Initiative, a cross-system model to fund tuition and non-tuition related expenses for low-income, educationally underprepared parents. CPI leverages federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) dollars through the state's community college system and enlists support from other state agencies to ensure students have access to resources like transportation, child care, and other non-tuition expenses.

CLASP, DC

Oct. 18, 2017

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Native Americans

Alaska and tribes sign historic agreement on child welfare

They hope the child welfare system will transform into something better if tribal services operate parallel to state services. That is what happened with health care when Alaska tribal organizations took over U.S. Indian Health Service hospitals and clinics. And the tribal organizations will be able to serve non-Native children too.

Governing,
DC

Oct. 20, 2017

Alaska tribes and state sign historic document on tribal child welfare

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

More than 3,000 Alaska children are in state foster care or otherwise in state custody for their own protection. About 57 percent of them are Alaska
Native, almost triple the proportion of Native children overall in Alaska, Davidson said.

Alaska Dispatch News, AK

Oct. 19, 2017

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Refugee Resettlement

Refugees infuse up to $295M
a year in southeast Michigan economy

Every year, refugees to southeast Michigan contribute up to $295 million to the region's economy, according to a new study led by Global Detroit and researchers at the University of Michigan Ford
School of Public Policy. The economic contributions the study measured come from spending by refugee households, businesses that refugees have opened and refugee resettlement agencies. The study conservatively estimates their total annual economic impact to
be between $229.6 million and $295.3 million in new spending, along with between 1,798 and 2,311 new jobs in 2016 alone.

University of Michigan News, MI

Oct. 17, 2017

Trafficking

Selling

girls | sex traffickers are targeting American children

If sex sells, then business is good. It was almost a billion dollars, according to an Urban Institute 2014 study.
But these dirty profits come at a huge cost. It's all about supply and demand. First, they need someone to sell. Traffickers target young people in their own homes, by combing through social media profiles, looking to spark a conversation. The trafficker targets

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

pre-teens and teens by finding something to bond over and earn their trust. Traffickers gain psychological control and use violent threats to force victims to stay. Once the child is isolated from family and friends, the trafficker puts them up for sale. This is where the demand comes in.

KING, WA

Oct. 20, 2017

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Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Metro is running slow, maybe due to weather. I'll advise but I may be a few minutes late.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 7:05:08 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Subject: Re: Update

See you then.

On: 15 March 2017 06:58, "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:

I have a 9:00-9:30 mtg. I could meet before 9:00, say at 8:30?

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 6:51:16 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Subject: Re: Update

What time are you available this am?

On: 15 March 2017 06:47, "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:

Heard nothing official. Maybe that was supposed to happen and affected by snow?

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 6:45:39 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Subject: Re: Update

Is this the first we are hearing about this? Did anyone tell you or Ken?

On: 15 March 2017 06:44, "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:

Read this carefully. Matches reports I hear.

Maybe we should expect a phone call to Ken from HHS...

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 1:59:12 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Cc: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Update

Update

Monday March 13, 2017

0700

Scott Lloyd and Jose G. met with San Antonio Federal Field Staff Ruben Pelayo, Omar Corrales, Griselda Acuna, and CFS Diana M. Berrios, Jaime Maldonado,
and Mayra Lopes Nieto at ORR National Call center. Mr. Lloyd introduced himself and held a discussion concerning his new role in ORR. Mr. Lloyd stated that he will be the new ORR Director and wanted to learn as much as he could while he was in town for the site visit. He was very candid and inquired about topics from the field such as the Termination Process, transfers, and overall program related questions.

Monday March 13, 2017

0900

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Met at BCFS Campus with BCFS Staff, Asennet Segura, Sonya Thompson, Scott Ollerman, and program staff. Mr. Lloyd led a very robust conversation about his soon to be role as the new ORR Director and asked questions concerning Termination policies, guidance, and follow through from the program level and from ORR. The program proceeded to answer his questions concerning the local Termination Case of (b)(6) We reviewed the updates and UC has decided to continue with the pregnancy and not terminate. Program Case Manager states that the change was due to a conversation with her mother and her mother's experience with an abortion at a young age in the home country.
Mom told her Daughter that she lives with guilt, and that an abortion is not the right decision because she will be bothered by her actions forever. Mom did not consent to proceed with abortion. UC decided against the procedure stating it was against their religion.

The program also provided an update concerning her reunification, and the plan (b)(5)

(b)(5)

1200 Lunch

Monday March 13, 2017

1300

Tour St Peter's and St. Joseph's Shelter

Tour and meeting with San Antonio Catholic Charities Vice President Gladis Gonzalez, Shelter staff, and local FFs.

Mr. Lloyd also held a round table discussion with 6 UAC. Mr. Lloyd's intention and goal of meeting was to ask the children about their journeys, life in the home country, and the journey to the U.S. The kids were very talkative and felt very comfortable talking to him and shared their experiences. It was a very productive discussion with the kids as per Mr. Lloyd. The kids did a great job and spoke genuinely about their care and custody. All of the kids said they feel safe and respected at the facility.

Monday March 13, 2017

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

1430

Tour and UAC meeting at Seton Home Casa de Milagros for pregnant and parenting UAC.

Met with Seton Home Team for tour of the facility. Mr. Lloyd toured the program and met with the current administration, (b)(6) at Seton home. The ladies led the tour and had a debriefing with Mr. Lloyd to discuss current pregnancy termination policy at Seton and ORR. Meeting was very productive, and Mr. Lloyd asked many questions about the pro-life philosophy of this current administration and at Seton home under the Catholic Charities umbrella. He was very impressed with the overall program, services, and philosophy of the grantee.

Monday March 13, 2017

1600.

Conclude tours and debrief with Mr. Lloyd.

Tuesday March 14, 2017

0800 meet Mr. Lloyd at hotel.

0900

Met with UAC SD at the BCFS SAC. Griselda Acuna and Mr. Lloyd met alone with her for about an hour. Mr. Lloyd made some recommendations to me concerning (b)(6) stay at BCFS. This request was relayed to PD at BCFS by me and will be addressed immediately. The request was for more Honduran food, which is an easy fix because they have a Honduran cook. The other was an uncomfortable bed issue which is also an easy fix. BCFS Regional director will address.

Tuesday March 14, 2017

1000

Mr. Lloyd, FFS J. Gonzalez, and FFS R. Pelayo met with (b)(6) who is a medically fragile case due to kidney failure. She was in great spirits and was very happy about her care. (b)(6) provided Mr. Lloyd her incredible story of her journey to get to the USA and her troubles with her near death, due to her kidney failure. (b)(6) is very intelligent for a (b)(6) year old. She is a survivor, resilient and a champion

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

for herself. She continues to do very well in custody and is currently awaiting a kidney transplant. She is greatly appreciative of the help we have given her and looks like any other (b)(6) year old. She is not sad and shows no signs of being ill.

Tuesday March 14, 2017

1100

Met with a group of six boys from BCFS shelter, Staff Secure, and Extended care. The boys answered questions about their journey and the difficult trek to get here. The boys described their desires, hopes, and dreams for their current situation and for the future. One of the boys had actually just received his high school diploma and said he would have never achieved his goals in Mexico. The UC was recruited at the age of 9 to work for the (b)(6) and now has his SIJ visa. ORR has changed his life and is so excited about his life. The young man will be enlisting in the armed service to become an engineer. UC's sister has been found, and he will be moving out of custody soon to go to his sister in California. Mr. Lloyd was very impressed with theUC's determination and equally moved by the others boys' life experiences. Overall, the meetings were very positive and educational for Mr. Lloyd.

Tuesday March 14, 2017

1200

Mr. Lloyd and myself toured the Extended care program on our way out as we hustled to get him to the airport.

Tuesday March 14, 2017

1420

Mr Lloyd left to Washington, D.C.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Jose Gonzalez, LMSW, FFS Supervisor

USDHHS-ACF-ORR-DUCO

Jose.gonzalez@acf.hhs.gov

202-631-3777

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/ucs

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 1:08 PM

To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Cc: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Subject: Fw: Update

For everyone's SA on plan for Scott in San Antonio.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 1:57:18 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Lloyd, Scott (ACF)

Subject: Re: Update

Mr. Lloyd it was great to meet via phone.

To recap our conversation.

Scott Lloyd HHS.

Arrives San Antonio today Sunday, March 12, 2017 at or about 10:30 CST.

Travel to hotel from airport is taken care of as per conversation.

Monday, March 13, 2017

0700 Jose gonzalez will pick up Scott Lloyd at hotel that will be sent to me later today.
0730

Sott Lloyd and Jose G. to meet with San Antonio field staff at ORR National Call center.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

0900 meet with grantee to discuss case elevated case at BCFS San Antonio Campus.

1200 lunch with Jose.

1330. Meet with St. Pj's and Seton Home for tour if time permits and Mr. Lloyd schedule permits.

1530. Conclude tours and debrief with Mr Loyd.

Gentleman this is very rough agenda and does not take into account any of what mr. Lloyd may have on his agenda.

Mr. Lloyd we are flexible and will look for you to steer this vessel.

Safe travels sir.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 11:22:07 AM

To: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Lloyd, Scott (ACF)

Subject: Re: Update

Jose,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Also please be advised contact info for Scott is (202) (b)(6) email scott.lloyd@acf.hhs.gov.
Appears in Global as Edward Lloyd.

Jonathan

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 11:33:58 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Lloyd, Scott (ACF)

Subject: Re: Update

Good morning Mr. Lloyd, please let me know how I can assist. As commander White noted, I am available to pick you up and meet with the administration from

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

bcfs as we are all in same building.

.

I look forward to speaking to you. I am available today to discuss or meet. My direct number is 2026313777.

PS I can also recommend some great local spots for food options as I live here.

Safe travels.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 10:16:13 AM

To: Lloyd, Scott (ACF)

Cc: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Subject: Re: Update

Scott,

Looping in Jose Gonzalez, the FFS Supervisor.

Spoke with Jose, who'll be the one to meet with you tomorrow AM. He suggests AM meeting at the ORR UC National Call Center, which is centrally located to his office and BCFS. The address of the NCC is 4406 Piedras Drive West, San Antonio, Texas 78228.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Jose is also glad to pick you up at your hotel first thing tomorrow AM, which might be helpful.

Jonathan

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Lloyd, Scott (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 9:08:45 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Subject: Update

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Jonathan,

I am heading to San Antonio today and will be at the BCFS facility first thing tomorrow to oversee the steps we outlined on Friday.

Please let local field staff know and inquire about the possibility of an early meeting with me tomorrow, I am thinking 07:30 CST. We could meet at my hotel (will send an update on hotel) or at a venue they suggest.

Thank you,

Scott

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/15 08:07:55
Delivered Date:	2017/03/15 08:07:57

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
CC:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"; "Kurkjy, Brian (ACF) (CTR) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=faee3bcd11ca4d88b8e39a7a6a4b49e0-Kurkjy, Bri>"
Subject:	RE: pregnant girls estimate
Date:	2017/03/09 21:45:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Exactly. And it's safe to say we have BCFS' and SWK's attention already so IES is very top of my priority list tomorrow.

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 9:45 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Kurkjy, Brian (ACF) (CTR)
Subject: Re: pregnant girls estimate

Thanks. (b)(5)

On: 09 March 2017 19:34, "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:
Update: we now have the list of programs identified as having one or more pregnant UC sheltered:

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

Several of these are programs with faith-based objections to participating in abortion. We will do some targeted outreach tomorrow to the others.

Jonathan

CDR Jonathan White
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response
(202) 690-6984 (office)
(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)
Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 9, 2017 6:56:36 PM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Kurkjy, Brian (ACF) (CTR)
Subject: FW: pregnant girls estimate

Ken,

(b)(5)

I will provide to Scott once you OK me to do so.

Tomorrow I will be asking DHUC Medical staff to identify if possible those 18 programs for specific targeted outreach by FFS and Medical Team, in addition to current outreach to all programs being conducted.

Jonathan

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

	JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"; "Kurkjy, Brian (ACF) (CTR) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=faee3bcd11ca4d88b8e39a7a6a4b49e0-Kurkjy, Bri>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/09 21:45:22
Delivered Date:	2017/03/09 21:45:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Acuna, Griselda (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8c83ee08f90d454dba24118c12fbd4fd-Acuna, Gris>"
Subject:	RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital
Date:	2017/03/04 23:25:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Copy.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 11:25 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

As stated by the physician, it is ok to continue with the medication to terminate the pregnancy.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 10:21:16 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Just one clarification: when Dr. (b)(6) stated that the minor will be safe if it is less than 12 weeks, could you clarify? Safe as in "the medication regimen for the medical abortion procedure will be safe for her up until the twelfth week of gestation"? Just want to make sure I understood your email.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 11:18 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Dr. (b)(6) stated that the minor will be safe if it is less than 12 weeks.

I also spoke with the minor and she wants to continue with terminating her pregnancy.

Please advise.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thank you.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 10:07:40 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thanks. I think the important thing is to understand if the minor still requests an abortion, based on information from the doctor.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 11:03 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Yes, sir.

I will ask the physician and I will in form you.

Thank you.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 9:56:19 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Griselda,

I am advised to ask you:

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

Can you have this discussion?

Jonathan

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 10:51 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thank you. We will be in the lobby.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 9:49:05 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Stand by. We will advise next steps momentarily.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 10:48 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Nurse is here and providing discharge documents.

Please advise.

Thank you!

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 9:37:12 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Dr. (b)(6) just informed me that as per the ultrasound results, the fetus has a heart beat and is 9 weeks and 1 day.
The medication did not cause spontaneous abortion. The risk is pretty small and there are no signs of miscarriage. (b)(6) may be cramping and vital signs are fine. We are waiting for doctor's documents for release.

What would you like for me to do next?

Thank you!

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 8:57:39 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

You are welcome, Sir.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 8:55:59 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thank you. I am really glad that you are the one there with her in this situation.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 9:55 PM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

(b)(6) is doing well and calm. She also reported a small blood stain.

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 8:51:29 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thank you Griselda.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

How is (b)(6) doing?

Thank you.

On: 04 March 2017 21:49, "Acuna, Griselda (ACF)" <Griselda.Acuna@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

7:53pm-8:30pm cst.
The ultrasound was completed by Ultrasound Technician (b)(6) She stated that the ultrasound results will be submitted to the radiologist/doctor and they will let us know as soon as possible.

Thank you.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:55:36 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Copy.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:49:04 PM
To: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Stand by. Ken is working to obtain a POC from HHS leadership to refer attorneys to.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 8:32 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Email from Geraldo Rivera.

Hi Jose-

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thanks for taking my call-

As I stated on the call, the attorney ad litem for the client (b)(6) has a court order for release of information (court # and Case #) from the client's file.

We have advised the attorney Deana Whitley to contact Griselda Ocuna the local federal field specialist who is the local ORR representative and can guide the process and advise the program.

Ms. Whitley did say she has the court order in hand and wants to personally deliver in order to move forward.

The attorney's information:

DEANNA L. WHITLEY

Locust Street Professional Building
206 E. Locust
San Antonio, Texas 78212
Telephone (210) 679-2610
Telecopier (210) 224-0075

MAILING ADDRESS:
2206 E. Commerce Street
San Antonio, Texas 78203

www.whitleylawfirmpc.com

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:30:57 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

All will be sending contact information for attorney who is upset and is demanding we release her the court case # and other information from the file.
She informed Geraldo Rivera over a call about thirty minutes. .

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:12:21 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

thanks

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 8:12 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

We continue to wait for the ultrasound. Patient access representative Richard came in the room and requested signatures for intake paperwork.

Thank you.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 6:29:28 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Copy.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 7:28 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

You are welcome, Sir.

Swk Casa Blanca medical coordinator and clinician are waiting in the lobby.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 6:25:15 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thank you. I appreciate your keeping us in the loop.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

CDR Jonathan White
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response
(202) 690-6984 (office)
(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)
Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:24:38 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

I am here with the minor in one of the ER rooms and Dr. (b)(6) asked the minor if she is in pain. The minor said her stomach pain was very little.

Dr. (b)(6) stated that they are going to perform an ultrasound and the results will be reviewed by the on call obstetrician.

Thank you.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:37:46 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thank you.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:37 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Will do.

The nurse is taking her vitals at this presnt time. Minor is doing well and reports that she does not have any pain.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:35:47 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Griselda,

Please keep us updated as things develop in the hospital. And let us know anything you may need.

Jonathan

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:26 PM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Copy.

Thank you.

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:25:46 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

SWK can complete the intake.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:23 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Copy.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:22 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

She is here.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:19:28 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Michael has finished speaking with the hospital. They are able to assess the status of the pregnancy via ultrasound. They are not set up to take any actions to complete the evacuation of contents if the ultrasound determines there is no fetal life, but Michael conveyed that ORR could arrange to transfer her elsewhere to take those steps if the abortion is already complete.

So the hospital can receive the UC for ultrasound and exam.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:06 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Copy. Thanks.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:05 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

She is not here yet.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:04:23 PM
To: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Has the girl yet arrived at the hospital?
Michael is calling the doctor back.

From: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:00 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF);

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Hi Griselda. I suggest answering this after the girl arrives and the hospital presents specific documents to sign. They might not need anything other than the letter from HQ.

Jsd

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:57:23 PM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Understood.

Does SWK needs to complete the hospital intake paperwork?

Please advise.

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 4:52:33 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Let me know if confirmation as the Acting Director is needed in any way.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 5:48 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Michael is calling ER doc. Stand by.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 5:46 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I'm here at the ER. SWK Casa Blanca Medical Coordinator contacted me that they are on their way.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 4:38:50 PM
To: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

I made a mistake when I said 5PM our time. I meant 6PM Eastern, 5PM Central.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 5:38 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Hello Ladies and gentleman is there a POC we can ask for?

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 3:54:49 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Attached please find the materials for Griselda to present at the hospital.

Michael is calling hospital now.

The hospital is (b)(6) located at (b)(6)
(b)(6)

ER Telephone Number 210-(b)(6) Michael will call ER. He will need approx. an hour to make call so the child should not arrive before 5PM our time.

Griselda, can you advise when you can be at the hospital with these printed materials?

Ken is contacting Southwest Key.

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 4:47 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Barlow, Amanda (ACF)
Subject: Acting ORR Director Memo, 2008 medical policy, Tota ACF ID

Jonathan,

Attached are documents the Federal Field Specialist can present at the hospital, if needed.

Maggie

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Acuna, Griselda (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8c83ee08f90d454dba24118c12fbd4fd-Acuna, Gris>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/04 23:25:43
Delivered Date:	2017/03/04 23:25:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Subject:	Re: Update
Date:	2017/03/15 08:34:17
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Leaving gallery place now--will be in office within 10. Will let you know then.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 8:32:09 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Subject: RE: Update

Okay- let me know when you arrive.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 8:08 AM

To: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Update

Metro is running slow, maybe due to weather. I'll advise but I may be a few minutes late.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 7:05:08 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Subject: Re: Update

See you then.

On: 15 March 2017 06:58, "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:

I have a 9:00-9:30 mtg. I could meet before 9:00, say at 8:30?

CDR Jonathan White

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 6:51:16 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Subject: Re: Update

What time are you available this am?

On: 15 March 2017 06:47, "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Heard nothing official. Maybe that was supposed to happen and affected by snow?

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 6:45:39 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Subject: Re: Update

Is this the first we are hearing about this? Did anyone tell you or Ken?

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

On: 15 March 2017 06:44, "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:

Read this carefully. Matches reports I hear.

Maybe we should expect a phone call to Ken from HHS...

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 1:59:12 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Update

Update

Monday March 13, 2017

0700

Scott Lloyd and Jose G. met with San Antonio Federal Field Staff Ruben Pelayo, Omar Corrales, Griselda Acuna, and CFS Diana M. Berrios, Jaime Maldonado,
and Mayra Lopes Nieto at ORR National Call center. Mr. Lloyd introduced himself and held a discussion concerning his new role in ORR. Mr. Lloyd stated that he will be the new ORR Director and wanted to learn as much as he could while he was in town for the site visit. He was very candid and inquired about topics from the field such as the Termination Process, transfers, and overall program related questions.

Monday March 13, 2017

0900

Met at BCFS Campus with BCFS Staff, Asennet Segura, Sonya Thompson, Scott Ollerman, and program staff. Mr. Lloyd led a very robust conversation about his
soon to be role as the new ORR Director and asked questions concerning Termination policies, guidance, and follow through from the program level and from ORR. The program proceeded to answer his questions concerning the local Termination Case of (b)(6) We
reviewed the updates and UC has decided to continue with the pregnancy and not terminate. Program Case Manager states that the change was due to a conversation with her mother and her mother's experience with an abortion at a young age in the home country.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Mom told her Daughter that she lives with guilt, and that an abortion is not the right decision because she will be bothered by her actions forever. Mom did not consent to proceed with abortion. UC decided against the procedure stating it was against their religion.

The program also provided an update concerning her reunification, (b)(5)
(b)(5)

1200 Lunch

Monday March 13, 2017

1300

Tour St Peter's and St. Joseph's Shelter

Tour and meeting with San Antonio Catholic Charities Vice President Gladis Gonzalez, Shelter staff, and local FFs.

Mr. Lloyd also held a round table discussion with 6 UAC. Mr. Lloyd's intention and goal of meeting was to ask the children about their journeys, life in
the home country, and the journey to the U.S. The kids were very talkative and felt very comfortable talking to him and shared their experiences. It was a very productive discussion with the kids as per Mr. Lloyd. The kids did a great job and spoke genuinely about their care and custody. All of the kids said they feel safe and respected at the facility.

Monday March 13, 2017

1430

Tour and UAC meeting at Seton Home Casa de Milagros for pregnant and parenting UAC.

Met with Seton Home Team for tour of the facility. Mr. Lloyd toured the program and met with the current administration, (b)(6) at Seton
home. The ladies led the tour and had a debriefing with Mr. Lloyd to discuss current pregnancy termination policy at Seton and ORR. Meeting was very productive, and Mr. Lloyd asked many questions about the pro-life philosophy of this current administration

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

and at Seton home under the Catholic Charities umbrella. He was very impressed with the overall program, services, and philosophy of the grantee.

Monday March 13, 2017

1600.

Conclude tours and debrief with Mr. Lloyd.

Tuesday March 14, 2017

0800 meet Mr. Lloyd at hotel.

0900

Met with UAC (b)(6) at the BCFS SAC. Griselda Acuna and Mr. Lloyd met alone with her for about an hour. Mr. Lloyd made some recommendations to me concerning (b)(6) stay at BCFS. This request was relayed to PD at BCFS by me and will be addressed immediately. The request was for more Honduran food, which is an easy fix because they have a Honduran cook. The other was an uncomfortable bed issue which is also an easy
fix. BCFS Regional director will address.

Tuesday March 14, 2017

1000

Mr. Lloyd, FFS J. Gonzalez, and FFS R. Pelayo met with (b)(6) who is a medically fragile case due to kidney failure. She was in great spirits and was very
happy about her care. (b)(6) provided Mr. Lloyd her incredible story of her journey to get to the USA and her troubles with her near death, due to her kidney failure. (b)(6) is very intelligent for a (b)(6) year old. She is a survivor, resilient and a champion
for herself. She continues to do very well in custody and is currently awaiting a kidney transplant. She is greatly appreciative of the help we have given her and looks like any other (b)(6) year old. She is not sad and shows no signs of being ill.

Tuesday March 14, 2017

1100

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Met with a group of six boys from BCFS shelter, Staff Secure, and Extended care. The boys answered questions about their journey and the difficult trek to get here. The boys described their desires, hopes, and dreams for their current situation and for the future. One of the boys had actually just received his high school diploma and said he would have never achieved his goals in Mexico. The UC was recruited at the age of 9 to work for the (b)(6) and now has his SIJ visa. ORR has changed his life and is so excited about his life. The young man will be enlisting in the armed service to become an engineer. UC's sister has been found, and he will be moving out of custody soon to go to his sister in California. Mr. Lloyd was very impressed with theUC's determination and equally moved by the others boys' life experiences. Overall, the meetings were very positive and educational for Mr. Lloyd.

Tuesday March 14, 2017

1200

Mr. Lloyd and myself toured the Extended care program on our way out as we hustled to get him to the airport.

Tuesday March 14, 2017

1420

Mr Lloyd left to Washington, D.C.

Jose Gonzalez, LMSW, FFS Supervisor

USDHHS-ACF-ORR-DUCO

Jose.gonzalez@acf.hhs.gov

202-631-3777

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/ucs

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 1:08 PM

To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Cc: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Subject: Fw: Update

For everyone's SA on plan for Scott in San Antonio.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 1:57:18 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Lloyd, Scott (ACF)

Subject: Re: Update

Mr. Lloyd it was great to meet via phone.

To recap our conversation.

Scott Lloyd HHS.

Arrives San Antonio today Sunday, March 12, 2017 at or about 10:30 CST.

Travel to hotel from airport is taken care of as per conversation.

Monday, March 13, 2017

0700 Jose gonzalez will pick up Scott Lloyd at hotel that will be sent to me later today.
0730

Sott Lloyd and Jose G. to meet with San Antonio field staff at ORR National Call center.

0900 meet with grantee to discuss case elevated case at BCFS San Antonio Campus.

1200 lunch with Jose.

1330. Meet with St. Pj's and Seton Home for tour if time permits and Mr. Lloyd schedule permits.

1530. Conclude tours and debrief with Mr Loyd.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Gentleman this is very rough agenda and does not take into account any of what mr. Lloyd may have on his agenda.

Mr. Lloyd we are flexible and will look for you to steer this vessel.

Safe travels sir.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 11:22:07 AM

To: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Lloyd, Scott (ACF)

Subject: Re: Update

Jose,

Also please be advised contact info for Scott is (202) (b)(6) email scott.lloyd@acf.hhs.gov.
Appears in Global as Edward Lloyd.

Jonathan

CDR Jonathan White

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 11:33:58 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Lloyd, Scott (ACF)

Subject: Re: Update

Good morning Mr. Lloyd, please let me know how I can assist. As commander White noted, I am available to pick you up and meet with the administration from
bcfs as we are all in same building.

.

I look forward to speaking to you. I am available today to discuss or meet. My direct number is 2026313777.

PS I can also recommend some great local spots for food options as I live here.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Safe travels.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 10:16:13 AM

To: Lloyd, Scott (ACF)

Cc: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Subject: Re: Update

Scott,

Looping in Jose Gonzalez, the FFS Supervisor.

Spoke with Jose, who'll be the one to meet with you tomorrow AM. He suggests AM meeting at the ORR UC National Call Center, which is centrally located to his office and BCFS. The address of the NCC is 4406 Piedras Drive West, San Antonio, Texas 78228.

Jose is also glad to pick you up at your hotel first thing tomorrow AM, which might be helpful.

Jonathan

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Lloyd, Scott (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 9:08:45 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Subject: Update

Jonathan,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I am heading to San Antonio today and will be at the BCFS facility first thing tomorrow to oversee the steps we outlined on Friday.

Please let local field staff know and inquire about the possibility of an early meeting with me tomorrow, I am thinking 07:30 CST. We could meet at my hotel (will send an update on hotel) or at a venue they suggest.

Thank you,

Scott

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/15 08:34:16
Delivered Date:	2017/03/15 08:34:17

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Holt, Lydia (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=679190009c0f4ad2b219f787dcca6a98-Holt, Lydia>"
Subject:	RE: FOR AWARENESS - BREAKING: Washington Post "Judge orders Trump administration to allow abortion for undocumented teen"
Date:	2017/10/18 18:54:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Indeed.

From: Holt, Lydia (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2017 4:55 PM
To: Lloyd, Scott (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Moreno, Mr. Pedro (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Cc: White, Laura (ACF)
Subject: FOR AWARENESS - BREAKING: Washington Post "Judge orders Trump administration to allow abortion for undocumented teen"
Importance: High

For awareness, news now breaking on today's court hearing for Garza v. Hargan:

Judge orders Trump administration to allow abortion for undocumented teen
A federal judge on Wednesday ordered the U.S. government to allow an undocumented teenager in its custody to have an abortion, after saying she was "astounded" the Trump administration was trying to prevent the procedure.
Washington Post, DC
Oct. 18, 2017

Thanks,
Lydia

Lydia A. Holt
Public Affairs Specialist
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20201
Lydia.Holt@acf.hhs.gov
202.401.9217 (W)
(b)(6) (C)

Teleworking on Mondays

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

	JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Holt, Lydia (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=679190009c0f4ad2b219f787dcca6a98-Holt, Lydia>"
Sent Date:	2017/10/18 18:54:42
Delivered Date:	2017/10/18 18:54:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Subject:	RE: Report of Significant Incident Event Number (b)(6)
Date:	2017/03/06 14:23:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

I've advised our leadership and we have begun communicating with BCFS that they will need to send the information needed to ORR Director rather than the Health Team. Stand by for changes.

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 2:12 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: FW: Report of Significant Incident Event Number (b)(6)

FYSA

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Unaccompanied Children Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

From: SAC SIRSpecialist [mailto:SACSIRSpecialist@bcfs.net]
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 1:58 PM
To: Scott Ollerman; Theresa Lowell; Tammy Phillips; ORR DHUC; Maldonado, Jaime (ACF) (CTR); ACF SIRHOTLINE (ACF); Pelayo, Ruben; (b)(6) @gdit.com; (b)(6) @gdit.com; Polen, Alexis (ACF)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Trevino; Joshua Orr; Ricardo Rodriguez; Thane Bishop; Jesse Gutierrez; Justin Vargas; Thelma E. Cantu; Sonya Thompson
Subject: Report of Significant Incident Event Number (b)(6)

The following SIR has been created in UAC Portal.

SIR Addendum BCFS HHS – ICS Emergency Shelter, San Antonio

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

UC: (b)(6)

Summary: Judicial Bypass has been approved. Currently pending ORR approval for termination.

Staff Reporting: Yasmin A. De La Rosa, APD

SAC Incident Reporting Team
BCFS
Residential Services-San Antonio Campus
7404 Hwy 90 W | San Antonio, Texas 78227
office 210.208.5639 | **fax** 210.673.5331
website www.DiscoverBCFS.net

Arizona • California • Colorado • Florida • Illinois • New York • Ohio • Oregon • Tennessee • Texas • Washington, D.C.
Africa • Eastern Europe • Latin America • Southeast Asia

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/06 14:23:56
Delivered Date:	2017/03/06 14:23:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"
CC:	"Misegades, Lara (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bb1ce43ecb18472b86f2b1dd90441103-Misegades,>"
Subject:	RE: Medical Recommendations for UC tom -
Date:	2017/03/03 21:25:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Working it now. Sorry about the delay.

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 9:25 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Misegades, Lara (ACF)
Subject: RE: Medical Recommendations for UC tom -

Thank you Shaanan.

Jonathan...we will be waiting for your guidance and direction.

Michael

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Unaccompanied Children Programs
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Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 8:59 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Misegades, Lara (ACF)
Subject: Medical Recommendations for UC tom -

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Jonathan,
As expected, the documents provided by the shelter are not helpful.
After a lengthy discussion with Michael, since the termination has bene initiated and in essence has already been accomplished with the first pill, in the best interests of the child, it would be unwise to withhold giving the dose of Cytotec in the next 24-48hrs. We have been reassured by the OB-GYN that this method, the pill method, is acceptable versus a DNC with good outcomes and minimal complications. The minor and shelter staff (there will be a nurse available ATC) have been provided with the appropriate information as to how to properly administer the medication. The program should adhere to the specific recommendations and clinical management guidelines for any anticipated complications as described in detail both in person in the clinic today and in the handouts/discharge instructions. They are notify the clinic for any complications and if instructed to go to nearest Emergency Room.

The only remaining thing to do is notify the program staff of our medical guidance. I just wanted to make sure you are on board.
Will you notify the shelter or would you like me to do so?

Shaanan

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 8:27 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Misegades, Lara (ACF)
Subject: RE: Timeline and Summary for TOP

Thank you. I appreciate all your help.

I think what will be most helpful is to know what the plan will be for the UC tomorrow.

It's fine to update me by email later.

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 8:05 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Misegades, Lara (ACF)
Subject: Timeline and Summary for TOP

Jonathan,
Please find attached timeline of events of the past week for (b)(6) (b)(6) SWK Casa Blanca as I see them and what I have in my email. I am going to eat dinner for a few minutes with (b)(6)
I have my phone on me to discuss further if you need any further clarification or need to have a conference call.

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) **(cell)**
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"; "Misegades, Lara (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bb1ce43ecb18472b86f2b1dd90441103-Misegades,>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/03 21:25:47
Delivered Date:	2017/03/03 21:25:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Subject:	RE: medical services requiring heightened ORR involvement
Date:	2017/03/09 22:13:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Setting up call for 9:30.

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 8:15 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: Re: medical services requiring heightened ORR involvement

Got it....over all guidance to programs.

Anywhere between 9-11am will work. We are currently an infirmary at the Bartholomew Household.

(b)(6)

Fun times....

So, not having gone thru this exercise with policy etc...just in unfamiliar territory.

Michae

On: 09 March 2017 19:00, "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:

I will be checking but I think in this case “something” is clarifying what requires Heightened Medical notification and what doesn’t—for example, dental extraction and physical therapy OK, transplant requires authorization, and anything related to abortion requires authorization—something like that.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Policy Team should have lead in drafting—you should be the SME informant. I will put together a call tomorrow for us to all talk it out together. When is best time for you in terms of Station Leave needs?

What was your leave request tomorrow about? I ***don't*** want to (b)(6) I have other ways to attack this problem. Let me know what's up and how I can help.

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 6:57 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: RE: medical services requiring heightened ORR involvement

Will be rescinding my leave for tomorrow…..will be requesting station leave.

I am unsure of what the "something" is…..email clarification, formal guidance…it will likely need to be broad but specific…..clear as mud.

Any idea what they are thinking?

Michael

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
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Unaccompanied Children Programs
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330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 6:05 PM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Subject: Re: medical services requiring heightened ORR involvement

Works for me. Looping in Michael B.

CDR Jonathan White
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response
(202) 690-6984 (office)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)
Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 9, 2017 6:03:36 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF)
Subject: RE: medical services requiring heightened ORR involvement

Can Policy draft something in coordination with UC Medial ASAP? We could then route to Amanda for clearance. Thanks

---

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 11:36 AM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF)
Subject: FW: medical services requiring heightened ORR involvement

See the question below. It would be very important to get clarification to programs. Some programs seem to be increasingly concerned about the non-abortion implications of the policy. I got a telephone inquiry from BCFS as well about what this meant for authorization for routine procedures which are not related to reproductive health at all.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 11:34 AM
To: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Subject: RE: medical services requiring heightened ORR involvement

Working on getting answers. My understanding is that the policy includes ***anything related to abortion procedures***, plus any intervention with potential to threaten the life of the child, and major surgical procedures.

I am looking to get clarification.

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 11:28 AM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: FW: medical services requiring heightened ORR involvement

Another program inquiry.

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Unaccompanied Children Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Mary E. Switzer Building

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) [mailto (b)(6) @kidspeace.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 10:30 AM
To: ORR DHUC; Buckley, Kirsten (ACF)
Cc: Breiner, David
Subject: medical services requiring heightened ORR involvement

Good Morning,

Thank you for the information regarding the ORR medical services requiring heightened ORR involvement memo. Kidshaven would like to ensure we are following all requirements for medical services requiring ORR written approval. Would you please provide a more definite list of services which require this action? For example: physical therapy, dental extractions, surgical procedures, abortions, extensive lab work, general anesthesia, local anesthesia, etc.

A more definitive list would provide great assistance in ensuring we are being compliant with the requirement.

Thank you for your assistance and attention to this request.

Have a great day!

(b)(6)
(b)(6) KidsPeace-KidsHaven and Community Programs
Mail: 1650 Broadway| Bethlehem, PA 18015
Phone (b)(6) 1-800-25-PEACE, ext. (b)(6)
Fax: 610-866-4404
Web: http://www.kidspeace.org/ | http://www.fostercare.com/ | http://teencentral.net/

Giving hope, help and healing to children, families and communities

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Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/09 22:13:27
Delivered Date:	2017/03/09 22:13:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Belay, Olympia (ACF) (CTR) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2ef22460343c4fab91915eb6ba3b1283-Belay, Olym>"
Subject:	Cascades Memo
Date:	2017/03/06 14:35:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Jonathan D. White
Commander, U.S. Public Health Service
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW
(202) 690-6984
jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Belay, Olympia (ACF) (CTR) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2ef22460343c4fab91915eb6ba3b1283-Belay, Olym>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/06 14:35:39
Delivered Date:	2017/03/06 14:35:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Subject:	RE: medical services requiring heightened ORR involvement
Date:	2017/03/09 22:22:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

There is no longer a DUCS Director. DUCS no longer exists. So, does that mean Jallyn, as DUCO Director (since DUCS has largely become DUCO), or you (as the senior medical official), or is it me (as now the senior official for the whole UC program)? Or should it just be the ORR Director? Totally confusing and unhelpful.

When this policy gets refreshed, which will have to happen shortly, we will have to determine the right POC. Development of the new policy and procedure is something I hope the appointed folks can provide leadership on.

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 10:19 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: RE: medical services requiring heightened ORR involvement

Who is the DUCS Director…..is that now me?

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Unaccompanied Children Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
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michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 10:18 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: RE: medical services requiring heightened ORR involvement

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sounds good..

I am not sure about the historical perspective on this but I reviewed both the 08 policy and the Serious Medical Request form and procedure.....I think there maybe some overall lapping here.....

Michael

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
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Subject: RE: medical services requiring heightened ORR involvement

Setting up call for 9:30.

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(b)(6)

Fun times....

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Michae

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 6:05 PM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF); Bartholomew,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Michael (ACF)
Subject: Re: medical services requiring heightened ORR involvement

Works for me. Looping in Michael B.

CDR Jonathan White
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response
(202) 690-6984 (office)
(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)
Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 9, 2017 6:03:36 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF)
Subject: RE: medical services requiring heightened ORR involvement

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To: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Subject: RE: medical services requiring heightened ORR involvement

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Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 11:28 AM
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Subject: FW: medical services requiring heightened ORR involvement

Another program inquiry.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Unaccompanied Children Programs
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Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) [mailto (b)(6) @kidspeace.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 10:30 AM
To: ORR DHUC; Buckley, Kirsten (ACF)
Cc: Breiner, David
Subject: medical services requiring heightened ORR involvement

Good Morning,

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Thank you for your assistance and attention to this request.

Have a great day!

(b)(6)
(b)(6) KidsPeace-KidsHaven and Community Programs
Mail: 1650 Broadway| Bethlehem, PA 18015
Phone: (b)(6) 1-800-25-PEACE, ext. (b)(6)
Fax: 610-866-4404
Web: http://www.kidspeace.org/ | http://www.fostercare.com/ | http://teencentral.net/

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/09 22:22:28
Delivered Date:	2017/03/09 22:22:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Holt, Lydia (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=679190009c0f4ad2b219f787dcca6a98-Holt, Lydia>"
Subject:	RE: CNN Inquiry
Date:	2017/03/23 12:03:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Thanks for letting me know. When we know about the travel information, I will provide confirmation or correction. Hope it's the former.

From: Holt, Lydia (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 12:01 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: Re: CNN Inquiry

(b)(5)

Best regards,
Lydia Holt
Office of Refugee Resettlement

On: 23 March 2017 11:43, "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:

Definitely just excerpt the relevant language, not the hyperlink. Sorry I was unclear.

From: Biswas, Toby R M (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 11:43 AM
To: Holt, Lydia (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Swartz, Tricia (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF)
Subject: RE: CNN Inquiry

Lydia didn't see your link but I leave it to Jonathan. I'd prefer the actual language be included since 2.8.2 covers a lot - not just the non-payment issue.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Toby R. M. Biswas, ESQ.
Unaccompanied Children Policy Supervisor

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Office of the Director – Division of Policy and Procedures

(202) 205-4440 (O)
(301) (b)(6) (C)
(202) 401-1022 (F)

From: Holt, Lydia (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 11:37 AM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Biswas, Toby R M (ACF); Swartz, Tricia (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF)
Subject: Re: CNN Inquiry

The response below includes the link to section 2.8.2 in the policy guide. Are you suggesting pulling specific language and making it top level in the response?

Best regards,
Lydia Holt
Office of Refugee Resettlement

On: 23 March 2017 11:27, "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:

(b)(5)

From: Biswas, Toby R M (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 11:18 AM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Swartz, Tricia (ACF); Holt, Lydia (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF)
Subject: RE: CNN Inquiry

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Toby R. M. Biswas, ESQ.
Unaccompanied Children Policy Supervisor

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Office of the Director – Division of Policy and Procedures

(202) 205-4440 (O)
(301) (b)(5) (C)
(202) 401-1022 (F)

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 11:16 AM
To: Swartz, Tricia (ACF); Holt, Lydia (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Biswas, Toby R M (ACF); Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF)
Subject: RE: CNN Inquiry

Thank you

From: Swartz, Tricia (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 10:51 AM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Holt, Lydia (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Biswas, Toby R M (ACF); Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF)
Subject: RE: CNN Inquiry

Sure, we can add this to the list of questions about the background/immigration status checks. Jim and team are looking into the files.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 10:43 AM
To: Holt, Lydia (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Biswas, Toby R M (ACF); Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF); Swartz, Tricia (ACF)
Subject: RE: CNN Inquiry

+Tricia.

Are we able to determine if the provider paid for travel for reunification in this case? If so, that would be responsive to Lydia's question from CNN.

Jonathan

From: Holt, Lydia (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 10:33 AM
To: Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Biswas, Toby R M (ACF); Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF)
Cc: White, Jonathan (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Subject: CNN Inquiry
Importance: High

Hi all,

Please review the inquiry and determine what the response should be in this specific case.

Did ORR pay transportation cost in this case?

I am working via cell on this so please excuse any errors.

Subject: unaccompanied children transportation costs

Deadline: March 23, 2017

Spokesperson: ACF

Query: I'm working on the story regarding (b)(6) **He is the 18 year old who is now** (b)(6) **MD and was previously picked up by border patrol in Texas and detained by ORR for 12 days on August 14th 2016. It's our understanding from** (b)(6) **lawyers that he was reunited with his family in Maryland after being released, taking a flight to Baltimore from Texas. ICE has told us that ORR took part in reuniting** (b)(6) **with his family in Maryland. I was hoping for some more information on how this played out. Did ORR arrange the flight to Baltimore? Was it a charter or paid flight? Or did his family pay for the flight? Any info is greatly appreciated.**

Proposed Response:

(b)(5)

Best regards,
Lydia Holt
Office of Refugee Resettlement

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Recipient:	"Holt, Lydia (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=679190009c0f4ad2b219f787dcca6a98-Holt, Lydia>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/23 12:03:38
Delivered Date:	2017/03/23 12:03:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Kevin Dinnin (kdinnin@bcfs.net)"
CC:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Subject:	Follow up on our conversation of this afternoon/requirements for UC at BCFS San Antonio requesting abortion procedure
Date:	2017/03/06 15:31:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Kevin,

Pursuant to our conversation today, please have BCFS provide to the Acting Director of ORR Ken Tota (Kenneth.Tota@acf.hhs.gov) with an informational document regarding the request by the UC at BCFS San Antonio abortion procedure which specifies:

- The request made by the UC
- A full copy of the Judicial Bypass, if any
- Communication regarding whether BCFS requests Federal funding for the procedure
- Disclosure of all steps BCFS and any third parties took to facilitate acquisition of the judicial bypass
- Information on the procedural history of the Judicial Bypass, including if there were prior requests (this information may follow the initial information if not yet available)
- The name and A# of the requesting child

ORR will also review case notes and medical information on the child in the UAC Portal.

We will request additional information as determined necessary.

(b)(5)

Information related to this UC request should be routed directly to the Director of ORR. Communications with the ORR Medical Team should be solely focused on medical information rather than legal or policy questions or issues of authorization.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

If there are questions or concerns, please let me know.

Jonathan

Jonathan D. White
Commander, U.S. Public Health Service
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW
(202) 690-6984
jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Kevin Dinnin (kdinnin@bcfs.net)"; "Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/06 15:31:59
Delivered Date:	2017/03/06 15:31:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Acuna, Griselda (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8c83ee08f90d454dba24118c12fbd4fd-Acuna, Gris>"
Subject:	RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital
Date:	2017/03/04 23:35:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

I am waiting for confirmation that she should return to SWK. Sorry about the delay. Stand by.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 11:33 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

The minor has been discharge from the hospital with no medication and in the lobby with swk staff.

How do you want me to proceed?

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 10:25:43 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Copy.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 11:25 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

As stated by the physician, it is ok to continue with the medication to terminate the pregnancy.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 10:21:16 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Just one clarification: when Dr. (b)(6) stated that the minor will be safe if it is less than 12 weeks, could you clarify? Safe as in "the medication regimen for the medical abortion procedure will be safe for her up until the twelfth week of gestation"? Just want to make sure I understood your email.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 11:18 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Dr. (b)(6) stated that the minor will be safe if it is less than 12 weeks.

I also spoke with the minor and she wants to continue with terminating her pregnancy.

Please advise.

Thank you.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 10:07:40 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thanks. I think the important thing is to understand if the minor still requests an abortion, based on information from the doctor.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 11:03 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Yes, sir.

I will ask the physician and I will in form you.

Thank you.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 9:56:19 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Griselda,

I am advised to ask you:

(b)(5)

Can you have this discussion?

Jonathan

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 10:51 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thank you. We will be in the lobby.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 9:49:05 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Stand by. We will advise next steps momentarily.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 10:48 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Nurse is here and providing discharge documents.

Please advise.

Thank you!

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 9:37:12 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Dr. (b)(6) just informed me that as per the ultrasound results, the fetus has a heart beat and is 9 weeks and 1 day.
The medication did not cause spontaneous abortion. The risk is pretty small and there are no signs of miscarriage. (b)(6) may be cramping and vital signs are fine. We are waiting for doctor's documents for release.

What would you like for me to do next?

Thank you!

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 8:57:39 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

You are welcome, Sir.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 8:55:59 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thank you. I am really glad that you are the one there with her in this situation.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 9:55 PM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

(b)(6) is doing well and calm. She also reported a small blood stain.

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 8:51:29 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thank you Griselda.

How is (b)(6) doing?

Thank you.

On: 04 March 2017 21:49, "Acuna, Griselda (ACF)" <Griselda.Acuna@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

7:53pm-8:30pm cst.
The ultrasound was completed by Ultrasound Technician (b)(6) She stated that the ultrasound results will be submitted to the radiologist/doctor and they will let us know as soon as possible.

Thank you.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:55:36 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Copy.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:49:04 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Stand by. Ken is working to obtain a POC from HHS leadership to refer attorneys to.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 8:32 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Email from Geraldo Rivera.

Hi Jose-

Thanks for taking my call-

As I stated on the call, the attorney ad litem for the client (b)(6) has a court order for release of information (court # and Case #) from the client's file.

We have advised the attorney Deana Whitley to contact Griselda Ocuna the local federal field specialist who is the local ORR representative and can guide the process and advise the program.

Ms. Whitley did say she has the court order in hand and wants to personally deliver in order to move forward.

The attorney's information:

DEANNA L. WHITLEY

Locust Street Professional Building
206 E. Locust
San Antonio, Texas 78212
Telephone (210) 679-2610
Telecopier (210) 224-0075

MAILING ADDRESS:
2206 E. Commerce Street
San Antonio, Texas 78203

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

www.whitleylawfirmpc.com

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:30:57 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

All will be sending contact information for attorney who is upset and is demanding we release her the court case # and other information from the file.
She informed Geraldo Rivera over a call about thirty minutes. .

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:12:21 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

thanks

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 8:12 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

We continue to wait for the ultrasound. Patient access representative (b)(6) came in the room and requested signatures for intake paperwork.

Thank you.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 6:29:28 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Copy.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 7:28 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

You are welcome, Sir.

Swk Casa Blanca medical coordinator and clinician are waiting in the lobby.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 6:25:15 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thank you. I appreciate your keeping us in the loop.

CDR Jonathan White
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response
(202) 690-6984 (office)
(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)
Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:24:38 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

I am here with the minor in one of the ER rooms and Dr. (b)(6) asked the minor if she is in pain. The minor said her stomach pain was very little.

Dr. (b)(6) stated that they are going to perform an ultrasound and the results will be reviewed by the on call obstetrician.

Thank you.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:37:46 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thank you.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:37 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Will do.

The nurse is taking her vitals at this presnt time. Minor is doing well and reports that she does not have any pain.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:35:47 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Griselda,

Please keep us updated as things develop in the hospital. And let us know anything you may need.

Jonathan

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:26 PM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Copy.

Thank you.

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:25:46 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

SWK can complete the intake.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:23 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Copy.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:22 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

She is here.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:19:28 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Michael has finished speaking with the hospital. They are able to assess the status of the pregnancy via ultrasound. They are not set up to take any actions to complete the evacuation of contents if the ultrasound determines there is no fetal life, but Michael conveyed that ORR could arrange to transfer her elsewhere to take those steps if the abortion is already complete.

So the hospital can receive the UC for ultrasound and exam.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:06 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Copy. Thanks.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:05 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

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Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

She is not here yet.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:04:23 PM
To: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Has the girl yet arrived at the hospital?
Michael is calling the doctor back.

From: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:00 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Hi Griselda. I suggest answering this after the girl arrives and the hospital presents specific documents to sign. They might not need anything other than the letter from HQ.

Jsd

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:57:23 PM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Understood.

Does SWK needs to complete the hospital intake paperwork?

Please advise.

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 4:52:33 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

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Let me know if confirmation as the Acting Director is needed in any way.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 5:48 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Michael is calling ER doc. Stand by.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 5:46 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

I'm here at the ER. SWK Casa Blanca Medical Coordinator contacted me that they are on their way.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 4:38:50 PM
To: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

I made a mistake when I said 5PM our time. I meant 6PM Eastern, 5PM Central.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 5:38 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Hello Ladies and gentleman is there a POC we can ask for?

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 3:54:49 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

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Attached please find the materials for Griselda to present at the hospital.

Michael is calling hospital now.

The hospital is (b)(6) located at (b)(6)
(b)(6)

ER Telephone Number (b)(6) Michael will call ER. He will need approx. an hour to make call so the child should not arrive before 5PM our time.

Griselda, can you advise when you can be at the hospital with these printed materials?

Ken is contacting Southwest Key.

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 4:47 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Barlow, Amanda (ACF)
Subject: Acting ORR Director Memo, 2008 medical policy, Tota ACF ID

Jonathan,

Attached are documents the Federal Field Specialist can present at the hospital, if needed.

Maggie

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Acuna, Griselda (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8c83ee08f90d454dba24118c12fbd4fd-Acuna, Gris>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/04 23:35:09
Delivered Date:	2017/03/04 23:35:00

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Misegades, Lara (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bb1ce43ecb18472b86f2b1dd90441103-Misegades,>"
Subject:	RE: Heads up: UC requesting pregnancy termination
Date:	2017/03/24 12:57:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note.SMIME

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Misegades, Lara (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bb1ce43ecb18472b86f2b1dd90441103-Misegades,>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/24 12:57:47
Delivered Date:	2017/03/24 12:57:00

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Davis, Gregory (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=47b15d866d8040ed839cdfd5c2b7cb89-Davis, Greg>"
Subject:	Draft COOP MEF from OHSEPR
Date:	2017/03/16 15:30:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Per our conversation today, I am attaching the Business Continuity Plan I drafted for OHSEPR's Disaster Human Services Mission Essential Function in 2015. This may be helpful to you in beginning to think through a BCP for the UC Program MEF.

Jonathan D. White
Commander, U.S. Public Health Service
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW
(202) 690-6984
jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Davis, Gregory (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=47b15d866d8040ed839cdfd5c2b7cb89-Davis, Greg>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/16 15:30:05
Delivered Date:	2017/03/16 15:30:00

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Cochran, Gary (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=471b3e44d93a4acdb6ce655189aa4c84-Cochran, Ga>"
Subject:	RE: SOW and IGCE for the MITRE Contract
Date:	2017/03/16 15:56:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Gary,

The most recent documents I have in these areas for that contract are attached. Let me know if these meet your needs.

Jonathan

From: Cochran, Gary (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 3:20 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: SOW and IGCE for the MITRE Contract

Hi Jonathan,

I was looking though the files you gave me for the MITRE contract, and I know see the SOW and the IGCE in my folder. Can you forwarded me these two documents, if you can locate them.

Thank you,
Gary Cochran
FAC-COR Level III, FAC-P/PM Level II
(ACF) Office of Chief Information Officer (OCIO)
Office (202) 401-6465, Cell (202) (b)(6)

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Cochran, Gary (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=471b3e44d93a4acdb6ce655189aa4c84-Cochran, Ga>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/16 15:56:31
Delivered Date:	2017/03/16 15:56:00

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Subject:	RE: SAC: Process on termination: (b)(6)
Date:	2017/03/06 16:34:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Please forward to Ken and cc me.

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 4:34 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: FW: SAC: Process on termination: (b)(6)
Importance: High

How would you like us to respond?

Can I forward the Ken email to this individual?

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Unaccompanied Children Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 4:31 PM
To: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Subject: FW: SAC: Process on termination: (b)(6)
Importance: High

How would you like me to respond?

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From: Polen, Alexis (ACF)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 4:29 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Cc: Valdez, Erika (ACF); Viola, Sarah (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Misegades, Lara (ACF); Irizarry, Tamara (ACF) (CTR)
Subject: FW: SAC: Process on termination: (b)(6)
Importance: High

Good Afternoon,

BCFS San Antonio has a UC in care who is seeking to terminate her pregnancy. Please see the attached SIR and the relevant addendums therein. FFS Erika Valdez and I are asking for guidance on the following:

1. How does the grantee obtain written authorization from the ORR Director? Should the PO / FFS initiate a memo and circulate it for signature through their supervisors?
2. Can / should the grantee initiate the process of Requesting Federal Funds for Pregnancy Termination prior to receiving authorization?

Please note that a judge approved the UC's Judicial Bypass application on 3/3/2017.

Thank you,

Alexis Polen

Project Officer
Division of Unaccompanied Children Operations
Office of Refugee Resettlement
330 C Street SW
Mailroom 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Office: (202) 401-6499
Cellphone: (202) (b)(6)

From: Yasmin De La Rosa [mailto:ydelarosa@bcfs.net]
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 2:14 PM
To: Valdez, Erika (ACF)
Cc: Pelayo, Ruben; Thane Bishop; Polen, Alexis (ACF); Jesse Gutierrez
Subject: RE: SAC: Process on termination: (b)(6)

Thank you Erika. Please see the last addendum attached. The minor does not wish to inform her mother or sponsor of her wishes to terminate. We are currently working with the same sponsor but it is unknown how committed she is to go through with the reunification process.
Also, per our meeting, it was discussed that it had already been submitted to ORR for request of funds. Please let me know if I need re-send that request.

Thank you,

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Yasmin A. De La Rosa, MS, LCCA – Associate Program Director
BCFS Health and Human Services
Residential Services Division- San Antonio Campus
7404 West US Highway 90 | San Antonio, Texas 78227
office (210) 674.3010 | **fax** (210) 673.5331
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Corporate Website: www.BCFS.net
Program Website: www.DiscoverBCFS.net

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From: Valdez, Erika (ACF) [mailto:Erika.Valdez@acf.hhs.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 12:17 PM
To: Yasmin De La Rosa <ydelarosa@bcfs.net>
Cc: Pelayo, Ruben <Ruben.Pelayo@acf.hhs.gov>; Thane Bishop <(b)(6)@bcfs.net>; Alexis Polen <Alexis.polen@acf.hhs.gov>
Subject: Chavaneaux: Process on termination: (b)(6)

Yasmin,

Perfect! Please attach the SIR to include any updated medical information in reference to minor.

Please also confirm as to whether or not she informed her sponsor of her desire to terminate and ensure that this information is included in the SIR and/or addendum. It is to the best of my understanding, as we discussed in the meeting referencing this minor, that she informed her mother in home country, however, had not discussed her desire with her sponsor and would be confirmed by you all upon her arrival.

Please ensure to follow the SIR requirements:

CARE PROVIDER

1) **IMMEDIATELY, BUT NO LATER THAN FOUR (4) HOURS** after a UC requests to terminate her pregnancy, completes an *SIR* following procedures in ➔ **ORR Ops Guide, Section 5.7.3 Significant Incidents** and copies the Medical Team at **DCSMedical@acf.hhs.gov** on the *SIR* notification. The *SIR* must include the following information:

   - Current gestational age of the pregnancy
   - Any known complications identified by the medical professional

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- Date of the request for termination of pregnancy and to whom the request was made
- The name and location of the clinic, hospital, or office where the pregnancy termination will occur
- Whether parental consent or notification was made, or whether a judicial bypass has been or will be sought, if required under state law (the disbursement of federal funds will be contingent on meeting the requirement of state law)
- Reason why federal funds are being requested, if applicable
- Nature of urgent request (e.g., the termination procedure needs to occur within 48 hours), if applicable
- Any other relevant information
- If any of this information is not available, the care provider will note in the *SIR* what information is pending and when the information is expected to be available. Missing information must be documented in an *SIR Addendum* immediately upon receipt.

NOTE: If the care provider is unable to coordinate pregnancy termination services or services are unavailable in the region, the care provider must immediately notify the FFS. In coordination with the FFS, the care provider must initiate a transfer to a care provider that is able to coordinate services and that is located in a region where services are available following transfer procedures in ➔ **ORR Ops Guide, Section 1.2 Transfers within the ORR Care Provider Network.**

2) Makes parental notification, seeks parental consent, or seeks a judicial bypass, as required under state law. Care provider should seek the assistance of the legal service provider or attorney of record during this process.

2) After submitting the *SIR*, responds to requests from ORR for information and updates as soon as possible, but within four (4) hours of the request.

3) Consults with the Medical Team to immediately schedule the appropriate consultations with medical providers and the pregnancy termination procedure. The pregnancy termination procedure must be scheduled to occur no sooner than 72 hours after submission of the *SIR*. This should happen concurrently with the process to request federal funds for the pregnancy termination including obtaining a *Physician's Certification*, if applicable (see below).

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4) Makes arrangements to transport the UC to the pregnancy termination procedure.

5) Submits *SIR Addendums* and adds documentation in the UC Portal Medical Module as appropriate.

Requesting Federal Funding for a Pregnancy Termination

Federal funds are available to pay for an abortion if:

- • The pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest; or
- • In the case where a woman suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness, including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself, that would, as certified by a physician, place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed.

CARE PROVIDER

WITHIN 24 HOURS of determining the termination would qualify for federal funding, sends an email notification to the Medical Team, with a copy to the FFS and CFS, as follows:

☒ **To:**	Medical Team FFS and CFS
Cc:	"Request for Federal Funds for Pregnancy Termination"
Subject Line:	• UC's name and A # • Reason why federal funds are being requested: ○ An act of rape ○ An act of incest ○ Life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself, that would place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed • Any other relevant information
Body:	
Attachments:	• *SIR* • *SIR Addendums* • Signed *Understanding Your Options* handout • Clinical notes (if requesting federal funds for an act of rape or incest) • *Physician's Certification* (if requesting federal funds for a life-endangering physical condition)

☒

URGENT REQUESTS FOR A FEDERALLY-FUNDED PREGNANCY TERMINATION

If the request is urgent (e.g., the termination procedure needs to occur within 48

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hours), the care provider must send the above notification **IMMEDIATELY** upon determining the termination would qualify for federal funding. ORR will expedite the approval process for pregnancy termination using federal funds for urgent requests.

After the SIR is completed please complete this information in body of the email:

Background

Minor's Age

Date of birth

Country of Origin

Date first came into ORR/DCS Custody

Program Name and date of arrival at First Program in ORR Care

Program Name and date of arrival at Second Program in ORR Care (if applicable)

When was information first disclosed and to whom (at previous program if available and current program)?

When was the approximate date of the sexual assault?

What are her wishes regarding the pregnancy?

Does she wish to inform her family?

Steps taken while at the current program to address her pregnancy and her wishes to terminate the pregnancy (medical appointments, what was discussed in those appointments, how far along she is, what her options are, her meeting with the attorney, steps to be taken by the attorney, recommendations of the provider, decision made by the minor after being informed, cost of the procedure, timeline and recommendations for the procedure from the doctor)

Reunification Options

The background information is already included in the SIR from the previous shelter, however, as discussed, some of the information provided did not coincide with the information she provided when residing at BCFS, as per BCFS report.

Please clarify the following in the SIR Addendum:

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Is Aunt still sponsoring?

Did she inform Aunt of desire to terminate?

Does minor still wish to terminate?

And follow the policy guidance provided above. Upon completion, please provide the SIR and I will follow up accordingly to proceed with the process.

Please feel free to inform me if any additional guidance is needed from my behalf.

Blessings,

Erika Valdez
Federal Field Specialist
USDHHS|ACF|ORR|DUCO
202.480.3416
erika.valdez@acf.hhs.gov
http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/usc

From: Yasmin De La Rosa [mailto:ydelarosa@bcfs.net]
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 12:07 PM
To: Valdez, Erika (ACF)
Cc: Pelayo, Ruben; Thane Bishop
Subject: RE: Process on termination

Yes, it was

Yasmin A. De La Rosa, MS, LCCA – Associate Program Director
BCFS Health and Human Services
Residential Services Division- San Antonio Campus
7404 West US Highway 90 | San Antonio, Texas 78227
office (210) 674.3010 | **fax** (210) 673.5331
direct (210) 283.5853 | **cell** (210) (b)(6)
Corporate Website: www.BCFS.net
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From: Valdez, Erika (ACF)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 11:01 AM
To: 'Yasmin De La Rosa'
Cc: Pelayo, Ruben; Thane Bishop
Subject: RE: Process on termination

Hi Yasmin,

Was an SIR generated after the minor arrived to your shelter confirming her desire to terminate?

Erika Valdez
Federal Field Specialist
USDHHS|ACF|ORR|DUCO
202.480.3416

From: Yasmin De La Rosa [mailto:ydelarosa@bcfs.net]
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 10:57 AM
To: Valdez, Erika (ACF)
Cc: Pelayo, Ruben; Thane Bishop
Subject: Process on termination

Hello Erika, Ruben is out today and I wanted to see if you knew where we are at on ORR approval for the procedure for the termination. I believe that Seton Home submitted the request and we need to obtain the director's signature before proceeding with appointments. Please let me know if you can how we will receive the approval.
Thank you!

Yasmin A. De La Rosa, MS, LCCA – Associate Program Director
BCFS Health and Human Services
Residential Services Division- San Antonio Campus
7404 West US Highway 90 | San Antonio, Texas 78227
office (210) 674.3010 | **fax** (210) 673.5331
direct (210) 283.5853 | **cell** (210) (b)(6)
Corporate Website: www.BCFS.net
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Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/06 16:34:36
Delivered Date:	2017/03/06 16:34:00

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"
Subject:	do you happen to have a copy of the Judicial Bypass?
Date:	2017/03/05 00:14:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

If so, please email to me. If not, please advise.

If you don't see this til Sunday AM, fine to answer then.

Jonathan D. White
Commander, U.S. Public Health Service
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW
(202) 690-6984
jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/05 00:14:17
Delivered Date:	2017/03/05 00:14:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Misegades, Lara (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bb1ce43ecb18472b86f2b1dd90441103-Misegades,>"
CC:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Subject:	FW: Heads up: positive pregnancy test in UC
Date:	2017/03/21 10:24:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Lara,
Since you're covering for Michael, this is just FYSA that I've elevated for leadership's awareness.
Jonathan

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 9:14 AM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Lloyd, Scott (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Subject: Heads up: positive pregnancy test in UC

Ken &Scott,

Just wanted to advise you that the DHUC medical team forwarded received a medical SIR on a positive urine pregnancy test for a 16yo UC (test results yesterday). The UC is at Southwest Key Las Palmas in Mesa, AZ.

A few key facts:

- Per UC report, she has not experienced sexual assault either in transit or in home country.
- The plan is to hold two family sessions for the purpose of notifying the client's mother of her pregnancy.
- There are no other requests or concerns indicated at the time.

The Medical SIR description is as follows:

On 03/20/2017 at the 12:49 p.m. Lead Medical disclosed to the assigned Clinician that the client result of the pregnancy test was positive.
Later on, the clinician assessed the client in order to explore mental health concern related to the data revealed in the Significant Incident
Report by Medical Department. The client mentioned that she was sexuality active in COO. The client added that her previous sexual
activities were consented by her. The client denied being a victim of sexual assault in Honduras or during her journey. The client also
verbalized that she felt weird and nervous due to his pregnancy. The client mentioned that she was surprised to know that she was pregnant.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The client indicated that her last menstrual cycle was on February 22 and she was not mindful or suspicion of her pregnancy. During the interview, the client appears to be stable. The client was oriented to person, place, situation, and time. The client was alert, her eye contact was good, and her facial expression was reasonable. Her attitude and behavior during the session were appropriate and cooperative. She was very communicative and receptive. The client overall appearance was acceptable. The client exhibits an anxious affect. Her speech was normal rate and normal tonal variation; the voice was appropriate volume. The thought process was goal-directed. Her association was intact. She also denied suicide or homicide ideas. Her fund of knowledge is good, similarities are intact and intelligence level is estimated to be normal. There not any mental concern at this moment. Jennifer M. Matos-Ramos, PhD Clinician 03/20/2017 Two family session would be conducted with the purpose to inform client's pregnancy to her mother and discussed the safety plan with the sponsor. A safety plan will be completed in order to address the actual condition of the client regarding her pregnancy and well-being. The clinician will follow-up with the client in the individual session or as needed.

Please advise any next steps, if any, you would require.

Jonathan

Jonathan D. White
Commander, U.S. Public Health Service
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW
(202) 690-6984
jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Misegades, Lara (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bb1ce43ecb18472b86f2b1dd90441103-Misegades,>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/21 10:24:05
Delivered Date:	2017/03/21 10:24:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"
Subject:	Re: do you happen to have a copy of the Judicial Bypass?
Date:	2017/03/05 00:24:17
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Disregard. SWK is sending a copy in the morning.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2017 12:20:44 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

Subject: Re: do you happen to have a copy of the Judicial Bypass?

Hi Jonathan

I don't recall seeing a copy of the judicial bypass since the program was not seeking federal funds. It is possible that the program might have a copy.

Is that correct, Shaanan?

On: 05 March 2017 00:14, "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:

If so, please email to me. If not, please advise.

If you don't see this til Sunday AM, fine to answer then.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Jonathan D. White

Commander, U.S. Public Health Service

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

330 C Street SW

(202) 690-6984

jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/05 00:24:15
Delivered Date:	2017/03/05 00:24:17

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Subject:	FW: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital
Date:	2017/03/05 00:40:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

FYI. You should be receiving the discharge paperwork from SWK.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 11:44 PM
To: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

As per the Dr.'s discharge paperwork.

Additional instructions:
"She in conjuction with her caregivers, will need to decide what the next step is"
"She should consult with the clinic where she was seen on Monday to determine future options"

Have a good night.

From: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 10:29:45 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

I have one question if OK to ask. Does the Dr have any new recommendations to provide based on current information?

Jsd

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 11:25:27 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

As stated by the physician, it is ok to continue with the medication to terminate the pregnancy.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 10:21:16 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Just one clarification: when Dr. (b)(6) stated that the minor will be safe if it is less than 12 weeks, could you clarify? Safe as in "the medication regimen for the medical abortion procedure will be safe for her up until the twelfth week of gestation"? Just want to make sure I understood your email.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 11:18 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Dr. (b)(6) stated that the minor will be safe if it is less than 12 weeks.

I also spoke with the minor and she wants to continue with terminating her pregnancy.

Please advise.

Thank you.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 10:07:40 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thanks. I think the important thing is to understand if the minor still requests an abortion, based on information from the doctor.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 11:03 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Yes, sir.

I will ask the physician and I will in form you.

Thank you.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 9:56:19 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Griselda,

I am advised to ask you:

(b)(5)

Can you have this discussion?

Jonathan

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 10:51 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thank you. We will be in the lobby.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 9:49:05 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Stand by. We will advise next steps momentarily.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 10:48 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Nurse is here and providing discharge documents.

Please advise.

Thank you!

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 9:37:12 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Dr. (b)(6) just informed me that as per the ultrasound results, the fetus has a heart beat and is 9 weeks and 1 day.
The medication did not cause spontaneous abortion. The risk is pretty small and there are no signs of miscarriage. (b)(6) may be cramping and vital signs are fine. We are waiting for doctor's documents for release.

What would you like for me to do next?

Thank you!

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 8:57:39 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

You are welcome, Sir.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 8:55:59 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thank you. I am really glad that you are the one there with her in this situation.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 9:55 PM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

(b)(6) is doing well and calm. She also reported a small blood stain.

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 8:51:29 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thank you Griselda.

How is (b)(6) doing?

Thank you.

On: 04 March 2017 21:49, "Acuna, Griselda (ACF)" <Griselda.Acuna@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

7:53pm-8:30pm cst.
The ultrasound was completed by Ultrasound Technician (b)(6) She stated that the ultrasound results will be submitted to the radiologist/doctor and they will let us know as soon as possible.

Thank you.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:55:36 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Copy.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:49:04 PM
To: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Stand by. Ken is working to obtain a POC from HHS leadership to refer attorneys to.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 8:32 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Email from Geraldo Rivera.

Hi Jose-

Thanks for taking my call-

As I stated on the call, the attorney ad litem for the client (b)(6) has a court order for release of information (court # and Case #) from the client's file.

We have advised the attorney Deana Whitley to contact Griselda Ocuna the local federal field specialist who is the local ORR representative and can guide the process and advise the program.

Ms. Whitley did say she has the court order in hand and wants to personally deliver in order to move forward.

The attorney's information:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

DEANNA L. WHITLEY

Locust Street Professional Building
206 E. Locust
San Antonio, Texas 78212
Telephone (210) 679-2610
Telecopier (210) 224-0075

MAILING ADDRESS:
2206 E. Commerce Street
San Antonio, Texas 78203

www.whitleylawfirmpc.com

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:30:57 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

All will be sending contact information for attorney who is upset and is demanding we release her the court case # and other information from the file.
She informed Geraldo Rivera over a call about thirty minutes. .

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:12:21 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

thanks

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 8:12 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

We continue to wait for the ultrasound. Patient access representative Richard came in the room and requested signatures for intake paperwork.

Thank you.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 6:29:28 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Copy.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 7:28 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

You are welcome, Sir.

Swk Casa Blanca medical coordinator and clinician are waiting in the lobby.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 6:25:15 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thank you. I appreciate your keeping us in the loop.

CDR Jonathan White
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response
(202) 690-6984 (office)
(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)
Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:24:38 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

I am here with the minor in one of the ER rooms and Dr. (b)(6) asked the minor if she is in pain. The minor said her stomach pain was very little.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Dr. (b)(6) stated that they are going to perform an ultrasound and the results will be reviewed by the on call obstetrician.

Thank you.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:37:46 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thank you.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:37 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Will do.

The nurse is taking her vitals at this presnt time. Minor is doing well and reports that she does not have any pain.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:35:47 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Griselda,

Please keep us updated as things develop in the hospital. And let us know anything you may need.

Jonathan

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:26 PM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Copy.

Thank you.

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:25:46 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

SWK can complete the intake.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:23 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Copy.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:22 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

She is here.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:19:28 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Michael has finished speaking with the hospital. They are able to assess the status of the pregnancy via ultrasound. They are not set up to take any actions to complete the evacuation of contents if the ultrasound determines there is no fetal life, but Michael conveyed that ORR could arrange to transfer her elsewhere to take those steps if the abortion is already complete.

So the hospital can receive the UC for ultrasound and exam.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:06 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Copy. Thanks.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:05 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

She is not here yet.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:04:23 PM
To: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Has the girl yet arrived at the hospital?
Michael is calling the doctor back.

From: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:00 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Hi Griselda. I suggest answering this after the girl arrives and the hospital presents specific documents to sign. They might not need anything other than the letter from HQ.

Jsd

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:57:23 PM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Understood.

Does SWK needs to complete the hospital intake paperwork?

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Please advise.

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 4:52:33 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Let me know if confirmation as the Acting Director is needed in any way.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 5:48 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Michael is calling ER doc. Stand by.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 5:46 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

I'm here at the ER. SWK Casa Blanca Medical Coordinator contacted me that they are on their way.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 4:38:50 PM
To: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

I made a mistake when I said 5PM our time. I meant 6PM Eastern, 5PM Central.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 5:38 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Hello Ladies and gentleman is there a POC we can ask for?

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 3:54:49 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Attached please find the materials for Griselda to present at the hospital.

Michael is calling hospital now.

The hospital is (b)(6) located at (b)(6), (b)(6)

ER Telephone Number 210 (b)(6) Michael will call ER. He will need approx. an hour to make call so the child should not arrive before 5PM our time.

Griselda, can you advise when you can be at the hospital with these printed materials?

Ken is contacting Southwest Key.

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 4:47 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Barlow, Amanda (ACF)
Subject: Acting ORR Director Memo, 2008 medical policy, Tota ACF ID

Jonathan,

Attached are documents the Federal Field Specialist can present at the hospital, if needed.

Maggie

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/05 00:40:42
Delivered Date:	2017/03/05 00:40:00

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Holt, Lydia (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=679190009c0f4ad2b219f787dcca6a98-Holt, Lydia>"; "Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
CC:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
Subject:	RE: FOR AWARENESS: 2 Rockville High students charged with rape after brutal bathroom assault
Date:	2017/03/21 14:04:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

I am comfortable with the response and information on background.

From: Holt, Lydia (ACF)
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 2:01 PM
To: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Cc: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: RE: FOR AWARENESS: 2 Rockville High students charged with rape after brutal bathroom assault

I need this to be reviewed as soon as possible as the deadline to this reporter is today. 3:30 or sooner would be best.

From: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 1:53 PM
To: Holt, Lydia (ACF)
Cc: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: RE: FOR AWARENESS: 2 Rockville High students charged with rape after brutal bathroom assault

Hi Lydia-

Do you need ORR leadership to approve anything right now?

From: Holt, Lydia (ACF)
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 1:34 PM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Swartz, Tricia (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF); Biswas, Toby R M (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Brown, Anastasia (ACF); Viola, Sarah (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Acker Housman, Stephanie (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: FOR AWARENESS: 2 Rockville High students charged with rape after brutal bathroom assault
Importance: High

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Hi All,

As I anticipated we have received an inquiry from the Washington Post.

Media inquiry came in to ASPA from Washington Post (Maria Sacchetti) asking about UC; story ran today but did not mention these individuals as UC (Suspect in rape at Maryland school was stopped 7 months ago by Border Patrol); her deadline is TODAY.

As of yesterday, we were not able to locate these two names in the UC portal. Henry Sanchez has an additional name of **Milian which was not identify earlier and Jose O. Montano has a birthdate of 11/18/1999 which is additional info we did not have on yesterday.** Can we confirm that they were not UC in ORR custody?

Query:
I'm trying to find out what happened in the cases of Jose o. Montano 11/18/1999 of El Salvador and Henry E. Sanchez Milian, 18, of Guatemala, who have been accused in this case. ICE says they didn't release them. They're both charged as adults, and Henry, of course, is an adult. I'm trying to find out why HHS released them, how they got into your custody, (if they did) and what checks are in place to background them and their sponsors. Does HHS require the sponsor to take out a formal guardianship in court before handing them over? And does anyone monitor them?

Proposed Response:

(b)(5)

ON BACKGROUND –

Children without parents or other legal guardians apprehended at U.S. borders by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) are transferred to the care and custody of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). ORR is legally required to provide for the care and custody of all unaccompanied children referred to ORR until they are released to the appropriate sponsor, usually a relative, while their immigration cases are adjudicated.

Children referred to ORR receive a comprehensive assessment that includes evaluation of any known criminal history, prior acts of violence, or gang involvement. ORR also considers whether the child is a danger to self, danger to the community, or a risk of flight when making placement decisions. Each child is assigned placement in the most appropriate facility in the least restrictive setting in the child's best interest.

Children assessed to be a danger to themselves or others may receive a heightened level of staff supervision in more restrictive facilities with services designed to protect their safety, others and the community in which they are housed. Less than one half of one percent of children are placed in secure facilities (.3 percent in FY15 and .1% in FY16), and only a portion of that small percentage are placed due to gang involvement.

ORR also uses enhanced safety protocols when determining whether to release a child to a potential sponsor, and does not release children considered to be a threat to the community. There is a robust pre-screening process for potential sponsors that requires background checks and, in some cases, mandatory home studies, before a child is released to the sponsor.

Potential sponsors for unaccompanied children are required to undergo background checks and complete a sponsor assessment process that identifies risk factors and other potential safety concerns. As a part of the release process, all potential sponsors must undergo a criminal public records check and a sex offender registry check. ORR also conducts background checks on adult household members and individuals identified in a potential sponsor's care plan. Additionally, a fingerprint background check is required if there

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is a documented risk to the safety of the minor, the minor is especially vulnerable, the case is referred for a home study, any other special concern is identified, or the sponsor is not the child's parent or legal guardian. The fingerprints are cross-checked with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) national criminal history and state repository records, which includes DHS arrest records. ORR also requires a home study before releasing any child to a non-relative sponsor who is seeking to sponsor multiple children, or has previously sponsored or sought to sponsor a child and is seeking to sponsor additional children. ORR requires a home study for children who are 12 years and under before releasing to a non-relative sponsor.

Unaccompanied children have been released in all 50 states and District of Columbia. We value transparency and publish data that is available to the public. Data about unaccompanied children is available at www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/about/ucs/facts-and-data. Data about unaccompanied children released to sponsors by state is available at www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/programs/ucs/state-by-state-uc-placed-sponsors. Data about unaccompanied children released to sponsors by county is available at www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/unaccompanied-children-released-to-sponsors-by-county; please note that data is only available for counties where 50 or more children have been released to sponsors.

From: Holt, Lydia (ACF)
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 9:23 AM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Swartz, Tricia (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF); Biswas, Toby R M (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Brown, Anastasia (ACF)
Subject: RE: FOR AWARENESS: 2 Rockville High students charged with rape after brutal bathroom assault

I have followed up with program and we have not been able to identify either minor (by name) in our portal at this time.

I will keep you all posted if and when additional information becomes available.

Thanks,

Lydia

From: Holt, Lydia (ACF)
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 8:35 AM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Swartz, Tricia (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF); Biswas, Toby R M (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Brown, Anastasia (ACF)
Subject: RE: FOR AWARENESS: 2 Rockville High students charged with rape after brutal bathroom assault

Adding Anastasia.

From: Holt, Lydia (ACF)
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 8:26 AM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Swartz, Tricia (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF); Biswas, Toby R M (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: FOR AWARENESS: 2 Rockville High students charged with rape after brutal bathroom assault
Importance: High

Hi All,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

In case you have not heard two Rockville High students were charged with rape and assault on Thursday. (b)(6) one from Honduras and the other from Guatemala. Henry Sanchez, 18, of the Aspen Hill neighborhood of Rockville, Maryland, and Jose Montano, 17, have been charged with first-degree rape and two counts of first-degree sexual offense in the violent assault of the female student.

According to reports they both entered the U.S. during the summer surge of 2016.

I am anticipating we will get media inquiries on this developing story.

2 Rockville High students charged with rape after brutal bathroom assault

http://wtop.com/montgomery-county/2017/03/2-charged-rape-rockville-high-school-bathroom-assault/

WASHINGTON — Two Rockville High School students accused of brutally raping a 14-year-old classmate in a school bathroom will stay in jail after a Rockville district court judge ordered the two teens held without bond Friday afternoon.

> Henry Sanchez, 18, of the Aspen Hill neighborhood of Rockville, Maryland, and Jose Montano, 17, have been charged with first-degree rape and two counts of first-degree sexual offense in the violent assault of the female student. WTOP has a policy of not naming minors charged with crimes but Montano is being charged as an adult.
>
> The students were arrested Thursday.
>
> The victim told police she was walking in a school hallway on March 16 at about 9 a.m. when the two male students approached her, according to charging documents. Montano asked her twice to have sex, and after she refused, he forced her into a boys' bathroom and then into a stall, according to police.
>
> The student told police that Montano and Sanchez raped her multiple times, according to the court documents. She cried out in pain and repeatedly told the two students to stop, she told police.
>
> Forensic investigators said an inspection of the boys' bathroom later turned up suspected blood "that may be mixed with male fluid," the court documents stated.

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Sanchez and Montano were arrested at school, police said, and have been held since Thursday.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement says they have a detainer on Sanchez, a citizen of Guatemala. The agency could not comment on Montano's case since he is a minor.

In a letter to parents, Montgomery County Public Schools said school officials notified police immediately after the student reported the assault to a staff member.

"Ensuring a safe, secure and welcoming learning environment for all of our students is our top priority," school officials said in the letter. "Our staff remains vigilant in the monitoring of our school each and every day. Please remind your child that if they believe they are a victim of an assault or see something inappropriate, they should immediately tell a staff member."

Lydia A. Holt
Public Affairs Specialist
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20201
Lydia.Holt@acf.hhs.gov | 202.401.9217

Teleworking on Mondays

(b)(6)

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Holt, Lydia (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=679190009c0f4ad2b219f787dcca6a98-Holt, Lydia>"; "Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"; "Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/21 14:04:25
Delivered Date:	2017/03/21 14:04:00

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	(b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; "Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
Subject:	Re: Internal Investigation
Date:	2017/03/05 00:42:28
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

(b)(6)

Also, the discharge papers from the dr. At the hospital were given to the shelter medical coordinator, and it was asked that they be sent also to Michael Bartholomew (michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov) on the ORR Health Team. If you can have those sent ASAP, we'd be grateful.

Thanks for everything,

Jonathan

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

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(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>

Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2017 12:23:19 AM

To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Cc: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Subject: Re: Internal Investigation

Ok, thanks Ken. Will keep you updated and will have the cm dept send a copy of the judicial bypass in the morning.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 4, 2017, at 10:43 PM, Tota, Kenneth (ACF) <kenneth.tota@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

(b)(6)

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(b)(5)

Also could you provide a copy of the judicial bypass?

Thank you. Ken

From: (b)(6) [mailto:(b)(6)@swkey.org]

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 7:31 PM

To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Cc: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Subject: Re: Internal Investigation

Yes we will have it by then. And, just to be clear this is for the Phoenix case correct?

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(b)(5)

Thanks!

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 4, 2017, at 5:40 PM, Tota, Kenneth (ACF) <kenneth.tota@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

Hi (b)(6)

Jonathan has indicated as a follow-up from the call yesterday that SWK (b)(5)
(b)(5) It is very important that we have that information by COB Eastern Monday. Can you please
work to make that happen?

Thanks, Ken

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Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	(b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>"; "Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/05 00:42:27
Delivered Date:	2017/03/05 00:42:28

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"
CC:	"Misegades, Lara (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bb1ce43ecb18472b86f2b1dd90441103-Misegades,>"
Subject:	Re: Can we plan to talk at 12:30?
Date:	2017/03/04 12:29:57
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Thank you.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 12:26:44 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

Cc: Misegades, Lara (ACF)

Subject: RE: Can we plan to talk at 12:30?

Hi Jonathan,

Per our discussion…below is my draft language for your consideration and any additional edits

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP

CDR, U.S. Public Health Service

Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)

Unaccompanied Children Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Mary E. Switzer Building

330 C St SW, MS 5123

Washington, DC 20201

Phone: 202-401-5375

michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov

www.acf.hhs.gov

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 12:07 PM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Subject: Re: Can we plan to talk at 12:30?

Just spoke with Michael. We don't need to catch up at 1230. Share what you learn from SWK with me as soon as you learn it.

What we most need to know now:

-- (b)(5)

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

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From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 11:55:36 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Subject: Re: Can we plan to talk at 12:30?

That is fine

On: 04 March 2017 11:47, "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:

Would like to get caught up on what you've learned and share what I've learned. I have a call with HHS and ACF leadership scheduled for 2PM so I'd like to get caught up.

I'll send invite shortly--let me know if 1230 works.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"; "Misegades, Lara (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bb1ce43ecb18472b86f2b1dd90441103-Misegades,>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/04 12:29:56
Delivered Date:	2017/03/04 12:29:57

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Gonzalez, Jose (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1e32d334f4814952912651ab60e4fde6-Gonzalez, J>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"
CC:	"Acuna, Griselda (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8c83ee08f90d454dba24118c12fbd4fd-Acuna, Gris>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"
Subject:	RE: URGENT NOTIFICATION: Standy by until you receive further instructions from ORR/DHUC
Date:	2017/03/04 13:21:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Jose, I am forwarding message up.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 1:21 PM
To: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Cc: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Subject: Re: URGENT NOTIFICATION: Standy by until you receive further instructions from ORR/DHUC

Hello and good afternoon all.
I just received a call from (b)(6) who (b)(5) (b)(5);(b)(6)
Dr. Meyerstien I asked her to email us the number so you or someone else can call her back asap.

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 11:50:10 AM
To: (b)(6) Geraldo Rivera; Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Cc: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: Re: URGENT NOTIFICATION: Standy by until you receive further instructions from ORR/DHUC

Case Update:

This morning at 0930 Medical Coordinator (b)(6) reported to Alamo Women's Reproductive Services Clinic in San Antonio to speak to Dr. Braid per Dr. (b)(6) (b)(6) request. Dr. Braid was unavailable to speak to MC (b)(6) as he was busy tending to

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other patients (b)(5);(b)(6)
(b)(5);(b)(6)

As of 1130 3/4/17, Casa Blanca Medical Team (b)(5);(b)(6)
(b)(5);(b)(6)

Minor is currently stable. ORR Addendum for today's clinic visit and statements to be posted on UAC shortly. Thank you.

Respectfully,
(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6)
SWK Casa Blanca 954
(P) (b)(6)
(C) (b)(6)

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 12:00 AM
Subject: Re: URGENT NOTIFICATION: Standy by until you receive further instructions from ORR/DHUC
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>, Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>, (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>, (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>, (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>
Cc: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF) <jose.gonzalez@acf.hhs.gov>, Acuna, Griselda (ACF) <griselda.acuna@acf.hhs.gov>, Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) <michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov>, White, Jonathan (ACF) <jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov>

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Vital signs within normal range: RR16, O2 90, BP 118/71, HR 71, Pain 3, Temp 98.7 Temporal.
Pharmacy dropped off prescribed pain medication Tramadol at 2259. No medication has been administered as of 2359.

1481902393800_untitled.png

(b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Southwest Key Casa Blanca 954

San Antonio, TX

Work Cell: (b)(6)

Office Phone: (b)(6)

Note: Privileged/Confidential information may be contained in this message and may be subject to legal privilege. Access to this e-mail by anyone other than the intended is unauthorized. If you are not the intended recipient (or responsible for delivery of the message to such person), you may not use, copy, distribute or deliver to anyone this message (or any part of its contents) or take any action in reliance on it. In such case, you should destroy this message, and notify us immediately. If you have received this email in error, please notify us immediately by e-mail or telephone and delete the e-mail from any computer.

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 3, 2017 11:51:26 PM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Cc: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: URGENT NOTIFICATION: Standy by until you receive further instructions from ORR/DHUC

SWK Casa Blanca Medical Team

ORR/DHUC is requesting that you stand by until you get official notification from Commander Jonathan White in ORR (b)(5);(b)(6)

(b)(5);(b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5);(b)(6)

I will be calling the shelter directly to confirm receipt of this message.

Thank you for your time.

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Gonzalez, Jose (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1e32d334f4814952912651ab60e4fde6-Gonzalez, J>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"; "Acuna, Griselda (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8c83ee08f90d454dba24118c12fbd4fd-Acuna, Gris>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/04 13:21:31
Delivered Date:	2017/03/04 13:21:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Subject:	Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital
Date:	2017/03/05 06:24:51
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

SWK ED has said she will tell her team to send discharge paperwork.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2017 5:59:53 AM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Never received D/C paperwork just SIRs

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP

CDR, U.S. Public Health Service

Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)

Unaccompanied Children Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Mary E. Switzer Building

330 C St SW, MS 5123

Washington, DC 20201

Phone: 202-401-5375

michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov

www.acf.hhs.gov

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Sunday, March 05, 2017 12:41 AM

To: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Subject: FW: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

FYI. You should be receiving the discharge paperwork from SWK.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 11:44 PM

To: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

As per the Dr.'s discharge paperwork.

Additional instructions:

"She in conjuction with her caregivers, will need to decide what the next step is"

"She should consult with the clinic where she was seen on Monday to determine future options"

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Have a good night.

From: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 10:29:45 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

I have one question if OK to ask. Does the Dr have any new recommendations to provide based on current information?

Jsd

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 11:25:27 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

As stated by the physician, it is ok to continue with the medication to terminate the pregnancy.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 10:21:16 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Just one clarification: when Dr. (b)(6) stated that the minor will be safe if it is less than 12 weeks, could you clarify? Safe as in "the medication regimen for the medical abortion procedure will be safe
for her up until the twelfth week of gestation"? Just want to make sure I understood your email.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 11:18 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Dr. (b)(6) stated that the minor will be safe if it is less than 12 weeks.

I also spoke with the minor and she wants to continue with terminating her pregnancy.

Please advise.

Thank you.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 10:07:40 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thanks. I think the important thing is to understand if the minor still requests an abortion, based on information from the doctor.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 11:03 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Yes, sir.

I will ask the physician and I will in form you.

Thank you.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 9:56:19 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Griselda,

I am advised to ask you:

"Could the FFS obtain information from the physician about whether, given these circumstances and the age of the fetus, continuing the medication abortion regimen would be unsafe and/or contraindicated for
the minor?

If it might be possible to continue the pregnancy, the FFS should discuss with the minor whether she wishes to proceed with the abortion or continue the pregnancy. If the medical staff conclude that continuing
the medication abortion regimen would be unsafe and/or contraindicated, the minor should be advised of that so that she can provide informed consent with respect to the continuation of the medication abortion regimen.

We understand that these discussions will be done with all due regard for the minor's physical, mental, and emotional state."

Can you have this discussion?

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Jonathan

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 10:51 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

---

Thank you. We will be in the lobby.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 9:49:05 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Stand by. We will advise next steps momentarily.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 10:48 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Nurse is here and providing discharge documents.

Please advise.

Thank you!

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 9:37:12 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Dr. (b)(6) just informed me that as per the ultrasound results, the fetus has a heart beat and is 9 weeks and 1 day.

The medication did not cause spontaneous abortion. The risk is pretty small and there are no signs of miscarriage. (b)(6) may be cramping and vital signs are fine. We are waiting for doctor's documents for release.

What would you like for me to do next?

Thank you!

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 8:57:39 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

You are welcome, Sir.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 8:55:59 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thank you. I am really glad that you are the one there with her in this situation.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 9:55 PM

To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

(b)(6) is doing well and calm. She also reported a small blood stain.

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 8:51:29 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thank you Griselda.

How is (b)(6) doing?

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thank you.

On: 04 March 2017 21:49, "Acuna, Griselda (ACF)" <Griselda.Acuna@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

7:53pm-8:30pm cst.

The ultrasound was completed by Ultrasound Technician (b)(6) She stated that the ultrasound results will be submitted to the radiologist/doctor and they will let us know as soon as possible.

Thank you.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:55:36 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Copy.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:49:04 PM

To: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Stand by. Ken is working to obtain a POC from HHS leadership to refer attorneys to.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 8:32 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Email from Geraldo Rivera.

Hi Jose-

Thanks for taking my call-

As I stated on the call, the attorney ad litem for the client (b)(6) has a court order for release of information (court # and Case #) from the client's file.

We have advised the attorney Deana Whitley to contact Griselda Ocuna the local federal field specialist who is the local ORR representative and can guide the process and advise the program.

Ms. Whitley did say she has the court order in hand and wants to personally deliver in order to move forward.

The attorney's information:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

DEANNA L. WHITLEY

Locust Street Professional Building

206 E. Locust

San Antonio, Texas 78212

Telephone (210) 679-2610

Telecopier (210) 224-0075

MAILING ADDRESS:

2206 E. Commerce Street

San Antonio, Texas 78203

www.whitleylawfirmpc.com

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:30:57 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

All will be sending contact information for attorney who is upset and is demanding we release her the court case # and other information from the file.

She informed Geraldo Rivera over a call about thirty minutes. .

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:12:21 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

thanks

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 8:12 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

We continue to wait for the ultrasound. Patient access representative (b)(6) came in the room and requested signatures for intake paperwork.

Thank you.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 6:29:28 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Copy.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 7:28 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

You are welcome, Sir.

Swk Casa Blanca medical coordinator and clinician are waiting in the lobby.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 6:25:15 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thank you. I appreciate your keeping us in the loop.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:24:38 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

I am here with the minor in one of the ER rooms and Dr. (b)(6) asked the minor if she is in pain. The minor said her stomach pain was very little.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Dr. (b)(6) stated that they are going to perform an ultrasound and the results will be reviewed by the on call obstetrician.

Thank you.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:37:46 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thank you.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:37 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Will do.

The nurse is taking her vitals at this presnt time. Minor is doing well and reports that she does not have any pain.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:35:47 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Griselda,

Please keep us updated as things develop in the hospital. And let us know anything you may need.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Jonathan

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:26 PM

To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

---

Copy.

Thank you.

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:25:46 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

SWK can complete the intake.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:23 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

---

Copy.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:22 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

---

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

She is here.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:19:28 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Michael has finished speaking with the hospital. They are able to assess the status of the pregnancy via ultrasound. They are not set up to take any actions to complete the evacuation of contents if the ultrasound
determines there is no fetal life, but Michael conveyed that ORR could arrange to transfer her elsewhere to take those steps if the abortion is already complete.

So the hospital can receive the UC for ultrasound and exam.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:06 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Copy. Thanks.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:05 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

She is not here yet.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:04:23 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Has the girl yet arrived at the hospital?

Michael is calling the doctor back.

From: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:00 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Hi Griselda. I suggest answering this after the girl arrives and the hospital presents specific documents to sign. They might not need anything other than the letter from HQ.

Jsd

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:57:23 PM

To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Understood.

Does SWK needs to complete the hospital intake paperwork?

Please advise.

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 4:52:33 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Let me know if confirmation as the Acting Director is needed in any way.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 5:48 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Michael is calling ER doc. Stand by.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 5:46 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

I'm here at the ER. SWK Casa Blanca Medical Coordinator contacted me that they are on their way.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 4:38:50 PM

To: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

I made a mistake when I said 5PM our time. I meant 6PM Eastern, 5PM Central.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 5:38 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Hello Ladies and gentleman is there a POC we can ask for?

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 3:54:49 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Subject: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Attached please find the materials for Griselda to present at the hospital.

Michael is calling hospital now.

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The hospital is The Children's Hospital of San Antonio
located at 333 N Santa Rosa St, San Antonio, TX 78207.

ER Telephone Number (b)(6) Michael will call ER. He will need approx. an hour to make call so the child should not arrive before 5PM our time.

Griselda, can you advise when you can be at the hospital with these printed materials?

Ken is contacting Southwest Key.

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 4:47 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Cc: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Barlow, Amanda (ACF)

Subject: Acting ORR Director Memo, 2008 medical policy, Tota ACF ID

Jonathan,

Attached are documents the Federal Field Specialist can present at the hospital, if needed.

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Maggie

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Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/05 06:24:48
Delivered Date:	2017/03/05 06:24:51

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Barlow, Amanda (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0889c0c2ffb042afaedcfb6c76e2a8fd-Barlow, Ama>"
Subject:	FW: URGENT NOTIFICATION: Standy by until you receive further instructions from ORR/DHUC
Date:	2017/03/04 13:21:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 1:21 PM
To: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Cc: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Subject: Re: URGENT NOTIFICATION: Standy by until you receive further instructions from ORR/DHUC

Hello and good afternoon all
I just received a call from (b)(5);(b)(6)
(b)(5);(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 11:50:10 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Cc: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: Re: URGENT NOTIFICATION: Standy by until you receive further instructions from ORR/DHUC

Case Update:

This morning at 0930 Medical Coordinator (b)(6) reported to Alamo Women's Reproductive Services Clinic in San Antonio to speak to Dr. Braid per Dr. (b)(6) (b)(6) request. Dr. Braid was unavailable to speak to MC (b)(6) as he was busy tending to other patients (b)(5);(b)(6)
(b)(5);(b)(6)

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(b)(5);(b)(6)

As of 1130 3/4/17, (b)(5);(b)(6)
(b)(5);(b)(6)

(b)(5);(b)(6)

Respectfully,
(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6)
SWK Casa Blanca 954
(P) (b)(6)
(C) (b)(6)

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 12:00 AM
Subject: Re: URGENT NOTIFICATION: Standy by until you receive further instructions from ORR/DHUC
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>, Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>, (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>, (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>, (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>
Cc: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF) <jose.gonzalez@acf.hhs.gov>, Acuna, Griselda (ACF) <griselda.acuna@acf.hhs.gov>, Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) <michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov>, White, Jonathan (ACF) <jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov>

Message received. (b)(5);(b)(6)

Follow-up report:
As of 3/3/17 2355, minor stated she is at a pain level of 3 on a numeric pain scale of 1-10. Minor denies any vaginal bleeding, however I did instruct minor to apply a sanitary napkin before bed. Minor is located in upstairs female dorm 8, bed 2.
Vital signs within normal range: RR16, O2 90, BP 118/71, HR 71, Pain 3, Temp 98.7 Temporal.
Pharmacy dropped off prescribed pain medication Tramadol at 2259. No medication has been administered as of 2359.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

1481902393800_untitled.png

(b)(6)

Southwest Key Casa Blanca 954

San Antonio, TX

Work Cell: (b)(6)

Office Phone: (b)(6)

Note: Privileged/Confidential information may be contained in this message and may be subject to legal privilege. Access to this e-mail by anyone other than the intended is unauthorized. If you are not the intended recipient (or responsible for delivery of the message to such person), you may not use, copy, distribute or deliver to anyone this message (or any part of its contents) or take any action in reliance on it. In such case, you should destroy this message, and notify us immediately. If you have received this email in error, please notify us immediately by e-mail or telephone and delete the e-mail from any computer.

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 3, 2017 11:51:26 PM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Cc: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: URGENT NOTIFICATION: Standy by until you receive further instructions from ORR/DHUC

SWK Casa Blanca Medical Team

(b)(5);(b)(6)

Thank you for your time.

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Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Barlow, Amanda (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0889c0c2ffb042afaedcfb6c76e2a8fd-Barlow, Ama>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/04 13:21:41
Delivered Date:	2017/03/04 13:21:00

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"; "Holt, Lydia (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=679190009c0f4ad2b219f787dcca6a98-Holt, Lydia>"
CC:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
Subject:	RE: FOR AWARENESS: 2 Rockville High students charged with rape after brutal bathroom assault
Date:	2017/03/21 14:20:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

I approve the proposed response.

From: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 2:17 PM
To: Holt, Lydia (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: RE: FOR AWARENESS: 2 Rockville High students charged with rape after brutal bathroom assault

Jonathan, can you please review the proposed response and then Ken can approve?

Thanks!

From: Holt, Lydia (ACF)
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 2:01 PM
To: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Cc: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: RE: FOR AWARENESS: 2 Rockville High students charged with rape after brutal bathroom assault

I need this to be reviewed as soon as possible as the deadline to this reporter is today. 3:30 or sooner would be best.

From: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 1:53 PM
To: Holt, Lydia (ACF)
Cc: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: RE: FOR AWARENESS: 2 Rockville High students charged with rape after brutal bathroom assault

Hi Lydia-

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Do you need ORR leadership to approve anything right now?

From: Holt, Lydia (ACF)
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 1:34 PM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Swartz, Tricia (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF); Biswas, Toby R M (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Brown, Anastasia (ACF); Viola, Sarah (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Acker Housman, Stephanie (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: FOR AWARENESS: 2 Rockville High students charged with rape after brutal bathroom assault
Importance: High

Hi All,

As I anticipated we have received an inquiry from the Washington Post.

Media inquiry came in to ASPA from Washington Post (Maria Sacchetti) asking about UC; story ran today but did not mention these individuals as UC (Suspect in rape at Maryland school was stopped 7 months ago by Border Patrol); her deadline is TODAY.

As of yesterday, we were not able to locate these two names in the UC portal. Henry Sanchez has an additional name of **Milian which was not identify earlier and Jose O. Montano has a birthdate of 11/18/1999 which is additional info we did not have on yesterday.** Can we confirm that they were not UC in ORR custody?

Query:
I'm trying to find out what happened in the cases of Jose o. Montano 11/18/1999 of El Salvador and Henry E. Sanchez Milian, 18, of Guatemala, who have been accused in this case. ICE says they didn't release them. They're both charged as adults, and Henry, of course, is an adult. I'm trying to find out why HHS released them, how they got into your custody, (if they did) and what checks are in place to background them and their sponsors. Does HHS require the sponsor to take out a formal guardianship in court before handing them over? And does anyone monitor them?

Proposed Response:

(b)(5)

ON BACKGROUND –

Children without parents or other legal guardians apprehended at U.S. borders by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) are transferred to the care and custody of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). ORR is legally required to provide for the care and custody of all unaccompanied children referred to ORR until they are released to the appropriate sponsor, usually a relative, while their immigration cases are adjudicated.

Children referred to ORR receive a comprehensive assessment that includes evaluation of any known criminal history, prior acts of violence, or gang involvement. ORR also considers whether the child is a danger to self, danger to the community, or a risk of flight when making placement decisions. Each child is assigned placement in the most appropriate facility in the least restrictive setting in the child's best interest.

Children assessed to be a danger to themselves or others may receive a heightened level of staff supervision in more restrictive facilities with services designed to protect their safety, others and the community in which they are housed. Less than one half of one percent of children are placed in secure

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facilities (.3 percent in FY15 and .1% in FY16), and only a portion of that small percentage are placed due to gang involvement.

ORR also uses enhanced safety protocols when determining whether to release a child to a potential sponsor, and does not release children considered to be a threat to the community. There is a robust pre-screening process for potential sponsors that requires background checks and, in some cases, mandatory home studies, before a child is released to the sponsor.

Potential sponsors for unaccompanied children are required to undergo background checks and complete a sponsor assessment process that identifies risk factors and other potential safety concerns. As a part of the release process, all potential sponsors must undergo a criminal public records check and a sex offender registry check. ORR also conducts background checks on adult household members and individuals identified in a potential sponsor's care plan. Additionally, a fingerprint background check is required if there is a documented risk to the safety of the minor, the minor is especially vulnerable, the case is referred for a home study, any other special concern is identified, or the sponsor is not the child's parent or legal guardian. The fingerprints are cross-checked with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) national criminal history and state repository records, which includes DHS arrest records. ORR also requires a home study before releasing any child to a non-relative sponsor who is seeking to sponsor multiple children, or has previously sponsored or sought to sponsor a child and is seeking to sponsor additional children. ORR requires a home study for children who are 12 years and under before releasing to a non-relative sponsor.

Unaccompanied children have been released in all 50 states and District of Columbia. We value transparency and publish data that is available to the public. Data about unaccompanied children is available at www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/about/ucs/facts-and-data. Data about unaccompanied children released to sponsors by state is available at www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/programs/ucs/state-by-state-uc-placed-sponsors. Data about unaccompanied children released to sponsors by county is available at www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/unaccompanied-children-released-to-sponsors-by-county; please note that data is only available for counties where 50 or more children have been released to sponsors.

From: Holt, Lydia (ACF)
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 9:23 AM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Swartz, Tricia (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF); Biswas, Toby R M (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Brown, Anastasia (ACF)
Subject: RE: FOR AWARENESS: 2 Rockville High students charged with rape after brutal bathroom assault

I have followed up with program and we have not been able to identify either minor (by name) in our portal at this time.

I will keep you all posted if and when additional information becomes available.

Thanks,

Lydia

From: Holt, Lydia (ACF)
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 8:35 AM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Swartz, Tricia (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF); Biswas, Toby R M (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Brown, Anastasia (ACF)
Subject: RE: FOR AWARENESS: 2 Rockville High students charged with rape after brutal bathroom assault

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Adding Anastasia.

From: Holt, Lydia (ACF)
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 8:26 AM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Swartz, Tricia (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF); Biswas, Toby R M (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: FOR AWARENESS: 2 Rockville High students charged with rape after brutal bathroom assault
Importance: High

Hi All,

In case you have not heard two Rockville High students were charged with rape and assault on Thursday. (b)(6) one from Honduras and the other from Guatemala. Henry Sanchez, 18, of the Aspen Hill neighborhood of Rockville, Maryland, and Jose Montano, 17, have been charged with first-degree rape and two counts of first-degree sexual offense in the violent assault of the female student.

According to reports they both entered the U.S. during the summer surge of 2016.

I am anticipating we will get media inquiries on this developing story.

2 Rockville High students charged with rape after brutal bathroom assault

http://wtop.com/montgomery-county/2017/03/2-charged-rape-rockville-high-school-bathroom-assault/

WASHINGTON — Two Rockville High School students accused of brutally raping a 14-year-old classmate in a school bathroom will stay in jail after a Rockville district court judge ordered the two teens held without bond Friday afternoon.

> Henry Sanchez, 18, of the Aspen Hill neighborhood of Rockville, Maryland, and Jose Montano, 17, have been charged with first-degree rape and two counts of first-degree sexual offense in the violent assault of the female student. WTOP has a policy of not naming minors charged with crimes but Montano is being charged as an adult.
>
> The students were arrested Thursday.
>
> The victim told police she was walking in a school hallway on March 16 at about 9 a.m. when the two male students approached her, according to charging documents. Montano asked her twice to have sex, and after she

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refused, he forced her into a boys' bathroom and then into a stall, according to police.

The student told police that Montano and Sanchez raped her multiple times, according to the court documents. She cried out in pain and repeatedly told the two students to stop, she told police.

Forensic investigators said an inspection of the boys' bathroom later turned up suspected blood "that may be mixed with male fluid," the court documents stated.

Sanchez and Montano were arrested at school, police said, and have been held since Thursday.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement says they have a detainer on Sanchez, a citizen of Guatemala. The agency could not comment on Montano's case since he is a minor.

In a letter to parents, Montgomery County Public Schools said school officials notified police immediately after the student reported the assault to a staff member.

"Ensuring a safe, secure and welcoming learning environment for all of our students is our top priority," school officials said in the letter. "Our staff remains vigilant in the monitoring of our school each and every day. Please remind your child that if they believe they are a victim of an assault or see something inappropriate, they should immediately tell a staff member."

Lydia A. Holt
Public Affairs Specialist
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20201
Lydia.Holt@acf.hhs.gov | 202.401.9217

Teleworking on Mondays
(b)(6)

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-

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	JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"; "Holt, Lydia (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=679190009c0f4ad2b219f787dcca6a98-Holt, Lydia>"; "Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/21 14:20:51
Delivered Date:	2017/03/21 14:20:00

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
CC:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"; "Kurkjy, Brian (ACF) (CTR) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=faee3bcd11ca4d88b8e39a7a6a4b49e0-Kurkjy, Bri>"
Subject:	a few irons in the fire
Date:	2017/03/10 14:25:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Ken,

A few things that either are already or shortly will be coming past you for review/clearance, and also just to catch you up:

1. Sarah Viola is drafting a message (b)(5) (b)(5)
    a. (b)(5)
2. Anna Marie's team is drafting (b)(5) (b)(5)
3. Jim de La Cruz is drafting (b)(5) (b)(5)
    a. As a heads up, this I believe is also the case on which we got a Congressional inquiry today.

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Let me know any questions you have, or anything I can do for you. (b)(6)
(b)(6)

Jonathan

Jonathan D. White
Commander, U.S. Public Health Service
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW
(202) 690-6984
jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"; "Kurkjy, Brian (ACF) (CTR) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=faee3bcd11ca4d88b8e39a7a6a4b49e0-Kurkjy, Bri>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/10 14:25:50
Delivered Date:	2017/03/10 14:25:00

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Subject:	Re: do you happen to have a copy of the Judicial Bypass?
Date:	2017/03/05 06:25:25
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Thanks. SWK will provide.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2017 3:50:20 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Subject: Re: do you happen to have a copy of the Judicial Bypass?

DHUC was never sent copy of Judicial Bypass

On: 05 March 2017 00:24, "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:

Disregard. SWK is sending a copy in the morning.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2017 12:20:44 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

Subject: Re: do you happen to have a copy of the Judicial Bypass?

Hi Jonathan

I don't recall seeing a copy of the judicial bypass since the program was not seeking federal funds. It is possible that the program might have a copy.

Is that correct, Shaanan?

On: 05 March 2017 00:14, "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:

If so, please email to me. If not, please advise.

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If you don't see this til Sunday AM, fine to answer then.

Jonathan D. White

Commander, U.S. Public Health Service

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

330 C Street SW

(202) 690-6984

jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/05 06:25:23
Delivered Date:	2017/03/05 06:25:25

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Davis, Gregory (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=47b15d866d8040ed839cdfd5c2b7cb89-Davis, Greg>"
Subject:	RE: need your guidance...
Date:	2017/10/20 14:06:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Yes I saw them too. (b)(5) (b)(5) I owe him some feedback on them.

Thanks for everything you are doing. My day today is largely in the trenches of reproductive freedom law and policy, which recalls the words engraved on the tombstone of W.C. Fields, "On the whole, I'd rather be in Philadelphia."

From: Davis, Gregory (ACF)
Sent: Friday, October 20, 2017 2:05 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: RE: need your guidance...

Got it. thanks. His might be one you throw out.

Appreciate the quick response. Man am I slammed today. Set DoD (Russ) at ease about the numbers, tons of Corps stuff (mission critical, awards, ROS, EPP eligibility, new policies, promotion counseling, yikes)

Writing the ACF one pager for promotion boards this afternoon and trying to look at some repatriation documents Pedro gave to me to review. They are rough

CAPT Gregory S. Davis
Director
Division of Unaccompanied Children Planning and Logistics
Administration for Children and Families
Office – 202-401-4881
Gregory.davis@acf.hhs.gov

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Friday, October 20, 2017 2:00 PM
To: Davis, Gregory (ACF)
Subject: RE: need your guidance...

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I would appreciate it if he would start one. I sometimes throw those out and write my own, but I like to start from somewhere. Many times high performers are too modest for the OS/ROS.

From: Davis, Gregory (ACF)
Sent: Friday, October 20, 2017 1:58 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: need your guidance...

(b)(5)

to write them yourself. I assume your preference is to edit rather than create but I may have that wrong, particularly if there is a style that you typically use.

If you prefer just his data and you want to create, then I will let him know that as well.

G

CAPT Gregory S. Davis
Director
Division of Unaccompanied Children Planning and Logistics
Administration for Children and Families
Office – 202-401-4881
Gregory.davis@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Davis, Gregory (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=47b15d866d8040ed839cdfd5c2b7cb89-Davis, Greg>"
Sent Date:	2017/10/20 14:06:56
Delivered Date:	2017/10/20 14:06:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"; "Holt, Lydia (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=679190009c0f4ad2b219f787dcca6a98-Holt, Lydia>"
Subject:	RE: [Ken- for your reveiw and approval]: 2 Rockville High students charged with rape after brutal bathroom assault
Date:	2017/03/21 14:51:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Stand by—I have some of that information.

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 2:25 PM
To: Gregg, Laura (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Holt, Lydia (ACF)
Subject: Re: [Ken- for your reveiw and approval]: 2 Rockville High students charged with rape after brutal bathroom assault

Do we have the A numbers? Of what we show in the system - where were they in care and where were they released and to whom?

Thanks

On: 21 March 2017 14:21, "Gregg, Laura (ACF)" <Laura.Gregg@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:
Ken,

See below response that Jonathan has cleared. Please approve for Lydia.

Media inquiry came in to ASPA from Washington Post (Maria Sacchetti) asking about UC; story ran today but did not mention these individuals as UC (Suspect in rape at Maryland school was stopped 7 months ago by Border Patrol); her deadline is TODAY. As of yesterday, we were not able to locate these two names in the UC portal. Henry Sanchez has an additional name of Milian which was not identify earlier and Jose O. (b)(6) which is additional info we did not have on yesterday. Can we confirm that they were not UC in ORR custody?

Query:

I'm trying to find out what happened in the cases of Jose o. Montano 11/18/1999 of El Salvador and Henry E. Sanchez Milian, 18, of Guatemala, who have been accused in this case. ICE says they didn't release them. They're both charged as adults, and Henry, of

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

course, is an adult. I'm trying to find out why HHS released them, how they got into your custody, (if they did) and what checks are in place to background them and their sponsors. Does HHS require the sponsor to take out a formal guardianship in court before handing them over? And does anyone monitor them?

ORR Proposed Response:

(b)(5)

ON BACKGROUND –

Children without parents or other legal guardians apprehended at U.S. borders by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) are transferred to the care and custody of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). ORR is legally required to provide for the care and custody of all unaccompanied children referred to ORR until they are released to the appropriate sponsor, usually a relative, while their immigration cases are adjudicated.

Children referred to ORR receive a comprehensive assessment that includes evaluation of any known criminal history, prior acts of violence, or gang involvement. ORR also considers whether the child is a danger to self, danger to the community, or a risk of flight when making placement decisions. Each child is assigned placement in the most appropriate facility in the least restrictive setting in the child's best interest.

Children assessed to be a danger to themselves or others may receive a heightened level of staff supervision in more restrictive facilities with services designed to protect their safety, others and the community in which they are housed. Less than one half of one percent of children are placed in secure facilities (.3 percent in FY15 and .1% in FY16), and only a portion of that small percentage are placed due to gang involvement.

ORR also uses enhanced safety protocols when determining whether to release a child to a potential sponsor, and does not release children considered to be a threat to the community. There is a robust pre-screening process for potential sponsors that requires background checks and, in some cases, mandatory home studies, before a child is released to the sponsor.

Potential sponsors for unaccompanied children are required to undergo background checks and complete a sponsor assessment process that identifies risk factors and other potential safety concerns. As a part of the release process, all potential sponsors must undergo a criminal public records check and a sex offender registry check. ORR also conducts background checks on adult household members and individuals identified in a potential sponsor's care plan. Additionally, a fingerprint background check is required if there is a documented risk to the safety of the minor, the minor is especially vulnerable,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

the case is referred for a home study, any other special concern is identified, or the sponsor is not the child's parent or legal guardian. The fingerprints are cross-checked with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) national criminal history and state repository records, which includes DHS arrest records. ORR also requires a home study before releasing any child to a non-relative sponsor who is seeking to sponsor multiple children, or has previously sponsored or sought to sponsor a child and is seeking to sponsor additional children. ORR requires a home study for children who are 12 years and under before releasing to a non-relative sponsor.

Unaccompanied children have been released in all 50 states and District of Columbia. We value transparency and publish data that is available to the public. Data about unaccompanied children is available at www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/about/ucs/facts-and-data. Data about unaccompanied children released to sponsors by state is available at www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/programs/ucs/state-by-state-uc-placed-sponsors. Data about unaccompanied children released to sponsors by county is available at www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/unaccompanied-children-released-to-sponsors-by-county; please note that data is only available for counties where 50 or more children have been released to sponsors.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 2:21 PM
To: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Holt, Lydia (ACF)
Cc: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: RE: FOR AWARENESS: 2 Rockville High students charged with rape after brutal bathroom assault

I approve the proposed response.

From: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 2:17 PM
To: Holt, Lydia (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: RE: FOR AWARENESS: 2 Rockville High students charged with rape after brutal bathroom assault

Jonathan, can you please review the proposed response and then Ken can approve?

Thanks!

From: Holt, Lydia (ACF)
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 2:01 PM
To: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Cc: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: RE: FOR AWARENESS: 2 Rockville High students charged with rape after brutal bathroom assault

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I need this to be reviewed as soon as possible as the deadline to this reporter is today. 3:30 or sooner would be best.

From: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 1:53 PM
To: Holt, Lydia (ACF)
Cc: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: RE: FOR AWARENESS: 2 Rockville High students charged with rape after brutal bathroom assault

Hi Lydia-

Do you need ORR leadership to approve anything right now?

From: Holt, Lydia (ACF)
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 1:34 PM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Swartz, Tricia (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF); Biswas, Toby R M (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Brown, Anastasia (ACF); Viola, Sarah (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Acker Housman, Stephanie (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: FOR AWARENESS: 2 Rockville High students charged with rape after brutal bathroom assault
Importance: High

Hi All,

As I anticipated we have received an inquiry from the Washington Post.

Media inquiry came in to ASPA from Washington Post (Maria Sacchetti) asking about UC; story ran today but did not mention these individuals as UC (Suspect in rape at Maryland school was stopped 7 months ago by Border Patrol); her deadline is TODAY.

As of yesterday, we were not able to locate these two names in the UC portal. Henry Sanchez has an additional name of **Milian which was not identify earlier and Jose O. Montano has a birthdate of 11/18/1999 which is additional info we did not have on yesterday.** Can we confirm that they were not UC in ORR custody?

Query:
I'm trying to find out what happened in the cases of Jose o. Montano 11/18/1999 of El Salvador and Henry E. Sanchez Milian, 18, of Guatemala, who have been accused in this case. ICE says they didn't release them. They're both charged as adults, and Henry, of course, is an adult. I'm trying to find out why HHS released them, how they got into your custody, (if they did) and what checks are in place to background them and their sponsors. Does HHS require the sponsor to take out a formal guardianship in court before handing them over? And does anyone monitor them?

Proposed Response:

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(b)(5)

ON BACKGROUND –

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Children referred to ORR receive a comprehensive assessment that includes evaluation of any known criminal history, prior acts of violence, or gang involvement. ORR also considers whether the child is a danger to self, danger to the community, or a risk of flight when making placement decisions. Each child is assigned placement in the most appropriate facility in the least restrictive setting in the child's best interest.

Children assessed to be a danger to themselves or others may receive a heightened level of staff supervision in more restrictive facilities with services designed to protect their safety, others and the community in which they are housed. Less than one half of one percent of children are placed in secure facilities (.3 percent in FY15 and .1% in FY16), and only a portion of that small percentage are placed due to gang involvement.

ORR also uses enhanced safety protocols when determining whether to release a child to a potential sponsor, and does not release children considered to be a threat to the community. There is a robust pre-screening process for potential sponsors that requires background checks and, in some cases, mandatory home studies, before a child is released to the sponsor.

Potential sponsors for unaccompanied children are required to undergo background checks and complete a sponsor assessment process that identifies risk factors and other potential safety concerns. As a part of the release process, all potential sponsors must undergo a criminal public records check and a sex offender registry check. ORR also conducts background checks on adult household members and individuals identified in a potential sponsor's care plan. Additionally, a fingerprint background check is required if there is a documented risk to the safety of the minor, the minor is especially vulnerable, the case is referred for a home study, any other special concern is identified, or the sponsor is not the child's parent or legal guardian. The fingerprints are cross-checked with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) national criminal history and state repository records, which includes DHS arrest records. ORR also requires a home study before releasing any child to a non-relative sponsor who is seeking to sponsor multiple children, or has previously sponsored or sought to sponsor a child and is seeking to sponsor additional children. ORR requires a home study for children who are 12 years and under before releasing to a non-relative sponsor.

Unaccompanied children have been released in all 50 states and District of Columbia. We value transparency and publish data that is available to the public. Data about unaccompanied children is available at www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/about/ucs/facts-and-data. Data about unaccompanied children released to sponsors by state is available at www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/programs/ucs/state-by-state-uc-placed-sponsors. Data about unaccompanied children released to sponsors by county is available at www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/unaccompanied-children-released-to-sponsors-by-county; please note that data is only available for counties where 50 or more children have been released to sponsors.

From: Holt, Lydia (ACF)
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 9:23 AM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Swartz, Tricia (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF); Biswas, Toby R M (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Brown, Anastasia (ACF)
Subject: RE: FOR AWARENESS: 2 Rockville High students charged with rape after brutal bathroom assault

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I have followed up with program and we have not been able to identify either minor (by name) in our portal at this time.

I will keep you all posted if and when additional information becomes available.

Thanks,

Lydia

From: Holt, Lydia (ACF)
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 8:35 AM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Swartz, Tricia (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF); Biswas, Toby R M (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Brown, Anastasia (ACF)
Subject: RE: FOR AWARENESS: 2 Rockville High students charged with rape after brutal bathroom assault

Adding Anastasia.

From: Holt, Lydia (ACF)
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 8:26 AM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Swartz, Tricia (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF); Biswas, Toby R M (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: FOR AWARENESS: 2 Rockville High students charged with rape after brutal bathroom assault
Importance: High

Hi All,

In case you have not heard two Rockville High students were charged with rape and assault on Thursday. (b)(6) one from Honduras and the other from Guatemala. Henry Sanchez, 18, of the Aspen Hill neighborhood of Rockville, Maryland, and Jose Montano, 17, have been charged with first-degree rape and two counts of first-degree sexual offense in the violent assault of the female student.

According to reports they both entered the U.S. during the summer surge of 2016.

I am anticipating we will get media inquiries on this developing story.

2 Rockville High students charged with rape after brutal bathroom assault

http://wtop.com/montgomery-county/2017/03/2-charged-rape-rockville-high-school-bathroom-assault/

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

WASHINGTON — Two Rockville High School students accused of brutally raping a 14-year-old classmate in a school bathroom will stay in jail after a Rockville district court judge ordered the two teens held without bond Friday afternoon.

Henry Sanchez, 18, of the Aspen Hill neighborhood of Rockville, Maryland, and Jose Montano, 17, have been charged with first-degree rape and two counts of first-degree sexual offense in the violent assault of the female student. WTOP has a policy of not naming minors charged with crimes but Montano is being charged as an adult.

The students were arrested Thursday.

The victim told police she was walking in a school hallway on March 16 at about 9 a.m. when the two male students approached her, according to charging documents. Montano asked her twice to have sex, and after she refused, he forced her into a boys' bathroom and then into a stall, according to police.

The student told police that Montano and Sanchez raped her multiple times, according to the court documents. She cried out in pain and repeatedly told the two students to stop, she told police.

Forensic investigators said an inspection of the boys' bathroom later turned up suspected blood "that may be mixed with male fluid," the court documents stated.

Sanchez and Montano were arrested at school, police said, and have been held since Thursday.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement says they have a detainer on Sanchez, a citizen of Guatemala. The agency could not comment on Montano's case since he is a minor.

In a letter to parents, Montgomery County Public Schools said school officials notified police immediately after the student reported the assault to a staff member.

"Ensuring a safe, secure and welcoming learning environment for all of our students is our top priority," school officials said in the letter. "Our staff remains vigilant in the monitoring of our school each and every day. Please remind your child that if they believe they are a victim of an assault or see something inappropriate, they should immediately tell a staff member."

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Lydia A. Holt
Public Affairs Specialist
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20201
Lydia.Holt@acf.hhs.gov | 202.401.9217

Teleworking on Mondays

(b)(6)

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"; "Holt, Lydia (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=679190009c0f4ad2b219f787dcca6a98-Holt, Lydia>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/21 14:51:54
Delivered Date:	2017/03/21 14:51:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C ST, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Case No: 18-F-0097
Civil Action 18-cv-241

September 28, 2018

Ms. Mary Alice Carter
Executive Director
Equity Forward
85 Broad Street
New York, NY 10004

Dear Ms. Carter:

This is a third interim response of the Administration for Children and Families to your December 12, 2017, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for correspondence from certain named Administration for Children and Families (ACF) employees which included certain specified terms, for the months of March, May, September and October 2017. Specifically, you sought the following items:

1. Correspondence to, from or carbon copied to[1]:
   Scott Lloyd
   Jonathan White
   Curi Kim
   Judith Haron
   Anna Marie Bena
   Scott Logan
   Tricia Swartz (Associate Deputy, ORR)
   Jallyn Sualog (Director of Children Services)
   James De La Cruz (Houston Field Supervisor)

2. The request asked that the search use the following search terms
   - "pregnancy"
   - "pregnant"
   - "ORR director"
   - "abortion"
   - "ru-486"
   - "CPC"
   - "ultrasound"
   - "rape"
   - "nonconsensual"
   - "Gestational"
   - "judicial bypass"

[1] The request also sought emails to, from and carbon copying Maggie Wynne and Dr. David Teuscher. However, ACF advised Equity Forward that these individuals work for at the department level and the Office of the Secretary Division of FOI/Privacy has jurisdiction over those records.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

- "life affirming"
- "unborn child"
- "spiritual counseling"
- "options counseling"
- "WTF"
- "Terminating"
- "terminate"
- "termination"
- "Pregnancy notification"
- "Pregnancy motivations"
- "Scott is"
- "Scott said"
- "from Scott"

Your request was sent to the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) and the Office of the Chief Information Officer for a search for responsive records. The Office of the Chief Information Officer performed the search and provided 159,000 pages of responsive records.

Following extensive negotiations between the parties, it was agreed that ACF would begin its production by disclosing emails without attachments, after which Equity Forward would choose the attachments it wished to receive. Equity Forward stated that the first records it would like to see are emails sent by Scott Lloyd, Jim De La Cruz and Curi Kim.

Accordingly, please find enclosed 669 pages of responsive records. Approximately 81 additional pages are being sent for consultations to other components within HHS and to entities outside of the Agency and will be returned to ACF for final release determination.

Some of the information on the disclosed pages has been withheld under the FOIA exemptions (b)(5) and (b)(6). The exemption (b)(5) protects inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency. The exemption protects agency deliberations, both internal and with agency contractors and consultants, attorney-client privileged records and attorney work product. The FOIA exemption (b)(6) permits the withholding of records which, if released, would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Sincerely yours,

Celeste Smith
Acting FOIA Officer
Administration for Children and Families

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Subject:	Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital
Date:	2017/03/05 06:33:22
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Although it may also be a good idea for you or Shanaan to contact Fanny or the shelter and ask for them to be emailed now.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2017 6:24:48 AM

To: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

SWK ED has said she will tell her team to send discharge paperwork.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2017 5:59:53 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Never received D/C paperwork just SIRs

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP

CDR, U.S. Public Health Service

Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)

Unaccompanied Children Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Mary E. Switzer Building

330 C St SW, MS 5123

Washington, DC 20201

Phone: 202-401-5375

michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov

www.acf.hhs.gov

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 05, 2017 12:41 AM

To: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Subject: FW: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

---

FYI. You should be receiving the discharge paperwork from SWK.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 11:44 PM

To: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

As per the Dr.'s discharge paperwork.

Additional instructions:

"She in conjuction with her caregivers, will need to decide what the next step is"

"She should consult with the clinic where she was seen on Monday to determine future options"

Have a good night.

From: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 10:29:45 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

I have one question if OK to ask. Does the Dr have any new recommendations to provide based on current information?

Jsd

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 11:25:27 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

As stated by the physician, it is ok to continue with the medication to terminate the pregnancy.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 10:21:16 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Just one clarification: when Dr. (b)(6) stated that the minor will be safe if it is less than 12 weeks, could you clarify? Safe as in "the medication regimen for the medical abortion procedure will be safe
for her up until the twelfth week of gestation"? Just want to make sure I understood your email.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 11:18 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Dr. (b)(6) stated that the minor will be safe if it is less than 12 weeks.

I also spoke with the minor and she wants to continue with terminating her pregnancy.

Please advise.

Thank you.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 10:07:40 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thanks. I think the important thing is to understand if the minor still requests an abortion, based on information from the doctor.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 11:03 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Yes, sir.

I will ask the physician and I will in form you.

Thank you.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 9:56:19 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Griselda,

I am advised to ask you:

(b)(5)

Can you have this discussion?

Jonathan

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 10:51 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thank you. We will be in the lobby.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 9:49:05 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Stand by. We will advise next steps momentarily.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 10:48 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Nurse is here and providing discharge documents.

Please advise.

Thank you!

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 9:37:12 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Dr. (b)(6) just informed me that as per the ultrasound results, the fetus has a heart beat and is 9 weeks and 1 day.

The medication did not cause spontaneous abortion. The risk is pretty small and there are no signs of miscarriage. (b)(6) may be cramping and vital signs are fine. We are waiting for doctor's documents for release.

What would you like for me to do next?

Thank you!

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 8:57:39 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

You are welcome, Sir.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 8:55:59 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thank you. I am really glad that you are the one there with her in this situation.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 9:55 PM

To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

(b)(6) is doing well and calm. (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 8:51:29 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thank you Griselda.

How is (b)(6) doing?

Thank you.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

On: 04 March 2017 21:49, "Acuna, Griselda (ACF)" <Griselda.Acuna@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

7:53pm-8:30pm cst.

The ultrasound was completed by Ultrasound Technician (b)(6) She stated that the ultrasound results will be submitted to the radiologist/doctor and they will let us know as soon as possible.

Thank you.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:55:36 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Copy.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:49:04 PM

To: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Stand by. Ken is working to obtain a POC from HHS leadership to refer attorneys to.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 8:32 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Email from (b)(6)

Hi Jose-

Thanks for taking my call-

As I stated on the call, the attorney ad litem for the client (b)(6) has a court order for release of information (court # and Case #) from the client's file.

We have advised the attorney Deana Whitley to contact Griselda Ocuna the local federal field specialist who is the local ORR representative and can guide the process and advise the program.

Ms. Whitley did say she has the court order in hand and wants to personally deliver in order to move forward.

The attorney's information:

DEANNA L. WHITLEY

Locust Street Professional Building

206 E. Locust

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

San Antonio, Texas 78212

Telephone (210) 679-2610

Telecopier (210) 224-0075

MAILING ADDRESS:

2206 E. Commerce Street

San Antonio, Texas 78203

www.whitleylawfirmpc.com

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:30:57 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

All will be sending contact information for attorney who is upset and is demanding we release her the court case # and other information from the file.

She informed (b)(6) over a call about thirty minutes. .

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:12:21 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

thanks

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 8:12 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

We continue to wait for the ultrasound. Patient access representative (b)(6) came in the room and requested signatures for intake paperwork.

Thank you.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 6:29:28 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Copy.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 7:28 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

You are welcome, Sir.

Swk Casa Blanca medical coordinator and clinician are waiting in the lobby.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 6:25:15 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thank you. I appreciate your keeping us in the loop.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:24:38 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

I am here with the minor in one of the ER rooms and Dr. (b)(6) asked the minor if she is in pain. The minor said her stomach pain was very little.

Dr. (b)(6) stated that they are going to perform an ultrasound and the results will be reviewed by the on call obstetrician.

Thank you.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:37:46 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thank you.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:37 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Will do.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The nurse is taking her vitals at this presnt time. Minor is doing well and reports that she does not have any pain.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:35:47 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Griselda,

Please keep us updated as things develop in the hospital. And let us know anything you may need.

Jonathan

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:26 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Copy.

Thank you.

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:25:46 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

SWK can complete the intake.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:23 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Copy.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:22 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

She is here.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:19:28 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

(b)(5);(b)(6)

So the hospital can receive the UC for ultrasound and exam.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:06 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Copy. Thanks.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:05 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

She is not here yet.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:04:23 PM

To: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Has the girl yet arrived at the hospital?

Michael is calling the doctor back.

From: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:00 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

---

Hi Griselda. I suggest answering this after the girl arrives and the hospital presents specific documents to sign. They might not need anything other than the letter from HQ.

Jsd

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:57:23 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Understood.

Does SWK needs to complete the hospital intake paperwork?

Please advise.

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 4:52:33 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Let me know if confirmation as the Acting Director is needed in any way.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 5:48 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Michael is calling ER doc. Stand by.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 5:46 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I'm here at the ER. SWK Casa Blanca Medical Coordinator contacted me that they are on their way.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 4:38:50 PM

To: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

I made a mistake when I said 5PM our time. I meant 6PM Eastern, 5PM Central.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 5:38 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Hello Ladies and gentleman is there a POC we can ask for?

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 3:54:49 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Subject: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Attached please find the materials for Griselda to present at the hospital.

Michael is calling hospital now.

The hospital is (b)(6)
located at (b)(6) San Antonio, TX (b)(6)

ER Telephone Number (b)(6) Michael will call ER. He will need approx. an hour to make call so the child should not arrive before 5PM our time.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Griselda, can you advise when you can be at the hospital with these printed materials?

Ken is contacting Southwest Key.

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 4:47 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Cc: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Barlow, Amanda (ACF)

Subject: Acting ORR Director Memo, 2008 medical policy, Tota ACF ID

Jonathan,

Attached are documents the Federal Field Specialist can present at the hospital, if needed.

Maggie

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent Date:	2017/03/05 06:33:20
Delivered Date:	2017/03/05 06:33:22

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
Subject:	What we need from SWK
Date:	2017/03/05 06:43:03
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

(1) Copy of Judicial Bypass to you
(2) Copy of discharge paperwork from hospital to Michael Bartholomew to enable him to determine whether he concurs with hospital doctor

We've asked for both of these but do need them absolutely ASAP.

CDR Jonathan White
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response
(202) 690-6984 (office)
(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)
Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/05 06:43:00
Delivered Date:	2017/03/05 06:43:03

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Subject:	Re: Termination Case #2 San Antonio
Date:	2017/03/06 20:54:07
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

I will when I can. Looks like that will be tomorrow. I don't have the file either.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Sent: Monday, March 6, 2017 8:41:13 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Subject: RE: Termination Case #2 San Antonio

Jonathan-

I can't review on the S Drive- can you send me the timeline and I can provide you feedback?

Thanks,

L

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 7:02 PM

To: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF)

Cc: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Subject: Re: Termination Case #2 San Antonio

Thank you.

CDR Jonathan White

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Sent: Monday, March 6, 2017 6:59:57 PM

To: Gregg, Laura (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF)

Cc: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Subject: Termination Case #2 San Antonio

Hello,

Per today's request a time line for this case is provided. Please use the link below to find a time line and supporting documents. Those involved in the field and medical unit contributed to the time line and
providing documentation.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6) Shared\Ops\Intakes\Data Requests\Pregnancy Termination Request 03062017 (b)(6) (b)(6)

James S. De La Cruz

DHHS/ACF/ORR/DCS

Senior Federal Field Specialist Supervisor

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Division of Children's Services

Mary E. Switzer Building, 5th Floor (Room: 5223)

330 C Street SW

Washington, DC 20201

Office: 202-690-8477

Cell: (b)(6)

Fax: 202-401-1022

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/ucs

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/06 20:54:05
Delivered Date:	2017/03/06 20:54:07

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"
CC:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Subject:	Fw: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital
Date:	2017/03/05 07:50:34
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

From last night. Michael was looped in then.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 11:25:27 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

As stated by the physician, it is ok to continue with the medication to terminate the pregnancy.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 10:21:16 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Just one clarification: when Dr. (b)(6) stated that the minor will be safe if it is less than 12 weeks, could you clarify? Safe as in "the medication regimen for the medical abortion procedure will be safe
for her up until the twelfth week of gestation"? Just want to make sure I understood your email.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 11:18 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Dr. (b)(6) stated that the minor will be safe if it is less than 12 weeks.

I also spoke with the minor and she wants to continue with terminating her pregnancy.

Please advise.

Thank you.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 10:07:40 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thanks. I think the important thing is to understand if the minor still requests an abortion, based on information from the doctor.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 11:03 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Yes, sir.

I will ask the physician and I will in form you.

Thank you.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 9:56:19 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Griselda,

I am advised to ask you:

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Jonathan

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 10:51 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

---

Thank you. We will be in the lobby.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 9:49:05 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Stand by. We will advise next steps momentarily.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 10:48 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Nurse is here and providing discharge documents.

Please advise.

Thank you!

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 9:37:12 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Dr. (b)(6) just informed me that as per the ultrasound results, the fetus has a heart beat and is 9 weeks and 1 day.

The medication did not cause spontaneous abortion. The risk is pretty small and there are no signs of miscarriage. (b)(6) may be cramping and vital signs are fine. We are waiting for doctor's documents for release.

What would you like for me to do next?

Thank you!

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 8:57:39 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

You are welcome, Sir.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 8:55:59 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thank you. I am really glad that you are the one there with her in this situation.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 9:55 PM

To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

(b)(6) is doing well and calm. (b)(6)

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 8:51:29 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thank you Griselda.

How is (b)(6) doing?

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thank you.

On: 04 March 2017 21:49, "Acuna, Griselda (ACF)" <Griselda.Acuna@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

7:53pm-8:30pm cst.

The ultrasound was completed by Ultrasound Technician (b)(6) She stated that the ultrasound results will be submitted to the radiologist/doctor and they will let us know as soon as possible.

Thank you.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:55:36 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Copy.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:49:04 PM

To: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Stand by. Ken is working to obtain a POC from HHS leadership to refer attorneys to.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 8:32 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Email from Geraldo Rivera.

Hi Jose-

Thanks for taking my call-

As I stated on the call, the attorney ad litem for the client (b)(6) has a court order for release of information (court # and Case #) from the client's file.

We have advised the attorney Deana Whitley to contact Griselda Ocuna the local federal field specialist who is the local ORR representative and can guide the process and advise the program.

Ms. Whitley did say she has the court order in hand and wants to personally deliver in order to move forward.

The attorney's information:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

DEANNA L. WHITLEY

Locust Street Professional Building

206 E. Locust

San Antonio, Texas 78212

Telephone (210) 679-2610

Telecopier (210) 224-0075

MAILING ADDRESS:

2206 E. Commerce Street

San Antonio, Texas 78203

www.whitleylawfirmpc.com

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:30:57 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

All will be sending contact information for attorney who is upset and is demanding we release her the court case # and other information from the file.

She informed Geraldo Rivera over a call about thirty minutes. .

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:12:21 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

thanks

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 8:12 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

We continue to wait for the ultrasound. Patient access representative (b)(6) came in the room and requested signatures for intake paperwork.

Thank you.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 6:29:28 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Copy.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 7:28 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

You are welcome, Sir.

Swk Casa Blanca medical coordinator and clinician are waiting in the lobby.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 6:25:15 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thank you. I appreciate your keeping us in the loop.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:24:38 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

I am here with the minor in one of the ER rooms and Dr. (b)(6) asked the minor if she is in pain. The minor said her stomach pain was very little.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Dr. (b)(6) stated that they are going to perform an ultrasound and the results will be reviewed by the on call obstetrician.

Thank you.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:37:46 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thank you.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:37 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Will do.

The nurse is taking her vitals at this presnt time. Minor is doing well and reports that she does not have any pain.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:35:47 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Griselda,

Please keep us updated as things develop in the hospital. And let us know anything you may need.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Jonathan

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:26 PM

To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

---

Copy.

Thank you.

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:25:46 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

SWK can complete the intake.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:23 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

---

Copy.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:22 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

---

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

She is here.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:19:28 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

(b)(5);(b)(6)

So the hospital can receive the UC for ultrasound and exam.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:06 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); (b)(6) Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Copy. Thanks.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:05 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

She is not here yet.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:04:23 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Has the girl yet arrived at the hospital?

Michael is calling the doctor back.

From: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:00 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Hi Griselda. I suggest answering this after the girl arrives and the hospital presents specific documents to sign. They might not need anything other than the letter from HQ.

Jsd

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:57:23 PM

To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Understood.

Does SWK needs to complete the hospital intake paperwork?

Please advise.

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 4:52:33 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Let me know if confirmation as the Acting Director is needed in any way.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 5:48 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Michael is calling ER doc. Stand by.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 5:46 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

I'm here at the ER. SWK Casa Blanca Medical Coordinator contacted me that they are on their way.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 4:38:50 PM

To: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

I made a mistake when I said 5PM our time. I meant 6PM Eastern, 5PM Central.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 5:38 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Hello Ladies and gentleman is there a POC we can ask for?

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 3:54:49 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Subject: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Attached please find the materials for Griselda to present at the hospital.

Michael is calling hospital now.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The hospital is (b)(6)
located at (b)(6) San Antonio, TX (b)(6)

ER Telephone Number (b)(6) Michael will call ER. He will need approx. an hour to make call so the child should not arrive before 5PM our time.

Griselda, can you advise when you can be at the hospital with these printed materials?

Ken is contacting Southwest Key.

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 4:47 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Cc: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Barlow, Amanda (ACF)

Subject: Acting ORR Director Memo, 2008 medical policy, Tota ACF ID

Jonathan,

Attached are documents the Federal Field Specialist can present at the hospital, if needed.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Maggie

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/05 07:50:31
Delivered Date:	2017/03/05 07:50:34

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"
CC:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Subject:	Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital
Date:	2017/03/05 07:51:14
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Shanaan, can you give me a call (b)(6)

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2017 7:50:31 AM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

Cc: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Subject: Fw: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

From last night. Michael was looped in then.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 11:25:27 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

As stated by the physician, it is ok to continue with the medication to terminate the pregnancy.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 10:21:16 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Just one clarification: when Dr. (b)(6) stated that the minor will be safe if it is less than 12 weeks, could you clarify? Safe as in "the medication regimen for the medical abortion procedure will be safe
for her up until the twelfth week of gestation"? Just want to make sure I understood your email.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 11:18 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Dr. (b)(6) stated that the minor will be safe if it is less than 12 weeks.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I also spoke with the minor and she wants to continue with terminating her pregnancy.

Please advise.

Thank you.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 10:07:40 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thanks. I think the important thing is to understand if the minor still requests an abortion, based on information from the doctor.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 11:03 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Yes, sir.

I will ask the physician and I will in form you.

Thank you.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 9:56:19 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Griselda,

I am advised to ask you:

(b)(5)

Jonathan

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 10:51 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thank you. We will be in the lobby.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 9:49:05 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Stand by. We will advise next steps momentarily.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 10:48 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Nurse is here and providing discharge documents.

Please advise.

Thank you!

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 9:37:12 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Dr. (b)(6) just informed me that as per the ultrasound results, the fetus has a heart beat and is 9 weeks and 1 day.

The medication did not cause spontaneous abortion. The risk is pretty small and there are no signs of miscarriage. (b)(6) may be cramping and vital signs are fine. We are waiting for doctor's documents for release.

What would you like for me to do next?

Thank you!

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 8:57:39 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

You are welcome, Sir.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 8:55:59 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thank you. I am really glad that you are the one there with her in this situation.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 9:55 PM

To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

(b)(6) is doing well and calm. (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 8:51:29 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thank you Griselda.

How is (b)(6) doing?

Thank you.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

On: 04 March 2017 21:49, "Acuna, Griselda (ACF)" <Griselda.Acuna@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

7:53pm-8:30pm cst.

The ultrasound was completed by Ultrasound Technician (b)(6) She stated that the ultrasound results will be submitted to the radiologist/doctor and they will let us know as soon as possible.

Thank you.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:55:36 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Copy.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:49:04 PM

To: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Stand by. Ken is working to obtain a POC from HHS leadership to refer attorneys to.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 8:32 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Email from Geraldo Rivera.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Hi Jose-

Thanks for taking my call-

As I stated on the call, the attorney ad litem for the client (b)(6) has a court order for release of information (court # and Case #) from the client's file.

We have advised the attorney Deana Whitley to contact Griselda Ocuna the local federal field specialist who is the local ORR representative and can guide the process and advise the program.

Ms. Whitley did say she has the court order in hand and wants to personally deliver in order to move forward.

The attorney's information:

DEANNA L. WHITLEY

Locust Street Professional Building

206 E. Locust

San Antonio, Texas 78212

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Telephone (210) 679-2610

Telecopier (210) 224-0075

MAILING ADDRESS:

2206 E. Commerce Street

San Antonio, Texas 78203

www.whitleylawfirmpc.com

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:30:57 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

All will be sending contact information for attorney who is upset and is demanding we release her the court case # and other information from the file.

She informed Geraldo Rivera over a call about thirty minutes. .

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:12:21 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

thanks

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 8:12 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

We continue to wait for the ultrasound. Patient access representative (b)(6) came in the room and requested signatures for intake paperwork.

Thank you.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 6:29:28 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Copy.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 7:28 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

You are welcome, Sir.

Swk Casa Blanca medical coordinator and clinician are waiting in the lobby.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 6:25:15 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thank you. I appreciate your keeping us in the loop.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:24:38 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

I am here with the minor in one of the ER rooms and Dr (b)(6) asked the minor if she is in pain. The minor said her stomach pain was very little.

Dr. (b)(6) stated that they are going to perform an ultrasound and the results will be reviewed by the on call obstetrician.

Thank you.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:37:46 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thank you.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:37 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Will do.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The nurse is taking her vitals at this presnt time. Minor is doing well and reports that she does not have any pain.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:35:47 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Griselda,

Please keep us updated as things develop in the hospital. And let us know anything you may need.

Jonathan

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:26 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Copy.

Thank you.

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:25:46 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

SWK can complete the intake.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:23 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Copy.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:22 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

She is here.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:19:28 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

(b)(5);(b)(6)

So the hospital can receive the UC for ultrasound and exam.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:06 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Copy. Thanks.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:05 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

She is not here yet.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:04:23 PM

To: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Has the girl yet arrived at the hospital?

Michael is calling the doctor back.

From: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:00 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

---

Hi Griselda. I suggest answering this after the girl arrives and the hospital presents specific documents to sign. They might not need anything other than the letter from HQ.

Jsd

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:57:23 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Understood.

Does SWK needs to complete the hospital intake paperwork?

Please advise.

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 4:52:33 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Let me know if confirmation as the Acting Director is needed in any way.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 5:48 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Michael is calling ER doc. Stand by.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 5:46 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I'm here at the ER. SWK Casa Blanca Medical Coordinator contacted me that they are on their way.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 4:38:50 PM

To: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

I made a mistake when I said 5PM our time. I meant 6PM Eastern, 5PM Central.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 5:38 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Hello Ladies and gentleman is there a POC we can ask for?

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 3:54:49 PM

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)

Subject: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Attached please find the materials for Griselda to present at the hospital.

Michael is calling hospital now.

The hospital is (b)(6)
located at (b)(6) TX (b)(6)

ER Telephone Number (b)(6) Michael will call ER. He will need approx. an hour to make call so the child should not arrive before 5PM our time.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Griselda, can you advise when you can be at the hospital with these printed materials?

Ken is contacting Southwest Key.

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)

Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 4:47 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Cc: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Barlow, Amanda (ACF)

Subject: Acting ORR Director Memo, 2008 medical policy, Tota ACF ID

Jonathan,

Attached are documents the Federal Field Specialist can present at the hospital, if needed.

Maggie

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/05 07:51:13
Delivered Date:	2017/03/05 07:51:14

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"
Subject:	RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital
Date:	2017/03/05 08:13:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Just wanted to catch up Shanaan on the events of last night and was too tired to go through it all verbally.

Michael and I just spoke also and we will set up a call for 1230 today.

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Sunday, March 05, 2017 8:03 AM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

I would have preferred to have a call together…..

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Unaccompanied Children Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Sunday, March 05, 2017 7:51 AM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Cc: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Shanaan, can you give me a call (b)(6)

CDR Jonathan White

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response
(202) 690-6984 (office)
(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)
Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2017 7:50:31 AM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Cc: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Subject: Fw: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

From last night. Michael was looped in then.

CDR Jonathan White
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response
(202) 690-6984 (office)
(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)
Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 11:25:27 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

As stated by the physician, it is ok to continue with the medication to terminate the pregnancy.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 10:21:16 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Just one clarification: when Dr. (b)(6) stated that the minor will be safe if it is less than 12 weeks, could you clarify? Safe as in "the medication regimen for the medical abortion procedure will be safe for her up until the twelfth week of gestation"? Just want to make sure I understood your email.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 11:18 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Dr. (b)(6) stated that the minor will be safe if it is less than 12 weeks.

I also spoke with the minor and she wants to continue with terminating her pregnancy.

Please advise.

Thank you.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 10:07:40 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thanks. I think the important thing is to understand if the minor still requests an abortion, based on information from the doctor.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 11:03 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Yes, sir.

I will ask the physician and I will in form you.

Thank you.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 9:56:19 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Griselda,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I am advised to ask you:

(b)(5)

Can you have this discussion?

Jonathan

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 10:51 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thank you. We will be in the lobby.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 9:49:05 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Stand by. We will advise next steps momentarily.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 10:48 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Nurse is here and providing discharge documents.

Please advise.

Thank you!

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 9:37:12 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Dr. (b)(6) just informed me that as per the ultrasound results, the fetus has a heart beat and is 9 weeks and 1 day.
The medication did not cause spontaneous abortion. The risk is pretty small and there are no signs of miscarriage. (b)(6) may be cramping and vital signs are fine. We are waiting for doctor's documents for release.

What would you like for me to do next?

Thank you!

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 8:57:39 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

You are welcome, Sir.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 8:55:59 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thank you. I am really glad that you are the one there with her in this situation.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 9:55 PM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6) is doing well and calm. (b)(6)

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 8:51:29 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thank you Griselda.

How is (b)(6) doing?

Thank you.

On: 04 March 2017 21:49, "Acuna, Griselda (ACF)" <Griselda.Acuna@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

7:53pm-8:30pm cst.
The ultrasound was completed by Ultrasound Technician (b)(6) She stated that the ultrasound results will be submitted to the radiologist/doctor and they will let us know as soon as possible.

Thank you.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:55:36 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Copy.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:49:04 PM
To: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Stand by. Ken is working to obtain a POC from HHS leadership to refer attorneys to.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 8:32 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Email from Geraldo Rivera.

Hi Jose-

Thanks for taking my call-

As I stated on the call, the attorney ad litem for the client (b)(6) has a court order for release of information (court # and Case #) from the client's file.

We have advised the attorney Deana Whitley to contact Griselda Ocuna the local federal field specialist who is the local ORR representative and can guide the process and advise the program.

Ms. Whitley did say she has the court order in hand and wants to personally deliver in order to move forward.

The attorney's information:

DEANNA L. WHITLEY

Locust Street Professional Building
206 E. Locust
San Antonio, Texas 78212
Telephone (210) 679-2610
Telecopier (210) 224-0075

MAILING ADDRESS:
2206 E. Commerce Street
San Antonio, Texas 78203

www.whitleylawfirmpc.com

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:30:57 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

All will be sending contact information for attorney who is upset and is demanding we release her the court case # and other information from the file.
She informed Geraldo Rivera over a call about thirty minutes. .

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:12:21 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

thanks

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 8:12 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

We continue to wait for the ultrasound. Patient access representativ(b)(6) came in the room and requested signatures for intake paperwork.

Thank you.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 6:29:28 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Copy.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 7:28 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

You are welcome, Sir.

Swk Casa Blanca medical coordinator and clinician are waiting in the lobby.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 6:25:15 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thank you. I appreciate your keeping us in the loop.

CDR Jonathan White
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response
(202) 690-6984 (office)
(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)
Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 7:24:38 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

I am here with the minor in one of the ER rooms and Dr. (b)(6) asked the minor if she is in pain. The minor said her stomach pain was very little.

Dr. (b)(6) stated that they are going to perform an ultrasound and the results will be reviewed by the on call obstetrician.

Thank you.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:37:46 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Thank you.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:37 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Will do.

The nurse is taking her vitals at this presnt time. Minor is doing well and reports that she does not have any pain.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:35:47 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Griselda,

Please keep us updated as things develop in the hospital. And let us know anything you may need.

Jonathan

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:26 PM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Copy.

Thank you.

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:25:46 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

SWK can complete the intake.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:23 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Copy.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:22 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

She is here.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:19:28 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

(b)(5);(b)(6)

So the hospital can receive the UC for ultrasound and exam.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:06 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Copy. Thanks.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:05 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

She is not here yet.

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From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:04:23 PM
To: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Has the girl yet arrived at the hospital?
Michael is calling the doctor back.

From: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 6:00 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Hi Griselda. I suggest answering this after the girl arrives and the hospital presents specific documents to sign. They might not need anything other than the letter from HQ.

Jsd

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 5:57:23 PM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Understood.

Does SWK needs to complete the hospital intake paperwork?

Please advise.

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 4:52:33 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Let me know if confirmation as the Acting Director is needed in any way.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 5:48 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Michael is calling ER doc. Stand by.

From: Acuna, Griselda (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 5:46 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

I'm here at the ER. SWK Casa Blanca Medical Coordinator contacted me that they are on their way.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 4:38:50 PM
To: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: RE: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

I made a mistake when I said 5PM our time. I meant 6PM Eastern, 5PM Central.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 5:38 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: Re: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Hello Ladies and gentleman is there a POC we can ask for?

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 3:54:49 PM
To: Acuna, Griselda (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: Materials and Instructions for FFS to take child to the hospital

Attached please find the materials for Griselda to present at the hospital.

Michael is calling hospital now.

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The hospital is (b)(6) located at (b)(6)
San Antonio, TX (b)(6)

ER Telephone Numbe (b)(6) Michael will call ER. He will need approx. an hour to make call so the child should not arrive before 5PM our time.

Griselda, can you advise when you can be at the hospital with these printed materials?

Ken is contacting Southwest Key.

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2017 4:47 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Barlow, Amanda (ACF)
Subject: Acting ORR Director Memo, 2008 medical policy, Tota ACF ID

Jonathan,

Attached are documents the Federal Field Specialist can present at the hospital, if needed.

Maggie

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/05 08:13:46
Delivered Date:	2017/03/05 08:13:00

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
CC:	"Misegades, Lara (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bb1ce43ecb18472b86f2b1dd90441103-Misegades,>"
Subject:	Re: Did we ever
Date:	2017/03/27 13:07:56
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

No, I think that's still evolving. Scott will help lead us to clarity on that. I think the most recent guidance on BCFS is a good foreshadowing of things we can expect.

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 1:01:20 PM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Cc: Misegades, Lara (ACF)

Subject: Did we ever

Get guidance on what information is needed when a child is noted to be pregnant?

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP

CDR, U.S. Public Health Service

Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)

Unaccompanied Children Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Mary E. Switzer Building

330 C St SW, MS 5123

Washington, DC 20201

Phone: 202-401-5375

michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov

www.acf.hhs.gov

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Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Misegades, Lara (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bb1ce43ecb18472b86f2b1dd90441103-Misegades,>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/27 13:07:54
Delivered Date:	2017/03/27 13:07:56

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Subject:	RE: Wellness Wednesday: Delayed Releases
Date:	2017/03/24 08:43:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

(b)(5)

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 8:39 AM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: RE: Wellness Wednesday: Delayed Releases

(b)(5)

3.4.8 Medical Clearance Prior to Release or Transfer

Unaccompanied children who have serious physical or mental health issues or have had exposure to a communicable disease may not be transferred or moved until they have been medically cleared by a physician or ORR is consulted. Pregnant unaccompanied children should be medically cleared for travel by plane if required by the air carrier (generally, after

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36 weeks of pregnancy) or if they delivered within the past 7 days. Children with medical needs must have follow-up services or other arrangements in place prior to their discharge.

Unaccompanied children who need to remain on prescription medication must receive a minimum of a 30 day supply of medication, or the remainder of their medication if on a time-limited course, prior to transfer or release. The unaccompanied child and the accepting care provider (in the case of a transfer) or a sponsor (in the case of release) must be instructed in the proper administration of medications. Care providers may not release unaccompanied children with any narcotic medications. As part of release planning, if an unaccompanied child is on any chronic psychotropic medications, the care provider must address the unaccompanied child's situation, including likelihood of maintaining medications upon release from ORR custody, with the prescribing psychiatrist to determine if medications should be continued or if a period of weaning off the medication is required before release.

Children who are infectious with communicable diseases of public health concern, which have potential to cause outbreaks, will not be released from ORR care until they are non-infectious. However, if an infectious child must be moved internally within a facility, to another facility, or to the hospital, care providers and others having interaction with the child must follow Standard Precautions, depending on the mode of disease transmission (e.g., surgical mask should be worn by children with diseases spread by the respiratory route). The care provider must provide the medical, dental, and mental health records to the unaccompanied child upon release or to the accepting care provider in the event of a transfer.

https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/resource/children-entering-the-united-states-unaccompanied-section-3#3.4.2

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Unaccompanied Children Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

www.acf.hhs.gov

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 12:37 PM
To: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Subject: Re: Wellness Wednesday: Delayed Releases

Policy statements should be reviewed within ORR and elevated when appropriate by the Director. When in doubt, we should clear.

Did these come from established policy in the Policy Guide? Sorry I don't know this.

CDR Jonathan White
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response
(202) 690-6984 (office)
(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)
Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 12:20:21 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: FW: Wellness Wednesday: Delayed Releases

(b)(5)

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Unaccompanied Children Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

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From: Buckley, Kirsten (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 11:11 AM
To: ORR DUCO - All Staff
Subject: Wellness Wednesday: Delayed Releases

FYI: The following email was sent to all programs, as well.

****

Dear Colleagues,

Today's Wellness Wednesday covers delayed releases for health reasons.

Q: Can a child's release from an ORR care provider program be delayed for a health reason?

A: Yes, an unaccompanied child's release to a sponsor may be delayed for health care under certain circumstances.

Q: Who should be notified if a child's release might be delayed because of a health reason?

A: The care provider or program should notify the Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC) at DCSMedical@acf.hhs.gov and the program's FFS when the child is ready for release, but it is felt that the *Release Request* form cannot be submitted for review because of a health need. Examples of healthcare needs include waiting for a specialty or follow-up visit, obtaining medical clearance for travel, and pending lab results.

Q: Who makes the final determination that release should be delayed for a health reason?

A: DHUC will determine whether a child's release should be delayed for medical, dental, or psychiatric reasons on a case-by-case basis by assessing multiple factors.

Q: What factors are considered by DHUC for delayed release of a child?

A: The primary factors are *urgency of the condition* and *threat to public health*.

- *Urgency of the condition:* The need for an early intervention to relieve distress or to prevent progression of illnesses or conditions that if left untended could

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reasonably be expected to threaten the child's life or livelihood before he or she reaches adulthood.

- *Threat to public health:* A child who has a condition that threatens public health will be held in custody until the problem is resolved. In the typical instance, this refers to a contagious disease that requires treatment or isolation until it is noncontagious.

Secondary factors taken into consideration include, but are not limited to, the child's relation to the sponsor, access to specialty care and health insurance in the sponsor's community, continuity of care for completion of treatment that has already started, the extent of delay, and pre-existing conditions. Referral to a specialist alone may not be an approved reason for delay. The underlying problem and the constellation of findings will factor into the decision.

Q: What does DHUC require to make a decision on delaying release?

A: DHUC will need to review the Portal records; please ensure everything, including medical reports and laboratory results, is recorded correctly in the Portal. In addition, DHUC may request additional examinations or consultations for the child on a case-by-case basis.

Q: What are some examples of requests for delayed release that will not be approved?

A: In the following examples, release should not be delayed:

1) Child has a history of a seizure disorder in home country, may or may not be taking medication, has been seizure free for the last year, and is now waiting to see a neurologist.

2) Child sustained extremity injury during the journey from country of origin, was seen by orthopedics, and was told to follow up in 6 weeks.

3) Child reported suicidal ideations and was seen in ER for mental health evaluation. In the assessment, the risk is determined to be minimal. The child is discharged back to program and told to follow up with psychiatrist, but no appointment is available for 6 weeks.

4) Child has developed coughing and congestion, has no fever, and is well-appearing.

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5) Child has been diagnosed with strep throat, has been on antibiotics for 24hrs and is afebrile.

Q: What steps should be taken to ensure that further care for children is received after release, when needed?

A: DHUC can facilitate continuity of care in the sponsor's community when necessary.

Q: After DHUC approves a delayed release, how should I document the delayed release in the Portal?

A: Complete the field, "**Release of child from the program delayed because of this diagnosis"** on the Case Wrap-Up panel for each selected diagnosis. Select *Yes* if the child's release was delayed because of the final/discharge diagnosis selected in this Case Wrap-Up panel (an automated notification will be sent to DHUC); select *No* if not. If the child's release was delayed because of another final/discharge diagnosis, the user should select *Yes* on the Case Wrap-Up panel associated with that diagnosis. For example, if a child is diagnosed with gastroenteritis and varicella and release is delayed because of the varicella, select *No* for this question in the gastroenteritis Case Wrap-Up panel and *Yes* in the varicella Case Wrap-Up panel.

NOTE: Only select *Yes* if the *Release Request Form* is ready to be submitted at the time the child was diagnosed with the condition.

Example:

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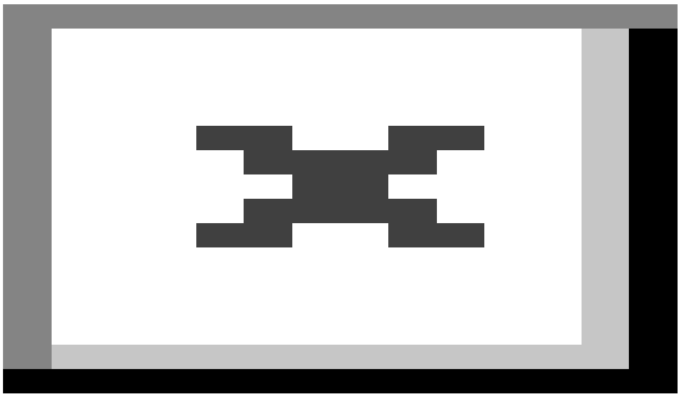

cid:image001.jpg@01D29D76.F5C1B460

Please contact the Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC) with questions, DCSMedical@acf.hhs.gov.

Thank you!

Kirsten Buckley, MPH
Epidemiologist
Division for Health of Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
Office #: 202.401.5364

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/24 08:43:50

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Delivered Date:	2017/03/24 08:43:00

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Subject:	FW: ACLU v. Price
Date:	2017/03/24 08:47:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

(b)(5)

From: Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF)
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 8:29 AM
To: Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Swartz, Tricia (ACF); Viola, Sarah (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kurkjy, Brian (ACF) (CTR); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Simmons, Joann (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); Schmalz, Jennifer (ACF)
Cc: Biswas, Toby R M (ACF); Suh, Victor (HHS/OGC) (ACF) (CTR); Theiler, Patricia (ACF)
Subject: RE: ACLU v. Price
Importance: High

(b)(5)

From: Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 4:14 PM
To: '(Jallyn.Sualog@ACF.hhs.gov)'; White, Jonathan (ACF); Swartz, Tricia (ACF); Viola, Sarah (ACF); 'De LA Cruz, James (ACF) (james.delacruz@acf.hhs.gov)'; Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kurkjy, Brian (ACF) (CTR); Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF); Simmons, Joann (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); Schmalz, Jennifer (ACF)
Cc: Biswas, Toby R M (ACF); Suh, Victor (HHS/OGC) (ACF) (CTR); Theiler, Patricia (ACF)
Subject: FW: ACLU v. Price

(b)(5)

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(b)(5)

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/24 08:47:46
Delivered Date:	2017/03/24 08:47:00

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
CC:	"Holt, Lydia (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=679190009c0f4ad2b219f787dcca6a98-Holt, Lydia>"
Subject:	RE: 2 Rockville High students charged with rape after brutal bathroom assault - URGENT Please review
Date:	2017/03/21 16:10:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

(b)(5)

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 4:10 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Cc: Holt, Lydia (ACF)
Subject: FW: 2 Rockville High students charged with rape after brutal bathroom assault - URGENT Please review
Importance: High

Please review and let me know if any comments. We send to Amanda, Maggie, Scott

Thanks

(b)(5)

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2 Rockville High students charged with rape after brutal bathroom assault

http://wtop.com/montgomery-county/2017/03/2-charged-rape-rockville-high-school-bathroom-assault/

WASHINGTON — Two Rockville High School students accused of brutally raping a 14-year-old classmate in a school bathroom will stay in jail after a Rockville district court judge ordered the two teens held without bond Friday afternoon.

Henry Sanchez, 18, of the Aspen Hill neighborhood of Rockville, Maryland, and Jose Montano, 17, have been charged with first-degree rape and two counts of first-degree sexual offense in the violent assault of the female student. WTOP has a policy of not naming minors charged with crimes but Montano is being charged as an adult.

The students were arrested Thursday.

The victim told police she was walking in a school hallway on March 16 at about 9 a.m. when the two male students approached her, according to charging documents. Montano asked her twice to have sex, and after she refused, he forced her into a boys' bathroom and then into a stall, according to police.

The student told police that Montano and Sanchez raped her multiple times, according to the court documents. She cried out in pain and repeatedly told the two students to stop, she told police.

Forensic investigators said an inspection of the boys' bathroom later turned up suspected blood "that may be mixed with male fluid," the court documents stated.

Sanchez and Montano were arrested at school, police said, and have been held since Thursday.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement says they have a detainer on Sanchez, a citizen of Guatemala. The agency could not comment on Montano's case since he is a minor.

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In a letter to parents, Montgomery County Public Schools said school officials notified police immediately after the student reported the assault to a staff member.

“Ensuring a safe, secure and welcoming learning environment for all of our students is our top priority,” school officials said in the letter. “Our staff remains vigilant in the monitoring of our school each and every day. Please remind your child that if they believe they are a victim of an assault or see something inappropriate, they should immediately tell a staff member.”

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"; "Holt, Lydia (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=679190009c0f4ad2b219f787dcca6a98-Holt, Lydia>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/21 16:10:38
Delivered Date:	2017/03/21 16:10:00

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Barlow, Amanda (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0889c0c2ffb042afaedcfb6c76e2a8fd-Barlow, Ama>"; "Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
CC:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Subject:	RE: Next Steps
Date:	2017/03/05 08:16:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Ken and I talked last night about written authorization as well. I leave it to you and Ken to figure out how to obtain the right language.

Here are our other next steps:

- We need the Judicial Bypass, which (b)(6) at SWK has committed to Ken to provide.
- We need concurrence as to safety from our medical team. I just got off the phone with them. We are working to get clarity on the intervention plan so that can be evaluated by the medical team. They are working to get more information and I have a next conversation with them at 12:30.

From: Barlow, Amanda (ACF)
Sent: Sunday, March 05, 2017 8:10 AM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Next Steps

Ken and Jonathan,

(b)(5)

(b)(5) I can ask for this if you both agree.

Amanda

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Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Barlow, Amanda (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0889c0c2ffb042afaedcfb6c76e2a8fd-Barlow, Ama>"; "Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/05 08:16:17
Delivered Date:	2017/03/05 08:16:00

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
Subject:	FW: Family Planning Memo SOP - RE: Portal documentation -
Date:	2017/03/21 16:14:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Ken,

Please review the below to go to Scott in response to his question to me today. I owe him an answer today or tonight—OK to send?

Jonathan

Scott,

(b)(5)

I hope this is helpful to you.

Jonathan

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From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2017 8:56 AM
To: 'White, Jonathan (ACF) (Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov)'
Subject: FW: Family Planning Memo SOP - RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6)

Note to file for Jonathan: Received as part of the Zip files provided on Timeline development for (b)(6) case, 3/9/17.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 1:27 PM
To: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: FW: Family Planning Memo SOP - RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6)

Jose Gonzalez, LMSW, FFS Supervisor
USDHHS-ACF-ORR-DUCO
Jose.gonzalez@acf.hhs.gov
202-631-3777
http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/ucs

From: Kim, Curi (ACF)
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 8:41 AM
To: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Cc: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Buckley, Kirsten (ACF)
Subject: RE: Family Planning Memo SOP - RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6)

As long as the SIR and Health tab has all the relevant information, the FFS doesn't need to spend time writing a lengthy memo like they used to. If federal funds are to be used, medical officer will complete the simple template memo for OD.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 9:35 AM
To: Kim, Curi (ACF); Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Cc: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Buckley, Kirsten (ACF)
Subject: Re: Family Planning Memo SOP - RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6)

Dr. Curry are we still doing the Situational awareness memo or are we talking about same thing just different language.

From: Kim, Curi (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 10:53:32 PM
To: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Cc: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Buckley, Kirsten (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)

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Subject: RE: Family Planning Memo SOP - RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6)

Hi, Monica,
Yes, that is correct – FFS Memo no longer needed. Relevant info should be in the SIR and the Health tab.

From: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 4:51 PM
To: Kim, Curi (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Cc: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Buckley, Kirsten (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Subject: RE: Family Planning Memo SOP - RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6)

Good afternoon Dr. Kim,

Just wanted to check-in with you, is the below unofficial procedures what we should be following for future UC with potential medical procedures? We no longer need to complete the memos?

Thank you,

Monica Gonzalez, MPA
Federal Field Specialist-Chicago
DHHS/ACF/ORR/DCS
(202) 748-1900

From: Kim, Curi (ACF)
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2016 12:42 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR); Banzon, Julissa (ACF); Brooks, Teresa (ACF)
Cc: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Buckley, Kirsten (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Fink, David (ACF)
Subject: Family Planning Memo SOP - RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6)

Just including ACF folks on this email chain.

This got confusing since we weren't in the office and Janell isn't here anymore – she was handling all the termination requests – and because I don't think the Ops Guide for Family Planning has been finalized.

Now that we're back in the office, we're looking at the hard copies of the last several termination memos that were signed by OD; I see that we should be following the last version of the Ops Guide (see attached). I reached out to Shannon (not to be confused with Shaanan) about the status of the Family Planning Ops Guide and she said it's with Policy (so none of us has a final version). It seems that even though the Family Planning Ops Guide is not official and apparently not widely circulated (since it's not cleared), Janell was coordinating with FFSs to handle each termination memo as they occurred.

I have cut and pasted the relevant section from the unofficial Ops Guide (I accepted track changed because otherwise it's too messy to read) below. Again, see attachment if you want to review the track changes version – FFS memo is no longer required per edits/comment. For the hard copy packet that

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Bob will sign off on, note that we did use most of the language in the FFS memo – we just re-purposed the document as "clinical summary" (changing it from memo format) as supporting documentation.

CARE PROVIDER

1) **IMMEDIATELY, BUT NO LATER THAN FOUR (4) HOURS** after a UC requests to terminate her pregnancy, completes an *SIR* following procedures in ➔ **ORR Ops Guide, Section 5.7.3 Significant Incidents** and copies the Medical Team at DCSMedical@acf.hhs.gov on the *SIR* notification. The *SIR* must include the following information:

   - Current gestational age of the pregnancy
   - Any known complications identified by the medical professional
   - Date of the request for termination of pregnancy and to whom the request was made
   - The name and location of the clinic, hospital, or office where the pregnancy termination will occur
   - Whether parental consent or notification was made, or whether a judicial bypass has been or will be sought, if required under state law (the disbursement of federal funds will be contingent on meeting the requirement of state law)
   - Reason why federal funds are being requested, if applicable
   - Nature of urgent request (e.g., the termination procedure needs to occur within 48 hours), if applicable
   - Any other relevant information[SH1]
   - If any of this information is not available, the care provider will note in the *SIR* what information is pending and when the information is expected to be available. Missing information must be documented in an *SIR Addendum* immediately upon receipt.

   NOTE: If the care provider is unable to coordinate pregnancy termination services or services are unavailable in the region, the care provider must immediately notify the FFS. In coordination with the FFS, the care provider must initiate a transfer to a care provider that is able to coordinate services and that is located in a region where services are available following transfer procedures in ➔ **ORR Ops Guide, Section 1.2 Transfers within the ORR Care Provider Network**.

2) Makes parental notification, seeks parental consent, or seeks a judicial bypass, as required under state law. Care provider should seek the assistance of the legal service provider or attorney of record during this process.

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2) After submitting the *SIR*, responds to requests from ORR for information and updates as soon as possible, but within four (4) hours of the request.

3) Consults with the Medical Team to immediately schedule the appropriate consultations with medical providers and the pregnancy termination procedure. The pregnancy termination procedure must be scheduled to occur no sooner than 72 hours after submission of the *SIR*. This should happen concurrently with the process to request federal funds for the pregnancy termination including obtaining a *Physician's Certification*, if applicable (see below).

4) Makes arrangements to transport the UC to the pregnancy termination procedure.

5) Submits *SIR Addendums* and adds documentation in the UC Portal Medical Module as appropriate.

Requesting Federal Funding for a Pregnancy Termination

Federal funds are available to pay for an abortion if:

- • The pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest; or
- • In the case where a woman suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness, including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself, that would, as certified by a physician, place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed.

CARE PROVIDER

WITHIN 24 HOURS of determining the termination would qualify for federal funding, sends an email notification to the Medical Team, with a copy to the FFS and CFS, as follows:

To:	Medical Team
Cc:	FFS and CFS
Subject Line:	"Request for Federal Funds for Pregnancy Termination"

Body:	• UC's name and A #
	• Reason why federal funds are being requested:
	  ○ An act of rape
	  ○ An act of incest
	  ○ Life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself, that would place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed
	• Any other relevant information

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Attachments:	• *SIR* • *SIR Addendums* • Signed *Understanding Your Options* handout • Clinical notes (if requesting federal funds for an act of rape or incest) • *Physician's Certification* (if requesting federal funds for a life-endangering physical condition)

URGENT REQUESTS FOR A FEDERALLY-FUNDED PREGNANCY TERMINATION

If the request is urgent (e.g., the termination procedure needs to occur within 48 hours), the care provider must send the above notification **IMMEDIATELY** upon determining the termination would qualify for federal funding. ORR will expedite the approval process for pregnancy termination using federal funds for urgent requests.

MEDICAL TEAM

WITHIN 24 HOURS of receiving the care provider's email notification, reviews the attached supporting documentation, , completes the *Use of Federal Funds to Terminate a Pregnancy Decision Memo*, and routes the memo and supporting documentation to the DCS Director for approval.

DCS DIRECTOR

WITHIN 12 HOURS of receiving the memo and supporting documentation, reviews and signs the *Use of Federal Funds to Terminate a Pregnancy Decision Memo* and routes the signed memo to the Medical Team and copies the FFS and CFS.

MEDICAL TEAM

WITHIN 12 HOURS of receiving the signed *Use of Federal Funds to Terminate a Pregnancy Decision Memo*, notifies the care provider of the DCS Director's decision.

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR)
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2016 12:19 PM
To: Kim, Curi (ACF); Diane Pena; Banzon, Julissa (ACF); Brooks, Teresa (ACF)
Cc: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Susan Trudeau; Ricardo Jonas; Esmeralda Zavala; Lauren Selph; Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Buckley, Kirsten (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Fink, David (ACF)
Subject: RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6) (b)(6)

I have communicated with Diane Pena that the procedure was authorized via email by Director Carey (via Andrea) on 11/25; the papers are being signed today.
The UC will be going for her appointment this afternoon.

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Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: Kim, Curi (ACF)
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2016 12:02 PM
To: Diane Pena; Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR); Banzon, Julissa (ACF); Brooks, Teresa (ACF)
Cc: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Susan Trudeau; Ricardo Jonas; Esmeralda Zavala; Lauren Selph; Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Buckley, Kirsten (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Fink, David (ACF)
Subject: RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency; (b)(6) (b)(6)

Not sure where this is, either.

Michael and I are in the office – one of us can walk the memo to Bob.

When is the appointment scheduled?

Thanks,
Curi

Curi Kim, MD, MPH
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Refugee Health
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5585
curi.kim@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

-----Original Message-----
From: Diane Pena [mailto:DPena@heartlandalliance.org]
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2016 11:39 AM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR); Banzon, Julissa (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); Brooks, Teresa (ACF)
Cc: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Susan Trudeau; Ricardo Jonas; Esmeralda Zavala; Lauren Selph; Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Buckley, Kirsten (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Fink, David (ACF)
Subject: RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Good morning, I am checking in to see if the memo has been signed. Please let us know either way and if we need to cancel or reschedule today's appointment.

Thanks,
Diane

-----Original Message-----
From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]
Sent: Thursday, November 24, 2016 9:42 AM
To: Banzon, Julissa (ACF); Diane Pena; Kim, Curi (ACF); Brooks, Teresa (ACF)
Cc: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Susan Trudeau; Ricardo Jonas; Esmeralda Zavala; Lauren Selph; Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Buckley, Kirsten (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Fink, David (ACF)
Subject: RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Good morning and Happy Thanksgiving -
Just to close the loop of communication for this morning. I just spoke with Teresa Brooks, the on-call supervisor for the FFS team who is covering for the holiday to see where we stand with this case and timeline for the memo's. Given the fact that the minor is being transferred Friday to Chicago and any procedure would not be until Monday, this has become urgent and not emergent for today's business and the skeleton staff. The Medical Team (me) and FFS staff (Teresa) will be working on drafting our respective memo's for the Termination over the next 24hrs with it being the first item of business Friday AM to get the needed signatures from headquarters.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday - if there are any problems or urgent medical issues, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program Office of Refugee Resettlement Administration for Children and Families U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

-----Original Message-----
From: Banzon, Julissa (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 6:47 PM
To: Diane Pena; Kim, Curi (ACF)
Cc: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR); Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Susan Trudeau; Ricardo Jonas; Esmeralda Zavala; Lauren Selph; Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Buckley, Kirsten (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Fink, David (ACF)
Subject: RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Good evening,

Following my call with Diane a few moments ago, as discussed, upon receipt of the ORR Director- signed approval memo from HQ, FFS will advise Heartland needed approval has been received and to proceed accordingly. As discussed, given gestational concerns, hopefully approval memo can be expedited, for Heartland to be able to proceed with the soonest available appointment secured for Monday 11/28.

Thank you all,

Julissa Portales Banzon, M.S.
Federal Field Specialist, Chicago
U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services
ACF/ORR/DCS
202-430-7944

-----Original Message-----
From: Diane Pena [mailto:DPena@heartlandalliance.org]
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 4:31 PM
To: Kim, Curi (ACF)
Cc: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR); Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Banzon, Julissa (ACF); Susan Trudeau; Ricardo Jonas; Esmeralda Zavala; Lauren Selph; Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Buckley, Kirsten (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Fink, David (ACF)
Subject: Re: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Thank you. Yes, this makes sense and we will complete the Portal documentation as described below. In addition to the Portal documentation, do we need to submit a separate SIR as well or is that not necessary?

Thanks,
Diane

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Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 23, 2016, at 4:09 PM, Kim, Curi (ACF) <Curi.Kim@acf.hhs.gov<mailto:Curi.Kim@acf.hhs.gov>>wrote:

Thank you for asking us about how to document in the Portal; this is a tricky one.

One problem is that the previous shelter didn't document her healthcare visits exploring termination in the right place to begin with.

Here is a screenshot of how the report looks:

<image004.jpg>

As you can see, the 11/14 visits should have been entered as "Update Visits" to the IME because the condition of pregnancy was first identified during the IME and thus is not a new diagnosis. (When the data is pulled from the Portal, it'll just look like she somehow was pregnant twice.)

Anyway, in your case, to document correctly, please add an Update Visit under the IME. Under the Outcome of the Evaluation section, select "A complication or secondary condition was diagnosed" and a list of diagnoses will appear; click on the Genito-urinary/Reproductive category and select "Elective abortion" for the first Update Visit. For the second and third Update Visits, select "Condition or symptoms related to initial complaint." We don't want to select "Elective abortion" as a diagnosis for the second and third visits as then it will look like she had three abortions when we pull the data from the Portal.

<image003.png>

Hope this makes sense.

Let you know if you have any questions!

Thanks,
Curi

Curi Kim, MD, MPH
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Refugee Health
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5585
curi.kim@acf.hhs.gov<mailto:curi.kim@acf.hhs.gov>
www.acf.hhs.gov<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Diane Pena [mailto:DPena@heartlandalliance.org]
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 3:14 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR); Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Banzon, Julissa (ACF); Susan Trudeau; Ricardo Jonas; Esmeralda Zavala; Lauren Selph; Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Fink, David (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF)
Subject: RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency (b)(6)

Thank you, Shaaanan.

SWK is working on the flight arrangements to transfer her to CHAP on Friday, and we have made the appointments for the 3 days starting on Monday.

Monica, attached is the Parental Notification waiver letter. As discussed, please have the SWK case managers obtain a signature from the mother and then scan it back to me before Monday.

I also have a few questions about documentation:

1. How should we document the procedure in the Medical section of the Portal? Anything specific that we should include?

2. Should we email about the DCS Medical Team about the procedure?

3. Do we need to complete an SIR as well?

Thanks,
Diane

Diane Peña | Associate Director of Program Operations Heartland Alliance | SAFEty Initiatives / Youth &Residential Services
4822 N Broadway Ave, 2nd Floor Chicago, IL 60640
O: 773.433.1200 C: (b)(6) F: 773.271.8810
E: dpena@heartlandalliance.org<mailto:dpena@heartlandalliance.org>W: www.heartlandalliance.org<http://www.heartlandalliance.org/>

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 12:34 PM
To: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Banzon, Julissa (ACF); Diane Pena; Susan Trudeau; Ricardo Jonas; Esmeralda Zavala; Lauren Selph; Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Fink, David (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF)
Subject: RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6)

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I called the healthcare provider that will be carrying out the proposed 3 day procedure - Family Planning Associates - just to clarify why the abortion would take 3 days and had the clinic clarify the day by day procedure. This seems appropriate after confirming with various Obstetric resources.

Thank you all for your efforts in facilitating this medical transfer.

Have a wonderful holiday.

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program Office of Refugee Resettlement Administration for Children and Families U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov<mailto:Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>

From: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 1:22 PM
To: Banzon, Julissa (ACF); Diane Pena; Susan Trudeau; Ricardo Jonas; Esmeralda Zavala; Lauren Selph
Cc: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Fink, David (ACF)
Subject: RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency; (b)(6)

Hello,

The program is working on submitting the memo to be submitted to HQ.

Thank you,

Monica Gonzalez, MPA
Federal Field Specialist-Chicago
DHHS/ACF/ORR/DCS
(202) 748-1900

From: Banzon, Julissa (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 12:14 PM
To: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Diane Pena; Susan Trudeau; Ricardo Jonas; Esmeralda Zavala; Lauren Selph
Cc: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Fink, David (ACF)
Subject: RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency; (b)(6)

Good afternoon,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Given the nature and time sensitivity/urgency of this transfer request and per approval from Senior FFS Supervisor Jim De La Cruz and ORR medical team to proceed with transfer from SWK to CHAP to ensure minor 's access to specialized reproductive/medical follow-up services, will you please advise if memo was already submitted to ORR/HQ to secure written approval for requested medical procedure (now determined to be a 3-day procedure)?

Copying FFS Supervisor David Fink as he is covering for Jose this week.

Thank you,

Julissa Portales Banzon, M.S.
Federal Field Specialist, Chicago
U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services
ACF/ORR/DCS
202-430-7944

From: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 11:25 AM
To: Diane Pena; Susan Trudeau; Ricardo Jonas; Esmeralda Zavala; Lauren Selph
Cc: Banzon, Julissa (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Subject: RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6)

Hi Diana,

Thank you for following up with the information. I will ensure the program communicates all the info to the UC and begin the transfer communications with CHAP.

Thank you,

Monica Gonzalez, MPA
Federal Field Specialist-Chicago
DHHS/ACF/ORR/DCS
(202) 748-1900

From: Diane Pena [mailto:DPena@heartlandalliance.org]
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 11:03 AM
To: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Susan Trudeau; Ricardo Jonas; Esmeralda Zavala; Lauren Selph
Cc: Banzon, Julissa (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Subject: RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6)

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Hi Monica,

Yes, we can accept this minor at CHAP on Friday. Please have the SWK team contact Esmeralda regarding the travel information for this transfer.

I have contacted Family Planning Associates, which is able to terminate pregnancies up to 23.3 weeks. The procedure involves 3-6 hour appointments for 3 consecutive days and we are able to make appointments staring on Monday, 11/28/16. Please note that if Family Planning Associates determines that she is beyond 23 weeks, then we will continue pre-natal care at CHAP and counsel her on other options, including adoption.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Thanks,
Diane

Diane Peña | Associate Director of Program Operations Heartland Alliance | SAFEty Initiatives / Youth &Residential Services
4822 N Broadway Ave, 2nd Floor Chicago, IL 60640
O: 773.433.1200 C (b)(6) F: 773.271.8810
E: dpena@heartlandalliance.org<mailto:dpena@heartlandalliance.org>W: www.heartlandalliance.org<http://www.heartlandalliance.org/>

From: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF) [mailto:Monica.Gonzalez@acf.hhs.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 10:18 AM
To: Diane Pena
Cc: Banzon, Julissa (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Subject: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6)
Importance: High

Hello Diane,

Thank you for accepting the above UC into the CHAP program. As discussed, please find attached the SIRs for the above UC who has requested to terminate her pregnancy due to being raped. We are looking to transfer her by Friday, November 25th. Program has received approval for UC to terminate the pregnancy from FFS Supervisor Jim De La Cruz and ORR Medical Team.

Below is a synopsis from the medical team at SWK:

1)I called OB's office for further clarification and confirmation since there is a discrepancy on number of weeks gestation. She was 19 weeks gestation on 11/14/16. Reason for discrepancy: The minor disclosed during IME on 11/11/16 to shelter medical provider that her LMP had been 10/28/16, but per OB's office staff and OB's Progress Notes, minor stated LMP had been 7/03/2016. She also had an ultrasound

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done the day of visit 11/14/16, which was also used to estimate fetus' gestational age of 19 weeks on 11/14/16. Full Progress Notes were faxed to us today confirming his information.

2) Per her OB/GYN, she informed me today that she does not counsel either way (for/against) when a client discloses they wish to terminate pregnancy, nor do they refer them elsewhere. The client will have to do this on their own. In our minor's case, I will find a different place to refer minor to ASAP so that risks of procedure and options are discussed with the minor. I will also consult with Clinical Dept. on this.

3) Mother has been notified and is supportive.

4)Minor is aware of options and risks.

In terms of Family Reunification-this is a CAT1-with mother in Iowa.

Program is currently working on the transfer packet.

Thank you,

Monica Gonzalez, MPA
Federal Field Specialist-Chicago
DHHS/ACF/ORR/DCS
(202) 748-1900

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--

Will separate what will be available immediately and what needs to be in addendum later. Please comment if you have suggestions on that.

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/21 16:15:01
Delivered Date:	2017/03/21 16:14:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Subject:	FW:
Date:	2017/03/07 13:15:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

I received from Ivonne Velazquez on 3/3/17.

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 11:26 AM
To: Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Subject:

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/07 13:16:56
Delivered Date:	2017/03/07 13:15:00
From:	(b)(6) (b)(6)
	(b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"
CC:	(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject:	RE: (b)(6)
Date:	2017/02/17 11:18:03
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Thanks (b)(6) perfect! I don't need to let him know then. Let's see what we learn next.

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(b)(6)

Case Coordinator

ORR Case Coordination Program

General Dynamics Information Technology, Inc.

Phoenix, AZ – Western Region

(b)(6) cell

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) [mailto:(b)(6)@swkey.org]

Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 9:13 AM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov>

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>;
(b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: Re: (b)(6)

Hello

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6) we have informed (b)(6) about it, I also have spoken with (b)(6) from the young center and I have asked her about federal court and or procedures she informed me that she has not seen a case like
this but will start calling around apparently and ex co worker works for the federal courts she will ask about the process, she will also reach out to planned parent hood and get more information she will provide us with updates as soon as they become available
as she is well aware that time is against client

Thank you

(b)(6) (b)(6)

Lead Case Manager

SWK- (b)(6)

Email: (b)(6) @swkey.org

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If you are not the intended recipient, please destroy all copies of the original message.)

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From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 9:01 AM

To: (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Thank you so much for the update (b)(6) I will talk to (b)(6) to update him as well. This sounds so weird to me, filing under another name… but this is something for attorneys to decide, I believe.

Unfortunately I don't see us with much time in our hands and maybe the work now would be towards supporting this youth into a disclose to (b)(6) If she cannot have a termination here, her only chance would be to be released sooner than later to have (b)(6) and child advocate helping her outside of ORR. Easy said than done, I know. And I know, (b)(6) is probably having to move at this point and he is young… and support from this uncle seems a little off at this time.

We will discuss more of course. I will let you know if (b)(6) says anything different.

Thanks again (b)(6) You are handling this like a pro!

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6)

Case Coordinator

ORR Case Coordination Program

General Dynamics Information Technology, Inc.

Phoenix, AZ – Western Region

(b)(6) cell

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2017 5:14 PM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>

Subject: (b)(6)

H(b)(6)

We just received word from the lawyers at court that the judge denied the request for a re-file. The lawyers had suggested filing under a different name, address, or county court.
They also suggested that the child advocate at the young center check to see if they could file with the Federal Court.

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We are checking in with the young center to see if this is possible. The client still does not want to leave without the abortion. She has told me that she doesn't feel comfortable
leaving still being pregnant. I should have an answer tomorrow from the young center, and also the results from the psychological evaluation.

I spoke with the HS provider today as well, and she has concerns about additional household members, and the uncle is refusing to provide information. Therefore the (b)(6)
is looking for another apartment for him and the client. During the interview with the HS provider, the provider stated that the client needs to disclose the information to her (b)(6) about her current situation, and it would be very important for her case.

Any other updates I'll keep you posted, let me know if you have questions or if something isn't clear.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Fax: 480-452-0603

Phone: (b)(6)

Sender: (b)(6) (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Recipient:	(b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) "Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent Date:	2017/02/17 11:14:48
Delivered Date:	2017/02/17 11:18:03
From:	(b)(6) (b)(6)
To:	"Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <swkey.org>"
Subject:	(b)(6) Procedure scheduled
Date:	2017/02/24 18:39:06
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Good evening all

(b)(6) has a 2 part appointment for her termination

First day is Wednesday March 1st at 215pm

This is when they plan to prepare her cervix for the procedure

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Thursday March 2nd is the main procedure, this is scheduled at 7:45 am

This will take 4 to 6 hours

I will be present with her for both appointments

The cost is $1300

Let me know if you need any other information and thanks all for your teamwork

(b)(6)

Clinician office 501

Program
921: Kokopelli

Phone:
(b)(6) ***Extension*** (b)(6)

Email:
(b)(6)

Regular

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Work Schedule: Tuesday -- Saturday, 8am-4pm

Sender:	(b)(6) (b)(6)
Recipient:	"Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"
Sent Date:	2017/02/24 18:38:57
Delivered Date:	2017/02/24 18:39:06
From:	(b)(6) (b)(6)
To:	(b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6)
CC:	"Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) swkey.org>"; (b)(6) org>"
Subject:	Kokopelli: Update on abortion proceedings for (b)(6) (b)(6)
Date:	2017/02/13 14:55:10
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Good Afternoon,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I just spoke with the attorney Anne Williams. She has filed for a new trial for (b)(6) last Monday 2/6/2017. She stated that the judge has had it on his desk for a week, but still has not given a new court hearing yet. The judge officially
has 60 days to accept for a new trial, however Anne Williams stated that the judge is aware of the urgency of the situation. The client only has up until the 16th week with Planned Parenthood(this week), and may even be reunified before the 60 days.
The attorney will be speaking with the judge today to let them know that we need to have an answer by this Wednesday on whether the judge will set a new court date or not.

Meanwhile, the child advocate will be meeting with (b)(6) this Wednesday morning. The Home study is in process and is expected to be closed on 2/20/2017 with the report. The psychological evaluation will be finished tomorrow.

I have been looking into other clinics that can also do the procedure:

Acaia Women's Center – Surgical abortion up to 17 weeks in the facility.

Desert Star Familly Planning – Surgical abortion up to 23 weeks of pregnancy

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Fax: 480-452-0603

Phone: (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sender:	(b)(6) (b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) "Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) <agarcia@swkey.org>"
Sent Date:	2017/02/13 14:54:52
Delivered Date:	2017/02/13 14:55:10
From:	Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=4D88928C06A84498A966D9352F344094-RUHKAMP, GA>
To:	"Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"; "Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=39e67b42d96043c688e84fa6cef42570-Velazquez,>"
Subject:	RE: Termination of Pregnancy request
Date:	2017/02/07 08:52:47
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

This referral has been accepted by BCFS.

Gail Houppert
Project Officer
Division of Children Services
Office of Refugee and Resettlement
330 D Street SW, Mailroom 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Gail.Houppert@acf.hhs.gov
Office: 202-401-9324
Cell: (b)(6)

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 10:56 AM
To: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Subject: Re: Termination of Pregnancy request

(b)(6)

(b)(6) (b)(6)

From: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 10:52:09 AM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request

I can get this home study expedited if I have the A#.

Thanks,
Gail

Gail Houppert
Project Officer
Division of Children Services
Office of Refugee and Resettlement
330 D Street SW, Mailroom 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Gail.Houppert@acf.hhs.gov
Office: 202-401-9324
Cell: (b)(6)

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 10:46 AM
To: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Cc: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Subject: Re: Termination of Pregnancy request

Will work on the need to expedite today.

Will Calero

From: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 10:40:45 AM
To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Cc: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Subject: Fw: Termination of Pregnancy request

Wifred and Gail,

Can we please expedite HS for this case.

Jsd

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 7:10:07 PM
To: (b)(6) Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS - UAC Medical; Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request

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Just to clarify she does not have a 3rd grade education. She indicated to me that she almost completed her third level of school, which was confused with third grade. She actually completed 9 years of school which would have been the first year of high school.

Wilfred Calero
Federal Field Specialist
Division of Children's Services
Office of Refugee Resettlement
202-695-4996
(b)(6)
wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 5:06 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS - UAC Medical; Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Subject: Re: Termination of Pregnancy request

Hello Team

From my experience working with this UC, I am NOT feeling that she has developmental delays

She was nervous in court and felt intimidated, this may the reason for her lack or articulation with the judge

Also, keep in mind she has only a 3rd grade education

I am feeling that it is these two reasons that she is struggling to articulate, not a development delay

I am not a psychologist so I wouldn't object to psychological testing to make the determination

(b)(6) (b)(6)
Clinician office 501
Program 921: Kokopelli
Phone: 480-500-1076 Extension (b)(6)
Email: (b)(6)
Regular Work Schedule: Tuesday -- Saturday, 8am-4pm

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 11:33:51 AM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS Medical; Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Subject: Termination of Pregnancy request

Good afternoon,

We will be cancelling the conference call for this afternoon. After a conversation with Jim De La Cruz as to the best way forward with this case we have decided the following:

1) The judge called into question this minor's capacity for medical decision making and the field staff and shelter staff have noted that she is "delayed". As I have done in prior complex cases that involve a serious medical procedure, we are requesting that this minor undergo formal evaluation by a psychologist to assess her mental capacity in the next few days. If it is determined that she is significantly delayed and with cognitive impairment, that will raise the issue whether or not we can override her legal right to confidentiality in not disclosing to her parents and getting parental consent for termination about her pregnancy as it will put her life in danger for various reasons
2) The sponsor needs to have an expedited in depth home study for a number of reasons – 1) the possibility that his younger sister has a developmental delay and she will require more support than he might be able to provide; 2) the possibility that he would have to care for her if we were to release her being pregnant if she agrees to disclose her pregnancy to him; 3) to ensure the minor's safety with the (b)(6)
   I have cc'd Gail Houppert who directs the Home studies and PRS to ensure that this home study is expedited given the time sensitivity with this young lady advancing in her pregnancy
3) I am requesting that the FFS identify a possible OB practice in the sponsor's community in advance in the event that we come to the conclusion that we will discharge this young lady
4) The shelter staff and case management staff should continue to work with the minor to help understand her situation and the importance of disclosing her medical condition to her parents or (b)(6)

   I would like to raise one additional curveball, that if she is discharged to her (b)(6) and was willing to disclose her pregnancy to her (b)(6) but not her parents, that in some states (I don't know the laws in Florida) that still would not suffice for consent.

I think it is important that we set a firm deadline for ourselves to have these tasks accomplished given the fact that she is 13 weeks pregnant and state laws limit procedures passed a certain gestational age. Please respond with updates to the FFS Wilfred Calero on all of these matters by 2/10. The Medical Team will be happy to consult once we have a more complete picture of the situation.

Thank you for your time and help on this case.

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 9:12 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS - UAC Medical
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

4pm EST/2 pm MTN works. (b)(6) can you set up a conference call line please?
Please reply to (b)(6) if you will be on the call and what your role is in the case is since there are so many staff members included on this email.

Thanks,

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) [mailto:(b)(6)@swkey.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:32 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF)
Subject: Re: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Hello Dr. Meyerstein, I propose 1 pm EST (11 am MTN) or 4 pm EST (2 pm MTN). I hope the times proposed work for all.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thank you,

(b)(6) LLM
Program Director
Southwest Key Programs-Kokopelli 921
(b)(6)
Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 31, 2017, at 6:45 PM, Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

> This case is very complex, far beyond email exchanges.
> Can we please schedule a conference call to discuss this minor's case tom?
> After 1pm EST?
>
> Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
> LCDR, US Public Health Service
> Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
> Office of Refugee Resettlement
> Administration for Children and Families
> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
> (202) 401-4639 (office)
> (301) (b)(6) (cell)
> Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 6:17 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good Afternoon Shaanan,

The sponsor is (b)(6) (b)(6) If the minor was indeed medically stable for discharge, we could of course discharge the minor to the sponsor. However, the sponsor would still be unaware of the client being pregnant from being sexually assaulted, and wanting an abortion. Therefore, the sponsor would not be prepared for the release of the minor, and possible withdrawal from being a sponsor. Further assessment is still needed at this time to ensure a safe release of the minor.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Case Manager
Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli
(b)(6)
Fax: 480-452-0603
Phone: (b)(6)

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 2:40 PM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

(b)(6)
To be clear – if I told you that the minor was medically stable for discharge, then she could be discharged to her sponsor?
Who is the sponsor and where do they reside?

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 1:03 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good Morning Shaanan,

The law confirms the gestational age in Arizona below:

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Prohibiting Abortions Past 20 Weeks of Pregnancy (A.R.S. § 36-2159) – Prohibits abortions past 20 weeks gestation, except in the case of a medical emergency.†

The sponsor for this minor is in Florida, and the status of reunification is pending the medical condition of the client. All other documentation has been provided by the sponsor for reunification.

Thank you,

(b)(6)
Case Manager
Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli
(b)(6)@swkey.org
Fax: 480-452-0603
Phone: (b)(6)

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 10:58 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Can someone please confirm Gestational Age in Arizona when abortion is legal for whatever circumstance?
Where is the sponsor for this minor and what is the status of reunification?

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 12:46 PM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); Calero, Wilfred

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(ACF)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good Morning!

As previously staffed with our leadership, it was determined that the notarized letter from the parents would not be sufficient for the termination to take place. The client may be open to speaking with her mother if we were able to obtain permission to proceed with the notarized letter of consent from the mother in home country.

However, as I am under the assumption that we would only be able to proceed with the termination once we appealed to the court to obtain the judicial bypass because the mother would not be able to attend the abortion procedure.

As the clinician has stated below, that the client does not feel comfortable informing her family, and would like to appeal. Please let me know if there are any questions.

Thank you,

(b)(6)
Case Manager
Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli
(b)(6)
Fax: 480-452-0603
Phone: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:54 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

The client continues to not want to inform any family members, her parents nor her Sponsor

She wants to appeal the Judge's decision, I have emailed the lawyers assigned to her and have not heard back.

My concern is the timeliness of this issue

(b)(6)
Clinician office 501
Program 921: Kokopelli
Phone: 480-500-1076 Extension (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Email: (b)(6)
Regular Work Schedule: Tuesday -- Saturday, 8am-4pm

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:52:01 AM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good morning!

I have copied her case manager and clinician to this email.
They may be better able to answer this question for you.

Thanks ☺

(b)(6)
(b)(6)
Southwest Key Programs
Casa Kokopelli #921
D: (b)(6)
C:
F: (480) 393-8104
(b)(6) @swkey.org
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From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 4:22 PM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

(b)(6) and Wilfred,
Since the judge denied the judicial bypass, did the minor speak with her parents about her pregnancy over the weekend? Did the parents consent?

Thanks,

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) [mailto(b)(6) @swkey.org]
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 12:27 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Subject: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

AZ Laws regarding Abortion:

*Arizona law requires that women under 18 years old seeking an abortion must either have the **notarized** written permission of one of their parents/legal guardian or permission from a Superior Court Judge.*

Ensuring Adequate Consent

•Parental Consent (A.R.S. § 36-2152) – Requires parental consent for minors seeking abortions but allows for judicial bypass. Requires the parental consent to be obtained on a form to ensure that parents are informed of all of the medical risks of abortion before giving consent. Requires parental consent to be notarized. Allows parents to sue (1) an abortion provider who performs an abortion on their minor daughter without parental consent or (2) any person who assists a minor in obtaining an abortion without parental consent.

•Informed Consent (A.R.S. § 36-2153) – Information must be provided 24 hours in advance to a woman seeking an abortion about the risks and alternatives of the procedure, the probable gestational age and physiological characteristics of the preborn child, and the services available from public and private agencies to assist during pregnancy and after birth. Requires that the information is provided at an in-person consultation with a doctor. Allows a woman to file a lawsuit against an abortion provider who fails to obtain informed consent. Requires the Department of Health Services to create and maintain a website providing unbiased information about fetal development, the risks of abortion, and information about alternatives to abortion.

•Informed Consent for Lethal Condition (A.R.S. § 36-2158) – When a woman discovers that her child may have a life-threatening birth defect or other fetal condition, information must be provided 24 hours in advance about the support that is available to her, including perinatal hospice. Requires the Department of Health Services to create and maintain a website providing unbiased information about perinatal hospice and assistance available for children with special needs.

•Opportunity to View Ultrasound (A.R.S. § 36-2156) – Requires an ultrasound to be performed at least 24 hours before every abortion, and a woman seeking abortion must be offered the opportunity to view the ultrasound and hear the baby's heartbeat, if audible.

•Coercion Prohibited (A.R.S. § 36-2153) – Prohibits a person from intimidating or coercing another person into having an abortion and allows minors to obtain public assistance benefits if parents cut off financial support because the minor refuses to have an abortion. Requires that all abortion clinics conspicuously post signs that state it is unlawful for any person to intimidate or coerce another person into having an abortion.

•Foster Parents (A.R.S. § 8-514.05) – Foster parents may not consent to abortion for a foster child.

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•Fiduciaries (Arizona Code of Jud. Admin. § 7-202) – Fiduciaries may not consent to abortion for a ward without a court order.

- See more at: https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-arizona/online-health-center/minors-and-abortion-law#sthash.lWOGvCcD.dpuf

(b)(6)
(b)(6)
Southwest Key Programs
Casa Kokopelli #921
D: (b)(6) (b)(6)
C:
F: (480) 393-8104
(b)(6) @swkey.org
CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This email, including attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information covered by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. 2510-2521. Any unauthorized review, use, or disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender immediately and destroy all copies of the original message.

Sender:	Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=4D88928C06A84498A966D9352F344094-RUHKAMP, GA>
Recipient:	"Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"; "Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=39e67b42d96043c688e84fa6cef42570-Velazquez,>"
Sent Date:	2017/02/07 08:52:46
Delivered Date:	2017/02/07 08:52:47
From:	Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=4D88928C06A84498A966D9352F344094-RUHKAMP, GA>
To:	"Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"; "Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=39e67b42d96043c688e84fa6cef42570-Velazquez,>"
Subject:	RE: Termination of Pregnancy request
Date:	2017/02/06 15:08:08
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

It's there now. It wasn't a minute ago. Thanks. I will work on getting it expedited.

Gail Houppert
Project Officer
Division of Children Services
Office of Refugee and Resettlement
330 D Street SW, Mailroom 5123

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Washington, DC 20201
Gail.Houppert@acf.hhs.gov
Office: 202-401-9324
Cell: (b)(6)

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 3:07 PM
To: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request

I just checkwd and just submitted it online it should be there. I think the program left it open without sending it. But the alien number is correct.

Let me know if it worked if not I will call the program directly to correct the error.

Thanks.

Wilfred Calero
Federal Field Specialist
Division of Children's Services
Office of Refugee Resettlement
202-695-4996
(b)(6)
wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

From: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 1:04 PM
To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request

Hi Wilfred –

Are you sure that (b)(6) is the correct A#? I still cannot find her on the list of referrals in the portal?

Gail Houppert
Project Officer
Division of Children Services
Office of Refugee and Resettlement
330 D Street SW, Mailroom 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Gail.Houppert@acf.hhs.gov
Office: 202-401-9324
Cell: (b)(6)

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 2:54 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request

The Home Study Request has been updated in the portal.

Thanks for your attention on this matter.

Wilfred Calero
Federal Field Specialist
Division of Children's Services
Office of Refugee Resettlement
202-695-4996
(b)(6)
wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

From: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 10:41 AM
To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request
Importance: High

Good Afternoon,

This minor is not listed on the home study referral list so cannot be accepted as a provider. Please go into the portal to make sure the home study request has been done properly and is listed on the pending home study referral list. Not currently there. If you have problems please contact the UAC Portal helpdesk. Please let me know when the referral is posted to the list and I will get it expedited.

Thank you,
Gail

Gail Houppert
Project Officer
Division of Children Services
Office of Refugee and Resettlement
330 D Street SW, Mailroom 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Gail.Houppert@acf.hhs.gov
Office: 202-401-9324
Cell: (b)(6)

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 10:56 AM
To: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Subject: Re: Termination of Pregnancy request

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6)

From: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 10:52:09 AM
To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request

I can get this home study expedited if I have the A#.

Thanks,
Gail

Gail Houppert
Project Officer
Division of Children Services
Office of Refugee and Resettlement
330 D Street SW, Mailroom 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Gail.Houppert@acf.hhs.gov
Office: 202-401-9324
Cell (b)(6)

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 10:46 AM
To: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Cc: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Subject: Re: Termination of Pregnancy request

Will work on the need to expedite today.

Will Calero

From: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 10:40:45 AM
To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Cc: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Subject: Fw: Termination of Pregnancy request

Wifred and Gail,

Can we please expedite HS for this case.

Jsd

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From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 7:10:07 PM
To: (b)(6) Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS - UAC Medical; Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request

Just to clarify she does not have a 3rd grade education. She indicated to me that she almost completed her third level of school, which was confused with third grade. She actually completed 9 years of school which would have been the first year of high school.

Wilfred Calero
Federal Field Specialist
Division of Children's Services
Office of Refugee Resettlement
202-695-4996
(b)(6)
wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 5:06 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS - UAC Medical; Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Subject: Re: Termination of Pregnancy request

Hello Team

From my experience working with this UC, I am NOT feeling that she has developmental delays

She was nervous in court and felt intimidated, this may the reason for her lack or articulation with the judge

Also, keep in mind she has only a 3rd grade education

I am feeling that it is these two reasons that she is struggling to articulate, not a development delay

I am not a psychologist so I wouldn't object to psychological testing to make the determination

(b)(6)
Clinician office 501
Program 921: Kokopelli

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Phone: 480-500-1076 Extension (b)(6)
Email: (b)(6)
Regular Work Schedule: Tuesday -- Saturday, 8am-4pm

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 11:33:51 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS Medical; Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Subject: Termination of Pregnancy request

Good afternoon,

We will be cancelling the conference call for this afternoon. After a conversation with Jim De La Cruz as to the best way forward with this case we have decided the following:

1) The judge called into question this minor's capacity for medical decision making and the field staff and shelter staff have noted that she is "delayed". As I have done in prior complex cases that involve a serious medical procedure, we are requesting that this minor undergo formal evaluation by a psychologist to assess her mental capacity in the next few days. If it is determined that she is significantly delayed and with cognitive impairment, that will raise the issue whether or not we can override her legal right to confidentiality in not disclosing to her parents and getting parental consent for termination about her pregnancy as it will put her life in danger for various reasons
2) The sponsor needs to have an expedited in depth home study for a number of reasons – 1) the possibility that his younger sister has a developmental delay and she will require more support than he might be able to provide; 2) the possibility that he would have to care for her if we were to release her being pregnant if she agrees to disclose her pregnancy to him; 3) to ensure the minor's safety with the (b)(6)
   I have cc'd Gail Houppert who directs the Home studies and PRS to ensure that this home study is expedited given the time sensitivity with this young lady advancing in her pregnancy
3) I am requesting that the FFS identify a possible OB practice in the sponsor's community in advance in the event that we come to the conclusion that we will discharge this young lady
4) The shelter staff and case management staff should continue to work with the minor to help understand her situation and the importance of disclosing her medical condition to her parents or (b)(6)

   I would like to raise one additional curveball, that if she is discharged to her (b)(6) and was willing to disclose her pregnancy to her (b)(6) but not her parents, that in some states (I don't know the laws in Florida) that still would not suffice for consent.

I think it is important that we set a firm deadline for ourselves to have these tasks accomplished given the fact that she is 13 weeks pregnant and state laws limit procedures passed a certain gestational age. Please respond with updates to the FFS Wilfred Calero on all of these matters by 2/10. The Medical Team will be happy to consult once we have a more complete picture of the situation.

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Thank you for your time and help on this case.

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 9:12 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS - UAC Medical
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

4pm EST/2 pm MTN works. (b)(6) can you set up a conference call line please?
Please reply to (b)(6) if you will be on the call and what your role is in the case is since there are so many staff members included on this email.

Thanks,

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) [mailto (b)(6) @swkey.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:32 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF)
Subject: Re: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Hello Dr. Meyerstein, I propose 1 pm EST (11 am MTN) or 4 pm EST (2 pm MTN). I hope the times proposed work for all.

Thank you,

(b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Southwest Key Programs-Kokopelli 921
(b)(6)
Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 31, 2017, at 6:45 PM, Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

> This case is very complex, far beyond email exchanges.
> Can we please schedule a conference call to discuss this minor's case tom?
> After 1pm EST?
>
> Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
> LCDR, US Public Health Service
> Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
> Office of Refugee Resettlement
> Administration for Children and Families
> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
> (202) 401-4639 (office)
> (301) (b)(6) (cell)
> Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov
>
> **From:** (b)(6) (b)(6)
> **Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 6:17 PM
> **To:** Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
> **Cc:** (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
> **Subject:** RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion
>
> Good Afternoon Shaanan,
>
> The sponsor is (b)(6) (b)(6) If the minor was indeed medically stable for discharge, we could of course discharge the minor to the sponsor. However, the sponsor would still be unaware of the client being pregnant from being sexually assaulted, and wanting an abortion. Therefore, the sponsor would not be

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prepared for the release of the minor, and possible withdrawal from being a sponsor. Further assessment is still needed at this time to ensure a safe release of the minor.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

(b)(6)
Case Manager
Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli
(b)(6)
Fax: 480-452-0603
Phone: (b)(6)

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 2:40 PM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

(b)(6)

To be clear – if I told you that the minor was medically stable for discharge, then she could be discharged to her sponsor?
Who is the sponsor and where do they reside?

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 1:03 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(ACF)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good Morning Shaanan,

The law confirms the gestational age in Arizona below:
Prohibiting Abortions Past 20 Weeks of Pregnancy (A.R.S. § 36-2159) – Prohibits abortions past 20 weeks gestation, except in the case of a medical emergency.†

The sponsor for this minor is in Florida, and the status of reunification is pending the medical condition of the client. All other documentation has been provided by the sponsor for reunification.

Thank you,

(b)(6)
Case Manager
Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli
(b)(6)
Fax: 480-452-0603
Phone: (b)(6)

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 10:58 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <agarcia@swkey.org>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Can someone please confirm Gestational Age in Arizona when abortion is legal for whatever circumstance?
Where is the sponsor for this minor and what is the status of reunification?

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 12:46 PM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good Morning!

As previously staffed with our leadership, it was determined that the notarized letter from the parents would not be sufficient for the termination to take place. The client may be open to speaking with her mother if we were able to obtain permission to proceed with the notarized letter of consent from the mother in home country.

However, as I am under the assumption that we would only be able to proceed with the termination once we appealed to the court to obtain the judicial bypass because the mother would not be able to attend the abortion procedure.

As the clinician has stated below, that the client does not feel comfortable informing her family, and would like to appeal. Please let me know if there are any questions.

Thank you,

(b)(6)
Case Manager
Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli
(b)(6)
Fax: 480-452-0603
Phone: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:54 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

The client continues to not want to inform any family members, her parents nor her Sponsor

She wants to appeal the Judge's decision, I have emailed the lawyers assigned to her and have not heard back.

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My concern is the timeliness of this issue

(b)(6)
Clinician office 501
Program 921: Kokopelli
Phone: 480-500-1076 Extension (b)(6)
Email: (b)(6)
Regular Work Schedule: Tuesday -- Saturday, 8am-4pm

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:52:01 AM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good morning!

I have copied her case manager and clinician to this email.
They may be better able to answer this question for you.

Thanks ☺

(b)(6)
(b)(6)
Southwest Key Programs
Casa Kokopelli #921
D: (b)(6)
C:
F: (480) 393-8104
agarcia@swkey.org
CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This email, including attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information covered by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. 2510-2521. Any unauthorized review, use, or disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender immediately and destroy all copies of the original message.

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 4:22 PM
To: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

(b)(6) and Wilfred,
Since the judge denied the judicial bypass, did the minor speak with her parents about her pregnancy over the weekend? Did the parents consent?

Thanks,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) [mailto(b)(6)@swkey.org]
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 12:27 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Subject: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

AZ Laws regarding Abortion:

*Arizona law requires that women under 18 years old seeking an abortion must either have the **notarized** written permission of one of their parents/legal guardian or permission from a Superior Court Judge.*

Ensuring Adequate Consent

•Parental Consent (A.R.S. § 36-2152) – Requires parental consent for minors seeking abortions but allows for judicial bypass. Requires the parental consent to be obtained on a form to ensure that parents are informed of all of the medical risks of abortion before giving consent. Requires parental consent to be notarized. Allows parents to sue (1) an abortion provider who performs an abortion on their minor daughter without parental consent or (2) any person who assists a minor in obtaining an abortion without parental consent.

•Informed Consent (A.R.S. § 36-2153) – Information must be provided 24 hours in advance to a woman seeking an abortion about the risks and alternatives of the procedure, the probable gestational age and physiological characteristics of the preborn child, and the services available from public and private agencies to assist during pregnancy and after birth. Requires that the information is provided at an in-person consultation with a doctor. Allows a woman to file a lawsuit against an abortion provider who fails to obtain informed consent. Requires the Department of Health Services to create and maintain a website providing unbiased information about fetal development, the risks of abortion, and information about alternatives to abortion.

•Informed Consent for Lethal Condition (A.R.S. § 36-2158) – When a woman discovers that her child may have a life-threatening birth defect or other fetal condition, information must be provided 24 hours in advance about the support that is available to her, including perinatal hospice. Requires the Department of Health Services to create and maintain a website providing unbiased information about perinatal hospice and assistance available for children with special needs.

•Opportunity to View Ultrasound (A.R.S. § 36-2156) – Requires an ultrasound to be performed at least 24 hours before every abortion, and a woman seeking abortion must be offered the opportunity to view the ultrasound and hear the baby's heartbeat, if audible.

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•Coercion Prohibited (A.R.S. § 36-2153) – Prohibits a person from intimidating or coercing another person into having an abortion and allows minors to obtain public assistance benefits if parents cut off financial support because the minor refuses to have an abortion. Requires that all abortion clinics conspicuously post signs that state it is unlawful for any person to intimidate or coerce another person into having an abortion.
•Foster Parents (A.R.S. § 8-514.05) – Foster parents may not consent to abortion for a foster child.
•Fiduciaries (Arizona Code of Jud. Admin. § 7-202) – Fiduciaries may not consent to abortion for a ward without a court order.

- See more at: https://www.planned parenthood.org/planned-parenthood-arizona/online-health-center/minors-and-abortion-law#sthash.lWOGvCcD.dpuf

(b)(6)
(b)(6)
Southwest Key Programs
Casa Kokopelli #921
D: (b)(6)
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F: (480) 393-8104
agarcia@swkey.org
CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This email, including attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information covered by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. 2510-2521. Any unauthorized review, use, or disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender immediately and destroy all copies of the original message.

Sender:	Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=4D88928C06A84498A966D9352F344094-RUHKAMP, GA>
Recipient:	"Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"; "Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=39e67b42d96043c688e84fa6cef42570-Velazquez,>"
Sent Date:	2017/02/06 15:08:08
From:	Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7FCD1FABEF934452BFF7378F6365FA8E-CALERO, WIL>
To:	"Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4d88928c06a84498a966d9352f344094-Ruhkamp, Ga>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"; "Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=39e67b42d96043c688e84fa6cef42570-Velazquez,>"
Subject:	RE: Termination of Pregnancy request
Date:	2017/02/06 15:06:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I just checkwd and just submitted it online it should be there. I think the program left it open without sending it. But the alien number is correct.

Let me know if it worked if not I will call the program directly to correct the error.

Thanks.

Wilfred Calero
Federal Field Specialist
Division of Children's Services
Office of Refugee Resettlement
202-695-4996
(b)(6)
wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

From: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 1:04 PM
To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request

Hi Wilfred –

Are you sure that (b)(6) is the correct A#? I still cannot find her on the list of referrals in the portal?

Gail Houppert
Project Officer
Division of Children Services
Office of Refugee and Resettlement
330 D Street SW, Mailroom 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Gail.Houppert@acf.hhs.gov
Office: 202-401-9324
Cell: (b)(6)

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 2:54 PM
To: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request

The Home Study Request has been updated in the portal.

Thanks for your attention on this matter.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Wilfred Calero
Federal Field Specialist
Division of Children's Services
Office of Refugee Resettlement
202-695-4996
(b)(6)
wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

From: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 10:41 AM
To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request
Importance: High

Good Afternoon,

This minor is not listed on the home study referral list so cannot be accepted as a provider. Please go into the portal to make sure the home study request has been done properly and is listed on the pending home study referral list. Not currently there. If you have problems please contact the UAC Portal helpdesk. Please let me know when the referral is posted to the list and I will get it expedited.

Thank you,
Gail

Gail Houppert
Project Officer
Division of Children Services
Office of Refugee and Resettlement
330 D Street SW, Mailroom 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Gail.Houppert@acf.hhs.gov
Office: 202-401-9324
Cell: (b)(6)

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 10:56 AM
To: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Subject: Re: Termination of Pregnancy request

(b)(6)

From: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 10:52:09 AM
To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I can get this home study expedited if I have the A#.

Thanks,
Gail

Gail Houppert
Project Officer
Division of Children Services
Office of Refugee and Resettlement
330 D Street SW, Mailroom 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Gail.Houppert@acf.hhs.gov
Office: 202-401-9324
Cell: (b)(6)

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 10:46 AM
To: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Cc: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Subject: Re: Termination of Pregnancy request

Will work on the need to expedite today.

Will Calero

From: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 10:40:45 AM
To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Cc: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Subject: Fw: Termination of Pregnancy request

Wifred and Gail,

Can we please expedite HS for this case.

Jsd

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 7:10:07 PM
To: (b)(6) Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS - UAC Medical; Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Just to clarify she does not have a 3rd grade education. She indicated to me that she almost completed her third level of school, which was confused with third grade. She actually completed 9 years of school which would have been the first year of high school.

Wilfred Calero
Federal Field Specialist
Division of Children's Services
Office of Refugee Resettlement
202-695-4996
(b)(6)
wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 5:06 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS - UAC Medical; Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Subject: Re: Termination of Pregnancy request

Hello Team

From my experience working with this UC, I am NOT feeling that she has developmental delays

She was nervous in court and felt intimidated, this may the reason for her lack or articulation with the judge

Also, keep in mind she has only a 3rd grade education

I am feeling that it is these two reasons that she is struggling to articulate, not a development delay

I am not a psychologist so I wouldn't object to psychological testing to make the determination

(b)(6)
Clinician office 501
Program 921: Kokopelli
Phone: 480-500-1076 Extension (b)(6)
Email: (b)(6)
Regular Work Schedule: Tuesday -- Saturday, 8am-4pm

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 11:33:51 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS Medical; Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Subject: Termination of Pregnancy request

Good afternoon,

We will be cancelling the conference call for this afternoon. After a conversation with Jim De La Cruz as to the best way forward with this case we have decided the following:

1) The judge called into question this minor's capacity for medical decision making and the field staff and shelter staff have noted that she is "delayed". As I have done in prior complex cases that involve a serious medical procedure, we are requesting that this minor undergo formal evaluation by a psychologist to assess her mental capacity in the next few days. If it is determined that she is significantly delayed and with cognitive impairment, that will raise the issue whether or not we can override her legal right to confidentiality in not disclosing to her parents and getting parental consent for termination about her pregnancy as it will put her life in danger for various reasons
2) The sponsor needs to have an expedited in depth home study for a number of reasons – 1) the possibility that his younger sister has a developmental delay and she will require more support than he might be able to provide; 2) the possibility that he would have to care for her if we were to release her being pregnant if she agrees to disclose her pregnancy to him; 3) to ensure the minor's safety with the (b)(6)
   I have cc'd Gail Houppert who directs the Home studies and PRS to ensure that this home study is expedited given the time sensitivity with this young lady advancing in her pregnancy
3) I am requesting that the FFS identify a possible OB practice in the sponsor's community in advance in the event that we come to the conclusion that we will discharge this young lady
4) The shelter staff and case management staff should continue to work with the minor to help understand her situation and the importance of disclosing her medical condition to her parents or (b)(6)

   I would like to raise one additional curveball, that if she is discharged to her (b)(6) and was willing to disclose her pregnancy to her (b)(6) but not her parents, that in some states (I don't know the laws in Florida) that still would not suffice for consent.

I think it is important that we set a firm deadline for ourselves to have these tasks accomplished given the fact that she is 13 weeks pregnant and state laws limit procedures passed a certain gestational age. Please respond with updates to the FFS Wilfred Calero on all of these matters by 2/10. The Medical Team will be happy to consult once we have a more complete picture of the situation.

Thank you for your time and help on this case.

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 9:12 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS - UAC Medical
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

4pm EST/2 pm MTN works (b)(6) can you set up a conference call line please?
Please reply to (b)(6) if you will be on the call and what your role is in the case is since there are so many staff members included on this email.

Thanks,

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) [mailto:kalvarado@swkey.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:32 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF)
Subject: Re: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Hello Dr. Meyerstein, I propose 1 pm EST (11 am MTN) or 4 pm EST (2 pm MTN). I hope the times proposed work for all.

Thank you,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Southwest Key Programs-Kokopelli 921
(b)(6)
Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 31, 2017, at 6:45 PM, Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

> This case is very complex, far beyond email exchanges.
> Can we please schedule a conference call to discuss this minor's case tom?
> After 1pm EST?
>
> Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
> LCDR, US Public Health Service
> Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
> Office of Refugee Resettlement
> Administration for Children and Families
> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
> (202) 401-4639 (office)
> (301) (b)(6) (cell)
> Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov
>
> **From:** (b)(6) (b)(6)
> **Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 6:17 PM
> **To:** Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
> **Cc:** (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
> **Subject:** RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion
>
> Good Afternoon Shaanan,
>
> The sponsor is (b)(6) (b)(6) If the minor was indeed medically stable for discharge, we could of course discharge the minor to the sponsor. However, the sponsor would still be unaware of the client being pregnant from being sexually assaulted, and wanting an abortion. Therefore, the sponsor would not be prepared for the release of the minor, and possible withdrawal from being a sponsor. Further assessment is still needed at this time to ensure a safe release of the minor.
>
> Please let me know if you have any questions.
>
> Thank you,
>
> (b)(6)
> Case Manager

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli
(b)(6)
Fax: 480-452-0603
Phone: (b)(6)

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 2:40 PM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <agarcia@swkey.org>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

(b)(6)

To be clear – if I told you that the minor was medically stable for discharge, then she could be discharged to her sponsor?
Who is the sponsor and where do they reside?

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 1:03 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good Morning Shaanan,

The law confirms the gestational age in Arizona below:
Prohibiting Abortions Past 20 Weeks of Pregnancy (A.R.S. § 36-2159) – Prohibits abortions past 20 weeks gestation, except in the case of a medical emergency.†

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The sponsor for this minor is in Florida, and the status of reunification is pending the medical condition of the client. All other documentation has been provided by the sponsor for reunification.

Thank you,

(b)(6)
Case Manager
Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli
(b)(6)
Fax: 480-452-0603
Phone: (b)(6)

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 10:58 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Can someone please confirm Gestational Age in Arizona when abortion is legal for whatever circumstance?
Where is the sponsor for this minor and what is the status of reunification?

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 12:46 PM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good Morning!

As previously staffed with our leadership, it was determined that the notarized letter from the parents would not be sufficient for the termination to take place. The client may be open to speaking with her mother if we were able to obtain permission to proceed with the notarized letter of consent from the mother in home country.

However, as I am under the assumption that we would only be able to proceed with the termination once we appealed to the court to obtain the judicial bypass because the mother would not be able to attend the abortion procedure.

As the clinician has stated below, that the client does not feel comfortable informing her family, and would like to appeal. Please let me know if there are any questions.

Thank you,

(b)(6)
Case Manager
Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli
(b)(6)
Fax: 480-452-0603
Phone (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:54 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

The client continues to not want to inform any family members, her parents nor her Sponsor

She wants to appeal the Judge's decision, I have emailed the lawyers assigned to her and have not heard back.

My concern is the timeliness of this issue

(b)(6)
Clinician office 501
Program 921: Kokopelli
Phone: 480-500-1076 Extension (b)(6)
Email: (b)(6)
Regular Work Schedule: Tuesday -- Saturday, 8am-4pm

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:52:01 AM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good morning!

I have copied her case manager and clinician to this email.
They may be better able to answer this question for you.

Thanks ☺

(b)(6)
(b)(6)
Southwest Key Programs
Casa Kokopelli #921
D: (b)(6)
C:
F: (480) 393-8104
agarcia@swkey.org
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From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 4:22 PM
To: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

(b)(6) and Wilfred,
Since the judge denied the judicial bypass, did the minor speak with her parents about her pregnancy over the weekend? Did the parents consent?

Thanks,

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b)(6) [mailto:(b)(6)@swkey.org]
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 12:27 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Subject: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

AZ Laws regarding Abortion:

*Arizona law requires that women under 18 years old seeking an abortion must either have the **notarized** written permission of one of their parents/legal guardian or permission from a Superior Court Judge.*

Ensuring Adequate Consent

•Parental Consent (A.R.S. § 36-2152) – Requires parental consent for minors seeking abortions but allows for judicial bypass. Requires the parental consent to be obtained on a form to ensure that parents are informed of all of the medical risks of abortion before giving consent. Requires parental consent to be notarized. Allows parents to sue (1) an abortion provider who performs an abortion on their minor daughter without parental consent or (2) any person who assists a minor in obtaining an abortion without parental consent.

•Informed Consent (A.R.S. § 36-2153) – Information must be provided 24 hours in advance to a woman seeking an abortion about the risks and alternatives of the procedure, the probable gestational age and physiological characteristics of the preborn child, and the services available from public and private agencies to assist during pregnancy and after birth. Requires that the information is provided at an in-person consultation with a doctor. Allows a woman to file a lawsuit against an abortion provider who fails to obtain informed consent. Requires the Department of Health Services to create and maintain a website providing unbiased information about fetal development, the risks of abortion, and information about alternatives to abortion.

•Informed Consent for Lethal Condition (A.R.S. § 36-2158) – When a woman discovers that her child may have a life-threatening birth defect or other fetal condition, information must be provided 24 hours in advance about the support that is available to her, including perinatal hospice. Requires the Department of Health Services to create and maintain a website providing unbiased information about perinatal hospice and assistance available for children with special needs.

•Opportunity to View Ultrasound (A.R.S. § 36-2156) – Requires an ultrasound to be performed at least 24 hours before every abortion, and a woman seeking abortion must be offered the opportunity to view the ultrasound and hear the baby's heartbeat, if audible.

•Coercion Prohibited (A.R.S. § 36-2153) – Prohibits a person from intimidating or coercing another person into having an abortion and allows minors to obtain public assistance benefits if parents cut off financial support because the minor refuses to have an abortion. Requires that all abortion clinics conspicuously post signs that state it is unlawful for any person to intimidate or coerce another person into having an abortion.

•Foster Parents (A.R.S. § 8-514.05) – Foster parents may not consent to abortion for a foster child.

•Fiduciaries (Arizona Code of Jud. Admin. § 7-202) – Fiduciaries may not consent to abortion for a ward without a court order.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

- See more at: https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-arizona/online-health-center/minors-and-abortion-law#sthash.lWOGvCcD.dpuf

(b)(6)
(b)(6)
Southwest Key Programs
Casa Kokopelli #921
D: (b)(6)
C:
F: (480) 393-8104
agarcia@swkey.org
CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This email, including attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information covered by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. 2510-2521. Any unauthorized review, use, or disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender immediately and destroy all copies of the original message.

Sender:	Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7FCD1FABEF934452BFF7378F6365FA8E-CALERO, WIL>
Recipient:	"Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4d88928c06a84498a966d9352f344094-Ruhkamp, Ga>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"; "Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=39e67b42d96043c688e84fa6cef42570-Velazquez,>"
Sent Date:	2017/02/06 15:06:45
Delivered Date:	2017/02/06 15:06:00
From:	Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=4D88928C06A84498A966D9352F344094-RUHKAMP, GA>
To:	"Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"; "Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=39e67b42d96043c688e84fa6cef42570-Velazquez,>"
Subject:	RE: Termination of Pregnancy request
Date:	2017/02/06 15:03:51
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Hi Wilfred –

Are you sure that (b)(6) s the correct A#? I still cannot find her on the list of referrals in the portal?

Gail Houppert
Project Officer
Division of Children Services
Office of Refugee and Resettlement

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

330 D Street SW, Mailroom 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Gail.Houppert@acf.hhs.gov
Office: 202-401-9324
Cell: (b)(6)

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 2:54 PM
To: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request

The Home Study Request has been updated in the portal.

Thanks for your attention on this matter.

Wilfred Calero
Federal Field Specialist
Division of Children's Services
Office of Refugee Resettlement
202-695-4996
(b)(6)
wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

From: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 10:41 AM
To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request
Importance: High

Good Afternoon,

This minor is not listed on the home study referral list so cannot be accepted as a provider. Please go into the portal to make sure the home study request has been done properly and is listed on the pending home study referral list. Not currently there. If you have problems please contact the UAC Portal helpdesk. Please let me know when the referral is posted to the list and I will get it expedited.

Thank you,
Gail

Gail Houppert
Project Officer
Division of Children Services
Office of Refugee and Resettlement
330 D Street SW, Mailroom 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Gail.Houppert@acf.hhs.gov
Office: 202-401-9324

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cell: (b)(6)

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 10:56 AM
To: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Subject: Re: Termination of Pregnancy request

(b)(6)

From: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 10:52:09 AM
To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request

I can get this home study expedited if I have the A#.

Thanks,
Gail

Gail Houppert
Project Officer
Division of Children Services
Office of Refugee and Resettlement
330 D Street SW, Mailroom 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Gail.Houppert@acf.hhs.gov
Office: 202-401-9324
Cell: (b)(6)

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 10:46 AM
To: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Cc: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Subject: Re: Termination of Pregnancy request

Will work on the need to expedite today.

Will Calero

From: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 10:40:45 AM
To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Cc: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Subject: Fw: Termination of Pregnancy request

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Wifred and Gail,

Can we please expedite HS for this case.

Jsd

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 7:10:07 PM
To: (b)(6) Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS - UAC Medical; Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request

Just to clarify she does not have a 3rd grade education. She indicated to me that she almost completed her third level of school, which was confused with third grade. She actually completed 9 years of school which would have been the first year of high school.

Wilfred Calero
Federal Field Specialist
Division of Children's Services
Office of Refugee Resettlement
202-695-4996
(b)(6)
wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 5:06 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS - UAC Medical; Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Subject: Re: Termination of Pregnancy request

Hello Team

From my experience working with this UC, I am NOT feeling that she has developmental delays

She was nervous in court and felt intimidated, this may the reason for her lack or articulation with the judge

Also, keep in mind she has only a 3rd grade education

I am feeling that it is these two reasons that she is struggling to articulate, not a development delay

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I am not a psychologist so I wouldn't object to psychological testing to make the determination

(b)(6) (b)(6)
Clinician office 501
Program 921: Kokopelli
Phone: 480-500-1076 Extension (b)(6)
Email: (b)(6)
Regular Work Schedule: Tuesday -- Saturday, 8am-4pm

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 11:33:51 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS Medical; Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Subject: Termination of Pregnancy request

Good afternoon,

We will be cancelling the conference call for this afternoon. After a conversation with Jim De La Cruz as to the best way forward with this case we have decided the following:

1) The judge called into question this minor's capacity for medical decision making and the field staff and shelter staff have noted that she is "delayed". As I have done in prior complex cases that involve a serious medical procedure, we are requesting that this minor undergo formal evaluation by a psychologist to assess her mental capacity in the next few days. If it is determined that she is significantly delayed and with cognitive impairment, that will raise the issue whether or not we can override her legal right to confidentiality in not disclosing to her parents and getting parental consent for termination about her pregnancy as it will put her life in danger for various reasons
2) The sponsor needs to have an expedited in depth home study for a number of reasons – 1) the possibility that his younger sister has a developmental delay and she will require more support than he might be able to provide; 2) the possibility that he would have to care for her if we were to release her being pregnant if she agrees to disclose her pregnancy to him; 3) to ensure the minor's safety with the (b)(6)
   I have cc'd Gail Houppert who directs the Home studies and PRS to ensure that this home study is expedited given the time sensitivity with this young lady advancing in her pregnancy
3) I am requesting that the FFS identify a possible OB practice in the sponsor's community in advance in the event that we come to the conclusion that we will discharge this young lady
4) The shelter staff and case management staff should continue to work with the minor to help understand her situation and the importance of disclosing her medical condition to her parents or (b)(6)

   I would like to raise one additional curveball, that if she is discharged to her (b)(6) and was willing to disclose her pregnancy to her (b)(6) but not her parents, that in some states (I don't know the laws in Florida) that still would not suffice for consent.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I think it is important that we set a firm deadline for ourselves to have these tasks accomplished given the fact that she is 13 weeks pregnant and state laws limit procedures passed a certain gestational age. Please respond with updates to the FFS Wilfred Calero on all of these matters by 2/10. The Medical Team will be happy to consult once we have a more complete picture of the situation.

Thank you for your time and help on this case.

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 9:12 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS - UAC Medical
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

4pm EST/2 pm MTN works (b)(6) can you set up a conference call line please?
Please reply to (b)(6) if you will be on the call and what your role is in the case is since there are so many staff members included on this email.

Thanks,

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b)(6) [mailto:(b)(6)@swkey.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:32 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF)
Subject: Re: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Hello Dr. Meyerstein, I propose 1 pm EST (11 am MTN) or 4 pm EST (2 pm MTN). I hope the times proposed work for all.

Thank you,

(b)(6) LLM
Program Director
Southwest Key Programs-Kokopelli 921
(b)(6)
Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 31, 2017, at 6:45 PM, Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

> This case is very complex, far beyond email exchanges.
> Can we please schedule a conference call to discuss this minor's case tom?
> After 1pm EST?
>
> Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
> LCDR, US Public Health Service
> Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
> Office of Refugee Resettlement
> Administration for Children and Families
> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
> (202) 401-4639 (office)
> (301) (b)(6) (cell)
> Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 6:17 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Good Afternoon Shaanan,

The sponsor is (b)(6) (b)(6) If the minor was indeed medically stable for discharge, we could of course discharge the minor to the sponsor. However, the sponsor would still be unaware of the client being pregnant from being sexually assaulted, and wanting an abortion. Therefore, the sponsor would not be prepared for the release of the minor, and possible withdrawal from being a sponsor. Further assessment is still needed at this time to ensure a safe release of the minor.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

(b)(6)
Case Manager
Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli
(b)(6)@swkey.org
Fax: 480-452-0603
Phone: (b)(6)

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 2:40 PM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

(b)(6)

To be clear – if I told you that the minor was medically stable for discharge, then she could be discharged to her sponsor?
Who is the sponsor and where do they reside?

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 1:03 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good Morning Shaanan,

The law confirms the gestational age in Arizona below:
Prohibiting Abortions Past 20 Weeks of Pregnancy (A.R.S. § 36-2159) – Prohibits abortions past 20 weeks gestation, except in the case of a medical emergency.†

The sponsor for this minor is in Florida, and the status of reunification is pending the medical condition of the client. All other documentation has been provided by the sponsor for reunification.

Thank you,

(b)(6)
Case Manager
Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli
(b)(6)@swkey.org
Fax: 480-452-0603
Phone (b)(6)

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 10:58 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Can someone please confirm Gestational Age in Arizona when abortion is legal for whatever circumstance?
Where is the sponsor for this minor and what is the status of reunification?

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 12:46 PM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good Morning!

As previously staffed with our leadership, it was determined that the notarized letter from the parents would not be sufficient for the termination to take place. The client may be open to speaking with her mother if we were able to obtain permission to proceed with the notarized letter of consent from the mother in home country.

However, as I am under the assumption that we would only be able to proceed with the termination once we appealed to the court to obtain the judicial bypass because the mother would not be able to attend the abortion procedure.

As the clinician has stated below, that the client does not feel comfortable informing her family, and would like to appeal. Please let me know if there are any questions.

Thank you,

(b)(6)
Case Manager
Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli
(b)(6)
Fax: 480-452-0603
Phone: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:54 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The client continues to not want to inform any family members, her parents nor her Sponsor

She wants to appeal the Judge's decision, I have emailed the lawyers assigned to her and have not heard back.

My concern is the timeliness of this issue

(b)(6)
Clinician office 501
Program 921: Kokopelli
Phone: 480-500-1076 Extension (b)(6)
Email: (b)(6)
Regular Work Schedule: Tuesday -- Saturday, 8am-4pm

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:52:01 AM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good morning!

I have copied her case manager and clinician to this email.
They may be better able to answer this question for you.

Thanks ☺

(b)(6)
(b)(6)
Southwest Key Programs
Casa Kokopelli #921
D: (b)(6)
C:
F: (480) 393-8104
agarcia@swkey.org
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From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 4:22 PM
To: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

(b)(6) and Wilfred,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Since the judge denied the judicial bypass, did the minor speak with her parents about her pregnancy over the weekend? Did the parents consent?

Thanks,

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) [mailto:agarcia@swkey.org]
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 12:27 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Subject: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

AZ Laws regarding Abortion:

*Arizona law requires that women under 18 years old seeking an abortion must either have the **notarized** written permission of one of their parents/legal guardian or permission from a Superior Court Judge.*

Ensuring Adequate Consent

•Parental Consent (A.R.S. § 36-2152) – Requires parental consent for minors seeking abortions but allows for judicial bypass. Requires the parental consent to be obtained on a form to ensure that parents are informed of all of the medical risks of abortion before giving consent. Requires parental consent to be notarized. Allows parents to sue (1) an abortion provider who performs an abortion on their minor daughter without parental consent or (2) any person who assists a minor in obtaining an abortion without parental consent.

•Informed Consent (A.R.S. § 36-2153) – Information must be provided 24 hours in advance to a woman seeking an abortion about the risks and alternatives of the procedure, the probable gestational age and physiological characteristics of the preborn child, and the services available from public and private agencies to assist during pregnancy and after birth. Requires that the information is provided at an in-person consultation with a doctor. Allows a woman to file a lawsuit against an abortion provider who fails to obtain informed consent. Requires the Department of Health Services to create and maintain a website providing unbiased information about fetal development, the risks of abortion, and information about alternatives to abortion.

•Informed Consent for Lethal Condition (A.R.S. § 36-2158) – When a woman discovers that her child may have a life-threatening birth defect or other fetal condition, information must be provided 24 hours in advance about the support that is available to her, including

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

perinatal hospice. Requires the Department of Health Services to create and maintain a website providing unbiased information about perinatal hospice and assistance available for children with special needs.
•Opportunity to View Ultrasound (A.R.S. § 36-2156) – Requires an ultrasound to be performed at least 24 hours before every abortion, and a woman seeking abortion must be offered the opportunity to view the ultrasound and hear the baby's heartbeat, if audible.
•Coercion Prohibited (A.R.S. § 36-2153) – Prohibits a person from intimidating or coercing another person into having an abortion and allows minors to obtain public assistance benefits if parents cut off financial support because the minor refuses to have an abortion. Requires that all abortion clinics conspicuously post signs that state it is unlawful for any person to intimidate or coerce another person into having an abortion.
•Foster Parents (A.R.S. § 8-514.05) – Foster parents may not consent to abortion for a foster child.
•Fiduciaries (Arizona Code of Jud. Admin. § 7-202) – Fiduciaries may not consent to abortion for a ward without a court order.

- See more at: https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-arizona/online-health-center/minors-and-abortion-law#sthash.lWOGvCcD.dpuf

(b)(6)
(b)(6)
Southwest Key Programs
Casa Kokopelli #921
D: (b)(6) (b)(6)
C:
F: (480) 393-8104
agarcia@swkey.org
CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This email, including attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information covered by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. 2510-2521. Any unauthorized review, use, or disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender immediately and destroy all copies of the original message.

Sender:	Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=4D88928C06A84498A966D9352F344094-RUHKAMP, GA>
Recipient:	"Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"; "Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=39e67b42d96043c688e84fa6cef42570-Velazquez,>"
Sent Date:	2017/02/06 15:03:50
Delivered Date:	2017/02/06 15:03:51
From:	Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7FCD1FABEF934452BFF7378F6365FA8E-CALERO, WIL>
To:	"Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4d88928c06a84498a966d9352f344094-Ruhkamp, Ga>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"; "Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=39e67b42d96043c688e84fa6cef42570-Velazquez,>"
Subject:	RE: Termination of Pregnancy request

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Date:	2017/02/06 14:54:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

The Home Study Request has been updated in the portal.

Thanks for your attention on this matter.

Wilfred Calero
Federal Field Specialist
Division of Children's Services
Office of Refugee Resettlement
202-695-4996
(b)(6)
wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

From: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 10:41 AM
To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request
Importance: High

Good Afternoon,

This minor is not listed on the home study referral list so cannot be accepted as a provider. Please go into the portal to make sure the home study request has been done properly and is listed on the pending home study referral list. Not currently there. If you have problems please contact the UAC Portal helpdesk. Please let me know when the referral is posted to the list and I will get it expedited.

Thank you,
Gail

Gail Houppert
Project Officer
Division of Children Services
Office of Refugee and Resettlement
330 D Street SW, Mailroom 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Gail.Houppert@acf.hhs.gov
Office: 202-401-9324
Cell: (b)(6)

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 10:56 AM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Subject: Re: Termination of Pregnancy request

(b)(6)

From: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 10:52:09 AM
To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request

I can get this home study expedited if I have the A#.

Thanks,
Gail

Gail Houppert
Project Officer
Division of Children Services
Office of Refugee and Resettlement
330 D Street SW, Mailroom 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Gail.Houppert@acf.hhs.gov
Office: 202-401-9324
Cell: (b)(6)

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 10:46 AM
To: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Cc: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Subject: Re: Termination of Pregnancy request

Will work on the need to expedite today.

Will Calero

From: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 10:40:45 AM
To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Cc: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Subject: Fw: Termination of Pregnancy request

Wifred and Gail,

Can we please expedite HS for this case.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Jsd

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 7:10:07 PM
To: (b)(6) Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS - UAC Medical; Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request

Just to clarify she does not have a 3rd grade education. She indicated to me that she almost completed her third level of school, which was confused with third grade. She actually completed 9 years of school which would have been the first year of high school.

Wilfred Calero
Federal Field Specialist
Division of Children's Services
Office of Refugee Resettlement
202-695-4996
(b)(6)
wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 5:06 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS - UAC Medical; Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Subject: Re: Termination of Pregnancy request

Hello Team

From my experience working with this UC, I am NOT feeling that she has developmental delays

She was nervous in court and felt intimidated, this may the reason for her lack or articulation with the judge

Also, keep in mind she has only a 3rd grade education

I am feeling that it is these two reasons that she is struggling to articulate, not a development delay

I am not a psychologist so I wouldn't object to psychological testing to make the determination

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6)
Clinician office 501
Program 921: Kokopelli
Phone: 480-500-1076 Extension (b)(6)
Email: (b)(6)
Regular Work Schedule: Tuesday -- Saturday, 8am-4pm

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 11:33:51 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS Medical; Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Subject: Termination of Pregnancy request

Good afternoon,

We will be cancelling the conference call for this afternoon. After a conversation with Jim De La Cruz as to the best way forward with this case we have decided the following:

1) The judge called into question this minor's capacity for medical decision making and the field staff and shelter staff have noted that she is "delayed". As I have done in prior complex cases that involve a serious medical procedure, we are requesting that this minor undergo formal evaluation by a psychologist to assess her mental capacity in the next few days. If it is determined that she is significantly delayed and with cognitive impairment, that will raise the issue whether or not we can override her legal right to confidentiality in not disclosing to her parents and getting parental consent for termination about her pregnancy as it will put her life in danger for various reasons
2) The sponsor needs to have an expedited in depth home study for a number of reasons – 1) the possibility that his younger sister has a developmental delay and she will require more support than he might be able to provide; 2) the possibility that he would have to care for her if we were to release her being pregnant if she agrees to disclose her pregnancy to him; 3) to ensure the minor's safety with the (b)(6)
   I have cc'd Gail Houppert who directs the Home studies and PRS to ensure that this home study is expedited given the time sensitivity with this young lady advancing in her pregnancy
3) I am requesting that the FFS identify a possible OB practice in the sponsor's community in advance in the event that we come to the conclusion that we will discharge this young lady
4) The shelter staff and case management staff should continue to work with the minor to help understand her situation and the importance of disclosing her medical condition to her parents or (b)(6)

   I would like to raise one additional curveball, that if she is discharged to her (b)(6) and was willing to disclose her pregnancy to her (b)(6) but not her parents, that in some states (I don't know the laws in Florida) that still would not suffice for consent.

I think it is important that we set a firm deadline for ourselves to have these tasks accomplished given the fact that she is 13 weeks pregnant and state laws limit procedures passed a certain gestational age.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Please respond with updates to the FFS Wilfred Calero on all of these matters by 2/10. The Medical Team will be happy to consult once we have a more complete picture of the situation.

Thank you for your time and help on this case.

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 9:12 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS - UAC Medical
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

4pm EST/2 pm MTN works. (b)(6) can you set up a conference call line please?
Please reply to (b)(6) if you will be on the call and what your role is in the case is since there are so many staff members included on this email.

Thanks,

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b)(6) [mailto:(b)(6)@swkey.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:32 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF)
Subject: Re: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Hello Dr. Meyerstein, I propose 1 pm EST (11 am MTN) or 4 pm EST (2 pm MTN). I hope the times proposed work for all.

Thank you,

(b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Southwest Key Programs-Kokopelli 921
(b)(6)
Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 31, 2017, at 6:45 PM, Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

> This case is very complex, far beyond email exchanges.
> Can we please schedule a conference call to discuss this minor's case tom?
> After 1pm EST?
>
> Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
> LCDR, US Public Health Service
> Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
> Office of Refugee Resettlement
> Administration for Children and Families
> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
> (202) 401-4639 (office)
> (301) (b)(6) (cell)
> Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov
>
> **From:** (b)(6) (b)(6)
> **Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 6:17 PM
> **To:** Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
> **Cc:** (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
> **Subject:** RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion
>
> Good Afternoon Shaanan,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The sponsor is (b)(6) (b)(6) If the minor was indeed medically stable for discharge, we could of course discharge the minor to the sponsor. However, the sponsor would still be unaware of the client being pregnant from being sexually assaulted, and wanting an abortion. Therefore, the sponsor would not be prepared for the release of the minor, and possible withdrawal from being a sponsor. Further assessment is still needed at this time to ensure a safe release of the minor.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

(b)(6)
Case Manager
Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli
(b)(6)@swkey.org
Fax: 480-452-0603
Phone (b)(6)

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 2:40 PM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

(b)(6)
To be clear – if I told you that the minor was medically stable for discharge, then she could be discharged to her sponsor?
Who is the sponsor and where do they reside?

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 1:03 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good Morning Shaanan,

The law confirms the gestational age in Arizona below:
Prohibiting Abortions Past 20 Weeks of Pregnancy (A.R.S. § 36-2159) – Prohibits abortions past 20 weeks gestation, except in the case of a medical emergency.†

The sponsor for this minor is in Florida, and the status of reunification is pending the medical condition of the client. All other documentation has been provided by the sponsor for reunification.

Thank you,

(b)(6)
Case Manager
Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli
(b)(6)
Fax: 480-452-0603
Phone: (b)(6)

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 10:58 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Can someone please confirm Gestational Age in Arizona when abortion is legal for whatever circumstance?
Where is the sponsor for this minor and what is the status of reunification?

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 12:46 PM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good Morning!

As previously staffed with our leadership, it was determined that the notarized letter from the parents would not be sufficient for the termination to take place. The client may be open to speaking with her mother if we were able to obtain permission to proceed with the notarized letter of consent from the mother in home country.

However, as I am under the assumption that we would only be able to proceed with the termination once we appealed to the court to obtain the judicial bypass because the mother would not be able to attend the abortion procedure.

As the clinician has stated below, that the client does not feel comfortable informing her family, and would like to appeal. Please let me know if there are any questions.

Thank you,

(b)(6)
Case Manager
Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli
(b)(6)
Fax: 480-452-0603
Phone (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:54 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

The client continues to not want to inform any family members, her parents nor her Sponsor

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

She wants to appeal the Judge's decision, I have emailed the lawyers assigned to her and have not heard back.

My concern is the timeliness of this issue

(b)(6)
Clinician office 501
Program 921: Kokopelli
Phone: 480-500-1076 Extension (b)(6)
Email: (b)(6)
Regular Work Schedule: Tuesday -- Saturday, 8am-4pm

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:52:01 AM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good morning!

I have copied her case manager and clinician to this email.
They may be better able to answer this question for you.

Thanks ☺

(b)(6)
(b)(6)
Southwest Key Programs
Casa Kokopelli #921
D: (b)(6) (b)(6)
C:
F: (480) 393-8104
agarcia@swkey.org
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From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 4:22 PM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

(b)(6) nd Wilfred,
Since the judge denied the judicial bypass, did the minor speak with her parents about her pregnancy over the weekend? Did the parents consent?

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thanks,

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) [mailto(b)(6)@swkey.org]
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 12:27 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Subject: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

AZ Laws regarding Abortion:

*Arizona law requires that women under 18 years old seeking an abortion must either have the **notarized** written permission of one of their parents/legal guardian or permission from a Superior Court Judge.*

Ensuring Adequate Consent

•Parental Consent (A.R.S. § 36-2152) – Requires parental consent for minors seeking abortions but allows for judicial bypass. Requires the parental consent to be obtained on a form to ensure that parents are informed of all of the medical risks of abortion before giving consent. Requires parental consent to be notarized. Allows parents to sue (1) an abortion provider who performs an abortion on their minor daughter without parental consent or (2) any person who assists a minor in obtaining an abortion without parental consent.

•Informed Consent (A.R.S. § 36-2153) – Information must be provided 24 hours in advance to a woman seeking an abortion about the risks and alternatives of the procedure, the probable gestational age and physiological characteristics of the preborn child, and the services available from public and private agencies to assist during pregnancy and after birth. Requires that the information is provided at an in-person consultation with a doctor. Allows a woman to file a lawsuit against an abortion provider who fails to obtain informed consent. Requires the Department of Health Services to create and maintain a website providing unbiased information about fetal development, the risks of abortion, and information about alternatives to abortion.

•Informed Consent for Lethal Condition (A.R.S. § 36-2158) – When a woman discovers that her child may have a life-threatening birth defect or other fetal condition, information must be provided 24 hours in advance about the support that is available to her, including perinatal hospice. Requires the Department of Health Services to create and maintain a website providing unbiased information about perinatal hospice and assistance available for children with special needs.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

•Opportunity to View Ultrasound (A.R.S. § 36-2156) – Requires an ultrasound to be performed at least 24 hours before every abortion, and a woman seeking abortion must be offered the opportunity to view the ultrasound and hear the baby's heartbeat, if audible.
•Coercion Prohibited (A.R.S. § 36-2153) – Prohibits a person from intimidating or coercing another person into having an abortion and allows minors to obtain public assistance benefits if parents cut off financial support because the minor refuses to have an abortion. Requires that all abortion clinics conspicuously post signs that state it is unlawful for any person to intimidate or coerce another person into having an abortion.
•Foster Parents (A.R.S. § 8-514.05) – Foster parents may not consent to abortion for a foster child.
•Fiduciaries (Arizona Code of Jud. Admin. § 7-202) – Fiduciaries may not consent to abortion for a ward without a court order.

- See more at: https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-arizona/online-health-center/minors-and-abortion-law#sthash.lWOGvCcD.dpuf

(b)(6)
(b)(6)
Southwest Key Programs
Casa Kokopelli #921
D
(b)(6)
C
F: (480) 393-8104
agarcia@swkey.org
CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This email, including attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information covered by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. 2510-2521. Any unauthorized review, use, or disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender immediately and destroy all copies of the original message.

Sender:	Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7FCD1FABEF934452BFF7378F6365FA8E-CALERO, WIL>
Recipient:	"Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4d88928c06a84498a966d9352f344094-Ruhkamp, Ga>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"; "Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=39e67b42d96043c688e84fa6cef42570-Velazquez,>"
Sent Date:	2017/02/06 14:54:08
Delivered Date:	2017/02/06 14:54:00
From:	(b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>
To:	"Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"
Subject:	Re: Termination of Pregnancy request
Date:	2017/02/06 13:00:24
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

It has been referred

(b)(6) (BSHS)

Lead Case Manager

SWK- Casa Kokopelli

Email: (b)(6) @swkey.org

The information contained in this message may contain privileged and confidential information.
If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any review, dissemination, distribution, or duplication of this communication is strictly prohibited.
If you are not the intended recipient, please destroy all copies of the original message.)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>

Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 10:49 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: Fw: Termination of Pregnancy request

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 12:47:10 PM

To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request

Wrong (b)(6) ☺

(b)(6)

ORR Case Coordinator

ORR Case Coordination Program

General Dynamics Information Technology

Phoenix, AZ – Western Region

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF) [mailto:Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov]

Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 10:46 AM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: Fw: Termination of Pregnancy request

Importance: High

(b)(6)

Can we get her on the home study list in thew portal.

Will Calero

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)

Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 12:41:06 PM

To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)

Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request

Good Afternoon,

This minor is not listed on the home study referral list so cannot be accepted as a provider. Please go into the portal to make sure the home study request has been done properly and is listed on the pending home study referral
list. Not currently there. If you have problems please contact the UAC Portal helpdesk. Please let me know when the referral is posted to the list and I will get it expedited.

Thank you,

Gail

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Gail Houppert

Project Officer

Division of Children Services

Office of Refugee and Resettlement

330 D Street SW, Mailroom 5123

Washington, DC 20201

Gail.Houppert@acf.hhs.gov

Office: 202-401-9324

Cell: (b)(6)

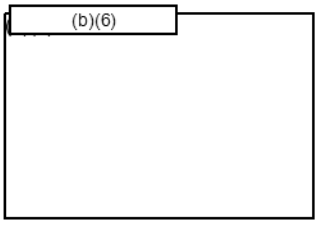
From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 10:56 AM

To: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)

Subject: Re: Termination of Pregnancy request

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



From: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)

Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 10:52:09 AM

To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)

Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request

I can get this home study expedited if I have the A#.

Thanks,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Gail

Gail Houppert

Project Officer

Division of Children Services

Office of Refugee and Resettlement

330 D Street SW, Mailroom 5123

Washington, DC 20201

Gail.Houppert@acf.hhs.gov

Office: 202-401-9324

Cell: (b)(6)

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 10:46 AM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)

Cc: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)

Subject: Re: Termination of Pregnancy request

Will work on the need to expedite today.

Will Calero

From: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 10:40:45 AM

To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)

Cc: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)

Subject: Fw: Termination of Pregnancy request

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Wifred and Gail,

Can we please expedite HS for this case.

Jsd

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 7:10:07 PM

To: (b)(6) Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS - UAC Medical; Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)

Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request

Just to clarify she does not have a 3rd grade education. She indicated to me that she almost completed her third level of school, which was confused with third grade. She actually completed 9 years of school which would
have been the first year of high school.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Wilfred Calero

Federal Field Specialist

Division of Children's Services

Office of Refugee Resettlement

202-695-4996

(b)(6)

wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 5:06 PM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS - UAC Medical; Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)

Subject: Re: Termination of Pregnancy request

Hello Team

From my experience working with this UC, I am NOT feeling that she has developmental delays

She was nervous in court and felt intimidated, this may the reason for her lack or articulation with the judge

Also, keep in mind she has only a 3rd grade education

I am feeling that it is these two reasons that she is struggling to articulate, not a development delay

I am not a psychologist so I wouldn't object to psychological testing to make the determination

(b)(6)

Clinician office 501

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Program 921: Kokopelli

Phone: 480-500-1076 Extension (b)(6)

Email:

(b)(6)
(b)(6)

Regular Work Schedule: Tuesday -- Saturday, 8am-4pm

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 11:33:51 AM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS Medical; Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)

Subject: Termination of Pregnancy request

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Good afternoon,

We will be cancelling the conference call for this afternoon. After a conversation with Jim De La Cruz as to the best way forward with this case we have decided the following:

1)
The judge called into question this minor's capacity for medical decision making and the field staff and shelter staff have noted that she is "delayed". As I have done in prior complex cases that involve a serious medical
procedure, we are requesting that this minor undergo formal evaluation by a psychologist to assess her mental capacity in the next few days. If it is determined that she is significantly delayed and with cognitive impairment, that will raise the issue whether
or not we can override her legal right to confidentiality in not disclosing to her parents and getting parental consent for termination about her pregnancy as it will put her life in danger for various reasons

2)
The sponsor needs to have an expedited in depth home study for a number of reasons – 1) the possibility that his younger sister has a developmental delay and she will require more support than he might be able to provide;
2) the possibility that he would have to care for her if we were to release her being pregnant if she agrees to disclose her pregnancy to him; 3) to ensure the minor's safety with the (b)(6)

I have cc'd Gail Houppert who directs the Home studies and PRS to ensure that this home study is expedited given the time sensitivity with this young lady advancing in her pregnancy

3)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I am requesting that the FFS identify a possible OB practice in the sponsor's community in advance in the event that we come to the conclusion that we will discharge this young lady

4)
The shelter staff and case management staff should continue to work with the minor to help understand her situation and the importance of disclosing her medical condition to her parents or (b)(6)

I would like to raise one additional curveball, that if she is discharged to her (b)(6) and was willing to disclose her pregnancy to her (b)(6) but not her parents, that in some states (I don't know the laws in Florida) that still
would not suffice for consent.

I think it is important that we set a firm deadline for ourselves to have these tasks accomplished given the fact that she is 13 weeks pregnant and state laws limit procedures passed a certain gestational age. Please respond with
updates to the FFS Wilfred Calero on all of these matters by 2/10. The Medical Team will be happy to consult once we have a more complete picture of the situation.

Thank you for your time and help on this case.

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

LCDR, US Public Health Service

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-4639 (office)

(301) (b)(6) (cell)

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 9:12 AM

To: (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS - UAC Medical

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

4pm EST/2 pm MTN works (b)(6) can you set up a conference call line please?

Please reply t(b)(6) if you will be on the call and what your role is in the case is since there are so many staff members included on this email.

Thanks,

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP

LCDR, US Public Health Service

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-4639 (office)

(301) (b)(6) (cell)

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) [mailto(b)(6)@swkey.org]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:32 PM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF)

Subject: Re: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Hello Dr. Meyerstein, I propose 1 pm EST (11 am MTN) or 4 pm EST (2 pm MTN). I hope the times proposed work for all.

Thank you,

(b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Southwest Key Programs-Kokopelli 921

(b)(6)

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 31, 2017, at 6:45 PM, Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

This case is very complex, far beyond email exchanges.

Can we please schedule a conference call to discuss this minor's case tom?

After 1pm EST?

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP

LCDR, US Public Health Service

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-4639 (office)

(301) (b)(6) (cell)

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 6:17 PM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) Q. Olivarez; (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good Afternoon Shaanan,

The sponsor is (b)(6) (b)(6) If the minor was indeed medically stable for discharge, we could of course discharge the minor to the sponsor. However, the sponsor would still be unaware of the client being pregnant from being sexually assaulted, and wanting an abortion. Therefore, the sponsor would not be prepared for the release of the minor, and possible withdrawal from being a sponsor. Further assessment is still needed at this time to ensure a safe release of the minor.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Fax: 480-452-0603

Phone: (b)(6)

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 2:40 PM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6)
(b)(6) @swkey.org>;
(b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6)
(b)(6) @swkey.org>;
(b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

(b)(6)

To be clear – if I told you that the minor was medically stable for discharge, then she could be discharged to her sponsor?

Who is the sponsor and where do they reside?

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP

LCDR, US Public Health Service

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-4639 (office)

(301) (b)(6) (cell)

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 1:03 PM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Good Morning Shaanan,

The law confirms the gestational age in Arizona below:

Prohibiting Abortions Past 20 Weeks of Pregnancy (A.R.S. § 36-2159) – Prohibits abortions past 20 weeks gestation, except in the case of a medical emergency.†

The sponsor for this minor is in Florida, and the status of reunification is pending the medical condition of the client. All other documentation has been provided by the sponsor for reunification.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Fax: 480-452-0603

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Phone: (b)(6)

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 10:58 AM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>

Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Can someone please confirm Gestational Age in Arizona when abortion is legal for whatever circumstance?

Where is the sponsor for this minor and what is the status of reunification?

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP

LCDR, US Public Health Service

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-4639 (office)

(301) (b)(6) (cell)

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 12:46 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good Morning!

As previously staffed with our leadership, it was determined that the notarized letter from the parents would not be sufficient for the termination to take place. The client may be open to speaking with her mother if we were able
to obtain permission to proceed with the notarized letter of consent from the mother in home country.

However, as I am under the assumption that we would only be able to proceed with the termination once we appealed to the court to obtain the judicial bypass because the mother would not be able to attend the abortion procedure.

As the clinician has stated below, that the client does not feel comfortable informing her family, and would like to appeal. Please let me know if there are any questions.

Thank you,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6)

Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Fax: 480-452-0603

Phone: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:54 AM

To: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>;
Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: Re: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The client continues to not want to inform any family members, her parents nor her Sponsor

She wants to appeal the Judge's decision, I have emailed the lawyers assigned to her and have not heard back.

My concern is the timeliness of this issue

(b)(6) *MC, LPC*

Clinician office 501

Program 921: Kokopelli

Phone: 480-500-1076 Extension (b)(6)

Email:
(b)(6) @swkey.org

Regular Work Schedule: Tuesday -- Saturday, 8am-4pm

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:52:01 AM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good morning!

I have copied her case manager and clinician to this email.

They may be better able to answer this question for you.

Thanks
☺

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6)

Lead Medical Coordinator

Southwest Key Programs

Casa Kokopelli #921

D: (480) (b)(6)

C: (480) (b)(6)

F: (480) 393-8104

(b)(6) @swkey.org

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original message.

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 4:22 PM

To: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

(b)(6) and Wilfred,

Since the judge denied the judicial bypass, did the minor speak with her parents about her pregnancy over the weekend? Did the parents consent?

Thanks,

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP

LCDR, US Public Health Service

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-4639 (office)

(301) (b)(6) (cell)

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) [mailto: (b)(6) @swkey.org]

Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 12:27 PM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

Subject: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

AZ Laws regarding Abortion:

Arizona law requires that women under 18 years old seeking an abortion must either have the

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

notarized *written permission of one of their parents/legal guardian or permission from a Superior Court Judge.*

Ensuring Adequate Consent

•Parental Consent (A.R.S. § 36-2152) – Requires parental consent for minors seeking abortions but allows for judicial bypass. Requires the parental consent to be obtained on a form to ensure that parents are informed of all of the medical risks of abortion before giving consent. Requires parental consent to be notarized. Allows parents to sue (1) an abortion provider who performs an abortion on their minor daughter without parental consent or (2) any person who assists a minor in obtaining an abortion without parental consent.

•Informed Consent (A.R.S. § 36-2153) – Information must be provided 24 hours in advance to a woman seeking an abortion about the risks and alternatives of the procedure, the probable gestational age and physiological characteristics of the preborn child, and the services available from public and private agencies to assist during pregnancy and after birth. Requires that the information is provided at an in-person consultation with a doctor. Allows a woman to file a lawsuit against an abortion provider who fails to obtain informed consent. Requires the Department of Health Services to create and maintain a website providing unbiased information about fetal development, the risks of abortion, and information about alternatives to abortion.

•Informed Consent for Lethal Condition (A.R.S. § 36-2158) – When a woman discovers that her child may have a life-threatening birth defect or other fetal condition, information must be provided 24 hours in advance about the support that is available to her, including perinatal hospice. Requires the Department of Health Services to create and maintain a website providing unbiased information about perinatal hospice and assistance available for children with special needs.

•Opportunity to View Ultrasound (A.R.S. § 36-2156) – Requires an ultrasound to be performed at least 24 hours before every abortion, and a woman seeking abortion

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

must be offered the opportunity to view the ultrasound and hear the baby's heartbeat, if audible.

•Coercion Prohibited (A.R.S. § 36-2153) – Prohibits a person from intimidating or coercing another person into having an abortion and allows minors to obtain public assistance benefits if parents cut off financial support because the minor refuses to have
an abortion. Requires that all abortion clinics conspicuously post signs that state it is unlawful for any person to intimidate or coerce another person into having an abortion.

•Foster Parents (A.R.S. § 8-514.05) – Foster parents may not consent to abortion for a foster child.

•Fiduciaries (Arizona Code of Jud. Admin. § 7-202) – Fiduciaries may not consent to abortion for a ward without a court order.

- See more at: https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-arizona/online-health-center/minors-and-abortion-law#sthash.lWOGvCcD.dpuf

(b)(6)

Lead Medical Coordinator

Southwest Key Programs

Casa Kokopelli #921

D: (480) (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

C: (480) (b)(6)

F: (480) 393-8104

(b)(6) @swkey.org

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covered by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. 2510-2521. Any unauthorized review, use, or disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender immediately and destroy all copies of the
original message.

Sender:	(b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>
Recipient:	"Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"
Sent Date:	2017/02/06 12:59:31
Delivered Date:	2017/02/06 13:00:24
From:	Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

	(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7FCD1FABEF934452BFF7378F6365FA8E-CALERO, WIL>
To:	(b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>"
Subject:	Fw: Termination of Pregnancy request
Date:	2017/02/06 12:49:27
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 12:47:10 PM

To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request

Wrong (b)(6) ☺

(b)(6)

ORR Case Coordinator

ORR Case Coordination Program

General Dynamics Information Technology

Phoenix, AZ – Western Region

480-(b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6)

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF) [mailto:Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov]

Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 10:46 AM

To: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6)
(b)(6)

Subject: Fw: Termination of Pregnancy request

Importance: High

(b)(6)

Can we get her on the home study list in thew portal.

Will Calero

From: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)

Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 12:41:06 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)

Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request

Good Afternoon,

This minor is not listed on the home study referral list so cannot be accepted as a provider. Please go into the portal to make sure the home study request has been done properly and is listed on the pending
home study referral list. Not currently there. If you have problems please contact the UAC Portal helpdesk. Please let me know when the referral is posted to the list and I will get it expedited.

Thank you,

Gail

Gail Houppert

Project Officer

Division of Children Services

Office of Refugee and Resettlement

330 D Street SW, Mailroom 5123

Washington, DC 20201

Gail.Houppert@acf.hhs.gov

Office: 202-401-9324

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cell: (b)(6)

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 10:56 AM

To: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)

Subject: Re: Termination of Pregnancy request

A(b)(6)

(b)(6)

From: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)

Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 10:52:09 AM

To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)

Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I can get this home study expedited if I have the A#.

Thanks,

Gail

Gail Houppert

Project Officer

Division of Children Services

Office of Refugee and Resettlement

330 D Street SW, Mailroom 5123

Washington, DC 20201

Gail.Houppert@acf.hhs.gov

Office: 202-401-9324

Cell: (b)(6)

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 10:46 AM

To: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)

Cc: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)

Subject: Re: Termination of Pregnancy request

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Will work on the need to expedite today.

Will Calero

From: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 10:40:45 AM

To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)

Cc: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)

Subject: Fw: Termination of Pregnancy request

Wifred and Gail,

Can we please expedite HS for this case.

Jsd

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 7:10:07 PM

To: (b)(6) Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS - UAC Medical; Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)

Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request

Just to clarify she does not have a 3rd grade education. She indicated to me that she almost completed her third level of school, which was confused with third grade. She actually completed 9 years of school which would have been the first year of high school.

Wilfred Calero

Federal Field Specialist

Division of Children's Services

Office of Refugee Resettlement

202-695-4996

(b)(6)

wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 5:06 PM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS - UAC Medical; Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)

Subject: Re: Termination of Pregnancy request

Hello Team

From my experience working with this UC, I am NOT feeling that she has developmental delays

She was nervous in court and felt intimidated, this may the reason for her lack or articulation with the judge

Also, keep in mind she has only a 3rd grade education

I am feeling that it is these two reasons that she is struggling to articulate, not a development delay

I am not a psychologist so I wouldn't object to psychological testing to make the determination

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6) (b)(6) *MC, LPC*

Clinician office 501

Program 921: Kokopelli

Phone: 480-500-1076 Extension (b)(6)

Email:
(b)(6) **@swkey.org**

Regular Work Schedule: Tuesday -- Saturday, 8am-4pm

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 11:33:51 AM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS Medical; Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)

Subject: Termination of Pregnancy request

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Good afternoon,

We will be cancelling the conference call for this afternoon. After a conversation with Jim De La Cruz as to the best way forward with this case we have decided the following:

1)
The judge called into question this minor's capacity for medical decision making and the field staff and shelter staff have noted that she is "delayed". As I have done in prior complex cases that involve a serious medical
procedure, we are requesting that this minor undergo formal evaluation by a psychologist to assess her mental capacity in the next few days. If it is determined that she is significantly delayed and with cognitive impairment, that will raise the issue whether
or not we can override her legal right to confidentiality in not disclosing to her parents and getting parental consent for termination about her pregnancy as it will put her life in danger for various reasons

2)
The sponsor needs to have an expedited in depth home study for a number of reasons – 1) the possibility that his younger sister has a developmental delay and she will require more support than he might be able to provide;
2) the possibility that he would have to care for her if we were to release her being pregnant if she agrees to disclose her pregnancy to him; 3) to ensure the minor's safety with the (b)(6)

I have cc'd Gail Houppert who directs the Home studies and PRS to ensure that this home study is expedited given the time sensitivity with this young lady advancing in her pregnancy

3)
I am requesting that the FFS identify a possible OB practice in the sponsor's community in advance in the event that we come to the conclusion that we will discharge this young lady

4)
The shelter staff and case management staff should continue to work with the minor to help understand her situation and the importance of disclosing her medical condition to her parents or (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I would like to raise one additional curveball, that if she is discharged to her (b)(6) and was willing to disclose her pregnancy to her (b)(6) but not her parents, that in some states (I don't know
the laws in Florida) that still would not suffice for consent.

I think it is important that we set a firm deadline for ourselves to have these tasks accomplished given the fact that she is 13 weeks pregnant and state laws limit procedures passed a certain gestational age. Please respond with updates to the FFS Wilfred Calero on all of these matters by 2/10. The Medical Team will be happy to consult once we have a more complete picture of the situation.

Thank you for your time and help on this case.

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP

LCDR, US Public Health Service

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-4639 (office)

(301) (b)(6) (cell)

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 9:12 AM

To: (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS - UAC Medical

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

4pm EST/2 pm MTN works. (b)(6) can you set up a conference call line please?

Please reply to (b)(6) if you will be on the call and what your role is in the case is since there are so many staff members included on this email.

Thanks,

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP

LCDR, US Public Health Service

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(202) 401-4639 (office)

(301) (b)(6) (cell)

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) [mailto(b)(6) @swkey.org]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:32 PM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF)

Subject: Re: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Hello Dr. Meyerstein, I propose 1 pm EST (11 am MTN) or 4 pm EST (2 pm MTN). I hope the times proposed work for all.

Thank you,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6) LLM

Program Director

Southwest Key Programs-Kokopelli 921

(b)(6)

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 31, 2017, at 6:45 PM, Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

> This case is very complex, far beyond email exchanges.
>
> Can we please schedule a conference call to discuss this minor's case tom?
>
> After 1pm EST?
>
> Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
>
> LCDR, US Public Health Service
>
> Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
>
> Office of Refugee Resettlement

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-4639 (office)

(301) (b)(6) (cell)

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 6:17 PM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good Afternoon Shaanan,

The sponsor is (b)(6) (b)(6) If the minor was indeed medically stable for discharge, we could of course discharge the minor to the sponsor. However, the sponsor would still
be unaware of the client being pregnant from being sexually assaulted, and wanting an abortion. Therefore, the sponsor would not be prepared for the release of the minor, and possible withdrawal from being a sponsor. Further assessment is still needed at this

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

time to ensure a safe release of the minor.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Fax: 480-452-0603

Phone: (b)(6)

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 2:40 PM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) (b)(6) @acf.hhs.gov>

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6)

To be clear – if I told you that the minor was medically stable for discharge, then she could be discharged to her sponsor?

Who is the sponsor and where do they reside?

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP

LCDR, US Public Health Service

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-4639 (office)

(301) (b)(6) (cell)

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 1:03 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good Morning Shaanan,

The law confirms the gestational age in Arizona below:

Prohibiting Abortions Past 20 Weeks of Pregnancy (A.R.S. § 36-2159) – Prohibits abortions past 20 weeks gestation, except in the case of a medical emergency.†

The sponsor for this minor is in Florida, and the status of reunification is pending the medical condition of the client. All other documentation has been provided by the sponsor for reunification.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Fax: 480-452-0603

Phone: (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 10:58 AM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>

Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Can someone please confirm Gestational Age in Arizona when abortion is legal for whatever circumstance?

Where is the sponsor for this minor and what is the status of reunification?

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP

LCDR, US Public Health Service

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-4639 (office)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(301) (b)(6) (cell)

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 12:46 PM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good Morning!

As previously staffed with our leadership, it was determined that the notarized letter from the parents would not be sufficient for the termination to take place. The client may be open to speaking with her mother
if we were able to obtain permission to proceed with the notarized letter of consent from the mother in home country.

However, as I am under the assumption that we would only be able to proceed with the termination once we appealed to the court to obtain the judicial bypass because the mother would not be able to attend the
abortion procedure.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

As the clinician has stated below, that the client does not feel comfortable informing her family, and would like to appeal. Please let me know if there are any questions.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Fax: 480-452-0603

Phone: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:54 AM

To: (b)(6) <agarcia@swkey.org>; Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: Re: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

The client continues to not want to inform any family members, her parents nor her Sponsor

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

She wants to appeal the Judge's decision, I have emailed the lawyers assigned to her and have not heard back.

My concern is the timeliness of this issue

(b)(6) (b)(6) *MC, LPC*

Clinician office 501

Program 921: Kokopelli

Phone: 480-500-1076 Extension (b)(6)

Email:
(b)(6)

Regular Work Schedule: Tuesday -- Saturday, 8am-4pm

From: (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:52:01 AM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good morning!

I have copied her case manager and clinician to this email.

They may be better able to answer this question for you.

Thanks
☺

(b)(6)

Lead Medical Coordinator

Southwest Key Programs

Casa Kokopelli #921

D: (480) (b)(6)

C: (480) (b)(6)

F: (480) 393-8104

(b)(6) @swkey.org

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sender immediately and destroy all copies of the original message.

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]

Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 4:22 PM

To: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

(b)(6) and Wilfred,

Since the judge denied the judicial bypass, did the minor speak with her parents about her pregnancy over the weekend? Did the parents consent?

Thanks,

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP

LCDR, US Public Health Service

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program

Office of Refugee Resettlement

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-4639 (office)

(301) (b)(6) (cell)

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) [mailto:(b)(6)@swkey.org]

Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 12:27 PM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

Subject: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

AZ Laws regarding Abortion:

Arizona law requires that women under 18 years old seeking an abortion must either have the
notarized *written permission of one of their parents/legal guardian or permission from a Superior Court Judge.*

Ensuring Adequate Consent

•Parental Consent (A.R.S. § 36-2152) – Requires parental consent for minors seeking abortions but allows for judicial bypass. Requires the parental consent to be obtained on a form to ensure that parents are informed of all of the medical

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

risks of abortion before giving consent. Requires parental consent to be notarized. Allows parents to sue (1) an abortion provider who performs an abortion on their minor daughter without parental consent or (2) any person who assists a minor in obtaining
an abortion without parental consent.

•Informed Consent (A.R.S. § 36-2153) – Information must be provided 24 hours in advance to a woman seeking an abortion about the risks and alternatives of the procedure, the probable gestational age and physiological characteristics
of the preborn child, and the services available from public and private agencies to assist during pregnancy and after birth. Requires that the information is provided at an in-person consultation with a doctor. Allows a woman to file a lawsuit against an
abortion provider who fails to obtain informed consent. Requires the Department of Health Services to create and maintain a website providing unbiased information about fetal development, the risks of abortion, and information about alternatives to abortion.

•Informed Consent for Lethal Condition (A.R.S. § 36-2158) – When a woman discovers that her child may have a life-threatening birth defect or other fetal condition, information must be provided 24 hours in advance about the support that
is available to her, including perinatal hospice. Requires the Department of Health Services to create and maintain a website providing unbiased information about perinatal hospice and assistance available for children with special needs.

•Opportunity to View Ultrasound (A.R.S. § 36-2156) – Requires an ultrasound to be performed at least 24 hours before every abortion, and a woman seeking abortion must be offered the opportunity to view the ultrasound and hear the baby's
heartbeat, if audible.

•Coercion Prohibited (A.R.S. § 36-2153) – Prohibits a person from intimidating or coercing another person into having an abortion and allows minors to obtain public assistance benefits if parents cut off financial support because the
minor refuses to have an abortion. Requires that all abortion clinics conspicuously post signs that state it is unlawful for any person to intimidate or coerce another person into having an abortion.

•Foster Parents (A.R.S. § 8-514.05) – Foster parents may not consent to abortion for a foster child.

•Fiduciaries (Arizona Code of Jud.
Admin. § 7-202) – Fiduciaries may not consent to abortion for a ward without a court order.

- See more at:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-arizona/online-health-center/minors-and-abortion-law#sthash.lWOGvCcD.dpuf

(b)(6)

Lead Medical Coordinator

Southwest Key Programs

Casa Kokopelli #921

D: (480) (b)(6)

C: (480) (b)(6)

F: (480) 393-8104

(b)(6) @swkey.org

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This email, including attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information covered by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. 2510-2521. Any unauthorized review, use, or disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the
sender immediately and destroy all copies of the original message.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sender:	Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7FCD1FABEF934452BFF7378F6365FA8E-CALERO, WIL>
Recipient:	(b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"
Sent Date:	2017/02/06 12:49:26
Delivered Date:	2017/02/06 12:49:27
From:	(b)(6) (b)(6)
To:	"Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"
Subject:	RE: Termination of Pregnancy request
Date:	2017/02/06 12:47:34
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Wrong (b)(6)

(b)(6)

ORR Case Coordinator

ORR Case Coordination Program

General Dynamics Information Technology

Phoenix, AZ – Western Region

480-271-4559

(b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF) [mailto:Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov]

Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 10:46 AM

To: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6)
(b)(6)

Subject: Fw: Termination of Pregnancy request

Importance: High

Elizabeth

Can we get her on the home study list in thew portal.

Will Calero

From: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)

Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 12:41:06 PM

To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)

Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Good Afternoon,

This minor is not listed on the home study referral list so cannot be accepted as a provider. Please go into the portal to make sure the home study request has been done properly and is listed on the pending
home study referral list. Not currently there. If you have problems please contact the UAC Portal helpdesk. Please let me know when the referral is posted to the list and I will get it expedited.

Thank you,

Gail

Gail Houppert

Project Officer

Division of Children Services

Office of Refugee and Resettlement

330 D Street SW, Mailroom 5123

Washington, DC 20201

Gail.Houppert@acf.hhs.gov

Office: 202-401-9324

Cell: (b)(6)

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 10:56 AM

To: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)

Subject: Re: Termination of Pregnancy request

(b)(6)

(b)(6) (b)(6)

From: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)

Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 10:52:09 AM

To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)

Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request

I can get this home study expedited if I have the A#.

Thanks,

Gail

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Gail Houppert

Project Officer

Division of Children Services

Office of Refugee and Resettlement

330 D Street SW, Mailroom 5123

Washington, DC 20201

Gail.Houppert@acf.hhs.gov

Office: 202-401-9324

Cell: (b)(6)

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 10:46 AM

To: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)

Cc: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)

Subject: Re: Termination of Pregnancy request

Will work on the need to expedite today.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Will Calero

From: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 10:40:45 AM

To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)

Cc: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)

Subject: Fw: Termination of Pregnancy request

Wifred and Gail,

Can we please expedite HS for this case.

Jsd

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 7:10:07 PM

To: (b)(6) Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS - UAC Medical; Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)

Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request

Just to clarify she does not have a 3rd grade education. She indicated to me that she almost completed her third level of school, which was confused with third grade. She actually completed 9 years of school which would have been the first year of high school.

Wilfred Calero

Federal Field Specialist

Division of Children's Services

Office of Refugee Resettlement

202-695-4996

(b)(6)

wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) [mailto:(b)(6) @swkey.org]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 5:06 PM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS - UAC Medical; Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)

Subject: Re: Termination of Pregnancy request

Hello Team

From my experience working with this UC, I am NOT feeling that she has developmental delays

She was nervous in court and felt intimidated, this may the reason for her lack or articulation with the judge

Also, keep in mind she has only a 3rd grade education

I am feeling that it is these two reasons that she is struggling to articulate, not a development delay

I am not a psychologist so I wouldn't object to psychological testing to make the determination

(b)(6) *MC, LPC*

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Clinician office 501

Program 921: Kokopelli

Phone: 480-500-1076 Extension (b)(6)

Email:
(b)(6) **@swkey.org**

Regular Work Schedule: Tuesday -- Saturday, 8am-4pm

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 11:33:51 AM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS Medical; Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)

Subject: Termination of Pregnancy request

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Good afternoon,

We will be cancelling the conference call for this afternoon. After a conversation with Jim De La Cruz as to the best way forward with this case we have decided the following:

1)
The judge called into question this minor's capacity for medical decision making and the field staff and shelter staff have noted that she is "delayed". As I have done in prior complex cases that involve a serious medical
procedure, we are requesting that this minor undergo formal evaluation by a psychologist to assess her mental capacity in the next few days. If it is determined that she is significantly delayed and with cognitive impairment, that will raise the issue whether
or not we can override her legal right to confidentiality in not disclosing to her parents and getting parental consent for termination about her pregnancy as it will put her life in danger for various reasons

2)
The sponsor needs to have an expedited in depth home study for a number of reasons – 1) the possibility that his younger sister has a developmental delay and she will require more support than he might be able to provide;
2) the possibility that he would have to care for her if we were to release her being pregnant if she agrees to disclose her pregnancy to him; 3) to ensure the minor's safety with the (b)(6)

I have cc'd Gail Houppert who directs the Home studies and PRS to ensure that this home study is expedited given the time sensitivity with this young lady advancing in her pregnancy

3)
I am requesting that the FFS identify a possible OB practice in the sponsor's community in advance in the event that we come to the conclusion that we will discharge this young lady

4)
The shelter staff and case management staff should continue to work with the minor to help understand her situation and the importance of disclosing her medical condition to her parents or (b)(6)

I would like to raise one additional curveball, that if she is discharged to her (b)(6) and was willing to disclose her pregnancy to her (b)(6) but not her parents, that in some states (I don't know
the laws in Florida) that still would not suffice for consent.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I think it is important that we set a firm deadline for ourselves to have these tasks accomplished given the fact that she is 13 weeks pregnant and state laws limit procedures passed a certain gestational age. Please respond with updates to the FFS Wilfred Calero on all of these matters by 2/10. The Medical Team will be happy to consult once we have a more complete picture of the situation.

Thank you for your time and help on this case.

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP

LCDR, US Public Health Service

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-4639 (office)

(301) (b)(6) (cell)

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 9:12 AM

To: (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS - UAC Medical

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

4pm EST/2 pm MTN works. (b)(6) can you set up a conference call line please?

Please reply to (b)(6) if you will be on the call and what your role is in the case is since there are so many staff members included on this email.

Thanks,

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP

LCDR, US Public Health Service

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-4639 (office)

(301) (b)(6) (cell)

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b)(6) [mailto(b)(6)@swkey.org]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:32 PM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF)

Subject: Re: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Hello Dr. Meyerstein, I propose 1 pm EST (11 am MTN) or 4 pm EST (2 pm MTN). I hope the times proposed work for all.

Thank you,

(b)(6) LLM

Program Director

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Southwest Key Programs-Kokopelli 921

602-(b)(6)

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 31, 2017, at 6:45 PM, Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

> This case is very complex, far beyond email exchanges.
>
> Can we please schedule a conference call to discuss this minor's case tom?
>
> After 1pm EST?
>
> Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
>
> LCDR, US Public Health Service
>
> Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
>
> Office of Refugee Resettlement
>
> Administration for Children and Families
>
> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
>
> (202) 401-4639 (office)
>
> (301) (b)(6) (cell)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 6:17 PM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good Afternoon Shaanan,

The sponsor is (b)(6) (b)(6) If the minor was indeed medically stable for discharge, we could of course discharge the minor to the sponsor. However, the sponsor would still
be unaware of the client being pregnant from being sexually assaulted, and wanting an abortion. Therefore, the sponsor would not be prepared for the release of the minor, and possible withdrawal from being a sponsor. Further assessment is still needed at this
time to ensure a safe release of the minor.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Fax: 480-452-0603

Phone: (b)(6)

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 2:40 PM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>

Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

(b)(6)

To be clear – if I told you that the minor was medically stable for discharge, then she could be discharged to her sponsor?

Who is the sponsor and where do they reside?

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP

LCDR, US Public Health Service

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-4639 (office)

(301) (b)(6) (cell)

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 1:03 PM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Good Morning Shaanan,

The law confirms the gestational age in Arizona below:

Prohibiting Abortions Past 20 Weeks of Pregnancy (A.R.S. § 36-2159) – Prohibits abortions past 20 weeks gestation, except in the case of a medical emergency.†

The sponsor for this minor is in Florida, and the status of reunification is pending the medical condition of the client. All other documentation has been provided by the sponsor for reunification.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Fax: 480-452-0603

Phone: (b)(6)

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 10:58 AM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>

Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Can someone please confirm Gestational Age in Arizona when abortion is legal for whatever circumstance?

Where is the sponsor for this minor and what is the status of reunification?

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP

LCDR, US Public Health Service

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-4639 (office)

(301) (b)(6) (cell)

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 12:46 PM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good Morning!

As previously staffed with our leadership, it was determined that the notarized letter from the parents would not be sufficient for the termination to take place. The client may be open to speaking with her mother
if we were able to obtain permission to proceed with the notarized letter of consent from the mother in home country.

However, as I am under the assumption that we would only be able to proceed with the termination once we appealed to the court to obtain the judicial bypass because the mother would not be able to attend the
abortion procedure.

As the clinician has stated below, that the client does not feel comfortable informing her family, and would like to appeal. Please let me know if there are any questions.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Fax: 480-452-0603

Phone: 480(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:54 AM

To: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: Re: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

The client continues to not want to inform any family members, her parents nor her Sponsor

She wants to appeal the Judge's decision, I have emailed the lawyers assigned to her and have not heard back.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

My concern is the timeliness of this issue

(b)(6) (b)(6) *MC, LPC*

Clinician office 501

Program 921: Kokopelli

Phone: 480-500-1076 Extension (b)(6)

Email:
(b)(6)

Regular Work Schedule: Tuesday -- Saturday, 8am-4pm

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:52:01 AM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Good morning!

I have copied her case manager and clinician to this email.

They may be better able to answer this question for you.

Thanks
☺

(b)(6)

Lead Medical Coordinator

Southwest Key Programs

Casa Kokopelli #921

D: (480) (b)(6)

C: (480) (b)(6)

F: (480) 393-8104

(b)(6) @swkey.org

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and destroy all copies of the original message.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]

Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 4:22 PM

To: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

(b)(6) and Wilfred,

Since the judge denied the judicial bypass, did the minor speak with her parents about her pregnancy over the weekend? Did the parents consent?

Thanks,

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP

LCDR, US Public Health Service

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-4639 (office)

(301) (b)(6) (cell)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) [mailto (b)(6) @swkey.org]

Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 12:27 PM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

Subject: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

AZ Laws regarding Abortion:

Arizona law requires that women under 18 years old seeking an abortion must either have the
notarized *written permission of one of their parents/legal guardian or permission from a Superior Court Judge.*

Ensuring Adequate Consent

•Parental Consent (A.R.S. § 36-2152) – Requires parental consent for minors seeking abortions but allows for judicial bypass. Requires the parental consent to be obtained on a form to ensure that parents are informed of all of the medical
risks of abortion before giving consent. Requires parental consent to be notarized. Allows parents to sue (1) an abortion provider who performs an abortion on their minor daughter without parental consent or (2) any person who assists a minor in obtaining
an abortion without parental consent.

•Informed Consent (A.R.S. § 36-2153) – Information must be provided 24 hours in advance to a woman seeking an abortion about the risks and alternatives of the procedure, the probable gestational age and physiological characteristics

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

of the preborn child, and the services available from public and private agencies to assist during pregnancy and after birth. Requires that the information is provided at an in-person consultation with a doctor. Allows a woman to file a lawsuit against an abortion provider who fails to obtain informed consent. Requires the Department of Health Services to create and maintain a website providing unbiased information about fetal development, the risks of abortion, and information about alternatives to abortion.

•Informed Consent for Lethal Condition (A.R.S. § 36-2158) – When a woman discovers that her child may have a life-threatening birth defect or other fetal condition, information must be provided 24 hours in advance about the support that is available to her, including perinatal hospice. Requires the Department of Health Services to create and maintain a website providing unbiased information about perinatal hospice and assistance available for children with special needs.

•Opportunity to View Ultrasound (A.R.S. § 36-2156) – Requires an ultrasound to be performed at least 24 hours before every abortion, and a woman seeking abortion must be offered the opportunity to view the ultrasound and hear the baby's heartbeat, if audible.

•Coercion Prohibited (A.R.S. § 36-2153) – Prohibits a person from intimidating or coercing another person into having an abortion and allows minors to obtain public assistance benefits if parents cut off financial support because the minor refuses to have an abortion. Requires that all abortion clinics conspicuously post signs that state it is unlawful for any person to intimidate or coerce another person into having an abortion.

•Foster Parents (A.R.S. § 8-514.05) – Foster parents may not consent to abortion for a foster child.

•Fiduciaries (Arizona Code of Jud. Admin. § 7-202) – Fiduciaries may not consent to abortion for a ward without a court order.

- See more at: https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-arizona/online-health-center/minors-and-abortion-law#sthash.lWOGvCcD.dpuf

(b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Lead Medical Coordinator

Southwest Key Programs

Casa Kokopelli #921

D: (480) (b)(6)

C: (480) (b)(6)

F: (480) 393-8104

(b)(6) @swkey.org

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and destroy all copies of the original message.

Sender:	(b)(6) <(b)(6) @GDIT.com>
Recipient:	"Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"
Sent Date:	2017/02/06 12:47:10
Delivered Date:	2017/02/06 12:47:34
From:	Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7FCD1FABEF934452BFF7378F6365FA8E-CALERO, WIL>
To:	(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject:	Fw: Termination of Pregnancy request

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Date:	2017/02/06 12:46:23
Priority:	Urgent
Type:	Note

Elizabeth

Can we get her on the home study list in thew portal.

Will Calero

From: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)

Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 12:41:06 PM

To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)

Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request

Good Afternoon,

This minor is not listed on the home study referral list so cannot be accepted as a provider. Please go into the portal to make sure the home study request has been done properly and is listed on the pending
home study referral list. Not currently there. If you have problems please contact the UAC Portal helpdesk. Please let me know when the referral is posted to the list and I will get it expedited.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thank you,

Gail

Gail Houppert

Project Officer

Division of Children Services

Office of Refugee and Resettlement

330 D Street SW, Mailroom 5123

Washington, DC 20201

Gail.Houppert@acf.hhs.gov

Office: 202-401-9324

Cell: (b)(6)

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 10:56 AM

To: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)

Subject: Re: Termination of Pregnancy request

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

From: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)

Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 10:52:09 AM

To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)

Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request

I can get this home study expedited if I have the A#.

Thanks,

Gail

Gail Houppert

Project Officer

Division of Children Services

Office of Refugee and Resettlement

330 D Street SW, Mailroom 5123

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Washington, DC 20201

Gail.Houppert@acf.hhs.gov

Office: 202-401-9324

Cell: (b)(6)

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 10:46 AM

To: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)

Cc: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)

Subject: Re: Termination of Pregnancy request

Will work on the need to expedite today.

Will Calero

From: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 10:40:45 AM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)

Cc: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)

Subject: Fw: Termination of Pregnancy request

Wifred and Gail,

Can we please expedite HS for this case.

Jsd

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 7:10:07 PM

To: (b)(6) Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS - UAC Medical; Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)

Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Just to clarify she does not have a 3rd grade education. She indicated to me that she almost completed her third level of school, which was confused with third grade. She actually completed 9 years of school which would have been the first year of high school.

Wilfred Calero

Federal Field Specialist

Division of Children's Services

Office of Refugee Resettlement

202-695-4996

(b)(6)

wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) [mailto:(b)(6)@swkey.org]

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 5:06 PM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS - UAC Medical; Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)

Subject: Re: Termination of Pregnancy request

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Hello Team

From my experience working with this UC, I am NOT feeling that she has developmental delays

She was nervous in court and felt intimidated, this may the reason for her lack or articulation with the judge

Also, keep in mind she has only a 3rd grade education

I am feeling that it is these two reasons that she is struggling to articulate, not a development delay

I am not a psychologist so I wouldn't object to psychological testing to make the determination

(b)(6) (b)(6) *MC, LPC*

Clinician office 501

Program 921: Kokopelli

Phone: 480-500-1076 Extension (b)(6)

Email:
(b)(6) **@swkey.org**

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Regular Work Schedule: Tuesday -- Saturday, 8am-4pm

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 11:33:51 AM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS Medical; Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)

Subject: Termination of Pregnancy request

Good afternoon,

We will be cancelling the conference call for this afternoon. After a conversation with Jim De La Cruz as to the best way forward with this case we have decided the following:

1)
The judge called into question this minor's capacity for medical decision making and the field staff and shelter staff have noted that she is "delayed". As I have done in prior complex cases that involve a serious medical

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

procedure, we are requesting that this minor undergo formal evaluation by a psychologist to assess her mental capacity in the next few days. If it is determined that she is significantly delayed and with cognitive impairment, that will raise the issue whether or not we can override her legal right to confidentiality in not disclosing to her parents and getting parental consent for termination about her pregnancy as it will put her life in danger for various reasons

2)
The sponsor needs to have an expedited in depth home study for a number of reasons – 1) the possibility that his younger sister has a developmental delay and she will require more support than he might be able to provide;
2) the possibility that he would have to care for her if we were to release her being pregnant if she agrees to disclose her pregnancy to him; 3) to ensure the minor's safety with the (b)(6)

I have cc'd Gail Houppert who directs the Home studies and PRS to ensure that this home study is expedited given the time sensitivity with this young lady advancing in her pregnancy

3)
I am requesting that the FFS identify a possible OB practice in the sponsor's community in advance in the event that we come to the conclusion that we will discharge this young lady

4)
The shelter staff and case management staff should continue to work with the minor to help understand her situation and the importance of disclosing her medical condition to her parents or (b)(6)

I would like to raise one additional curveball, that if she is discharged to her (b)(6) and was willing to disclose her pregnancy to her (b)(6) but not her parents, that in some states (I don't know
the laws in Florida) that still would not suffice for consent.

I think it is important that we set a firm deadline for ourselves to have these tasks accomplished given the fact that she is 13 weeks pregnant and state laws limit procedures passed a certain gestational age.
Please respond with updates to the FFS Wilfred Calero on all of these matters by 2/10. The Medical Team will be happy to consult once we have a more complete picture of the situation.

Thank you for your time and help on this case.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP

LCDR, US Public Health Service

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-4639 (office)

(301) (b)(6) (cell)

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 9:12 AM

To: (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS - UAC Medical

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

4pm EST/2 pm MTN works. (b)(6) can you set up a conference call line please?

Please reply to (b)(6) if you will be on the call and what your role is in the case is since there are so many staff members included on this email.

Thanks,

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP

LCDR, US Public Health Service

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-4639 (office)

(301) (b)(6) (cell)

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) [mailto:(b)(6)@swkey.org]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:32 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF)

Subject: Re: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Hello Dr. Meyerstein, I propose 1 pm EST (11 am MTN) or 4 pm EST (2 pm MTN). I hope the times proposed work for all.

Thank you,

(b)(6) LLM

Program Director

Southwest Key Programs-Kokopelli 921

(b)(6)

Sent from my iPhone

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

On Jan 31, 2017, at 6:45 PM, Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

This case is very complex, far beyond email exchanges.

Can we please schedule a conference call to discuss this minor's case tom?

After 1pm EST?

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP

LCDR, US Public Health Service

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-4639 (office)

(301) (b)(6) (cell)

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 6:17 PM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good Afternoon Shaanan,

The sponsor is (b)(6) (b)(6) If the minor was indeed medically stable for discharge, we could of course discharge the minor to the sponsor. However, the sponsor would still
be unaware of the client being pregnant from being sexually assaulted, and wanting an abortion. Therefore, the sponsor would not be prepared for the release of the minor, and possible withdrawal from being a sponsor. Further assessment is still needed at this
time to ensure a safe release of the minor.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Fax: 480-452-0603

Phone: (b)(6)

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 2:40 PM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>

Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

(b)(6)

To be clear – if I told you that the minor was medically stable for discharge, then she could be discharged to her sponsor?

Who is the sponsor and where do they reside?

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP

LCDR, US Public Health Service

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program

Office of Refugee Resettlement

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-4639 (office)

(301) (b)(6) (cell)

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 1:03 PM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good Morning Shaanan,

The law confirms the gestational age in Arizona below:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Prohibiting Abortions Past 20 Weeks of Pregnancy (A.R.S. § 36-2159) – Prohibits abortions past 20 weeks gestation, except in the case of a medical emergency.†

The sponsor for this minor is in Florida, and the status of reunification is pending the medical condition of the client. All other documentation has been provided by the sponsor for reunification.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Fax: 480-452-0603

Phone: (b)(6)

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 10:58 AM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>

Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Can someone please confirm Gestational Age in Arizona when abortion is legal for whatever circumstance?

Where is the sponsor for this minor and what is the status of reunification?

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP

LCDR, US Public Health Service

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-4639 (office)

(301) (b)(6) (cell)

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 12:46 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good Morning!

As previously staffed with our leadership, it was determined that the notarized letter from the parents would not be sufficient for the termination to take place. The client may be open to speaking with her mother
if we were able to obtain permission to proceed with the notarized letter of consent from the mother in home country.

However, as I am under the assumption that we would only be able to proceed with the termination once we appealed to the court to obtain the judicial bypass because the mother would not be able to attend the
abortion procedure.

As the clinician has stated below, that the client does not feel comfortable informing her family, and would like to appeal. Please let me know if there are any questions.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Fax: 480-452-0603

Phone: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:54 AM

To: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: Re: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

The client continues to not want to inform any family members, her parents nor her Sponsor

She wants to appeal the Judge's decision, I have emailed the lawyers assigned to her and have not heard back.

My concern is the timeliness of this issue

(b)(6) (b)(6) *MC, LPC*

Clinician office 501

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Program 921: Kokopelli

Phone: 480-500-1076 Extension (b)(6)

Email:
(b)(6)

Regular Work Schedule: Tuesday -- Saturday, 8am-4pm

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:52:01 AM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good morning!

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I have copied her case manager and clinician to this email.

They may be better able to answer this question for you.

Thanks
☺

(b)(6)

Lead Medical Coordinator

Southwest Key Programs

Casa Kokopelli #921

D: (480) (b)(6)

C: (480) (b)(6)

F: (480) 393-8104

(b)(6) @swkey.org

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the sender immediately and destroy all copies of the original message.

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]

Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 4:22 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

(b)(6) and Wilfred,

Since the judge denied the judicial bypass, did the minor speak with her parents about her pregnancy over the weekend? Did the parents consent?

Thanks,

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP

LCDR, US Public Health Service

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-4639 (office)

(301) (b)(6) (cell)

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b)(6) [mailto(b)(6)@swkey.org]

Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 12:27 PM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

Subject: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

AZ Laws regarding Abortion:

Arizona law requires that women under 18 years old seeking an abortion must either have the
notarized *written permission of one of their parents/legal guardian or permission from a Superior Court Judge.*

Ensuring Adequate Consent

•Parental Consent (A.R.S. § 36-2152) – Requires parental consent for minors seeking abortions but allows for judicial bypass. Requires the parental consent to be obtained on a form to ensure that parents are informed of all of the medical
risks of abortion before giving consent. Requires parental consent to be notarized. Allows parents to sue (1) an abortion provider who performs an abortion on their minor daughter without parental consent or (2) any person who assists a minor in obtaining
an abortion without parental consent.

•Informed Consent (A.R.S. § 36-2153) – Information must be provided 24 hours in advance to a woman seeking an abortion about the risks and alternatives of the procedure, the probable gestational age and physiological characteristics
of the preborn child, and the services available from public and private agencies to assist during pregnancy and after birth. Requires that the information is provided at an in-person consultation with a doctor. Allows a woman to file a lawsuit against an
abortion provider who fails to obtain informed consent. Requires the Department of Health Services to create and maintain a website providing unbiased information about fetal development, the risks of abortion, and information about alternatives to abortion.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

•Informed Consent for Lethal Condition (A.R.S. § 36-2158) – When a woman discovers that her child may have a life-threatening birth defect or other fetal condition, information must be provided 24 hours in advance about the support that is available to her, including perinatal hospice. Requires the Department of Health Services to create and maintain a website providing unbiased information about perinatal hospice and assistance available for children with special needs.

•Opportunity to View Ultrasound (A.R.S. § 36-2156) – Requires an ultrasound to be performed at least 24 hours before every abortion, and a woman seeking abortion must be offered the opportunity to view the ultrasound and hear the baby's heartbeat, if audible.

•Coercion Prohibited (A.R.S. § 36-2153) – Prohibits a person from intimidating or coercing another person into having an abortion and allows minors to obtain public assistance benefits if parents cut off financial support because the minor refuses to have an abortion. Requires that all abortion clinics conspicuously post signs that state it is unlawful for any person to intimidate or coerce another person into having an abortion.

•Foster Parents (A.R.S. § 8-514.05) – Foster parents may not consent to abortion for a foster child.

•Fiduciaries (Arizona Code of Jud. Admin. § 7-202) – Fiduciaries may not consent to abortion for a ward without a court order.

- See more at: https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-arizona/online-health-center/minors-and-abortion-law#sthash.lWOGvCcD.dpuf

(b)(6)

Lead Medical Coordinator

Southwest Key Programs

Casa Kokopelli #921

D: (480) (b)(6)

C: (480) (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

F: (480) 393-8104

(b)(6) @swkey.org

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Sender:	Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7FCD1FABEF934452BFF7378F6365FA8E-CALERO, WIL>
Recipient:	(b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent Date:	2017/02/06 12:46:23
From:	Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7FCD1FABEF934452BFF7378F6365FA8E-CALERO, WIL>
To:	"Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4d88928c06a84498a966d9352f344094-Ruhkamp, Ga>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"; "Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=39e67b42d96043c688e84fa6cef42570-Velazquez,>"
Subject:	Re: Termination of Pregnancy request
Date:	2017/02/06 10:56:02
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6)

(b)(6) (b)(6)

From: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)

Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 10:52:09 AM

To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)

Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request

I can get this home study expedited if I have the A#.

Thanks,

Gail

Gail Houppert

Project Officer

Division of Children Services

Office of Refugee and Resettlement

330 D Street SW, Mailroom 5123

Washington, DC 20201

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Gail.Houppert@acf.hhs.gov

Office: 202-401-9324

Cell: (b)(6)

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 10:46 AM

To: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)

Cc: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)

Subject: Re: Termination of Pregnancy request

Will work on the need to expedite today.

Will Calero

From: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 10:40:45 AM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)

Cc: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)

Subject: Fw: Termination of Pregnancy request

Wifred and Gail,

Can we please expedite HS for this case.

Jsd

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 7:10:07 PM

To: (b)(6) Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS - UAC Medical; Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)

Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Just to clarify she does not have a 3rd grade education. She indicated to me that she almost completed her third level of school, which was confused with third grade. She actually completed 9 years of school which would have been the first year of high school.

Wilfred Calero

Federal Field Specialist

Division of Children's Services

Office of Refugee Resettlement

202-695-4996

(b)(6)

wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) [mailto(b)(6)@swkey.org]

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 5:06 PM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS - UAC Medical; Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)

Subject: Re: Termination of Pregnancy request

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Hello Team

From my experience working with this UC, I am NOT feeling that she has developmental delays

She was nervous in court and felt intimidated, this may the reason for her lack or articulation with the judge

Also, keep in mind she has only a 3rd grade education

I am feeling that it is these two reasons that she is struggling to articulate, not a development delay

I am not a psychologist so I wouldn't object to psychological testing to make the determination

(b)(6) (b)(6) *MC, LPC*

Clinician office 501

Program 921: Kokopelli

Phone: 480-500-1076 Extension (b)(6)

Email:
(b)(6) **@swkey.org**

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Regular Work Schedule: Tuesday -- Saturday, 8am-4pm

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 11:33:51 AM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS Medical; Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)

Subject: Termination of Pregnancy request

Good afternoon,

We will be cancelling the conference call for this afternoon. After a conversation with Jim De La Cruz as to the best way forward with this case we have decided the following:

1)
The judge called into question this minor's capacity for medical decision making and the field staff and shelter staff have noted that she is "delayed". As I have done in prior complex cases that involve a serious medical

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

procedure, we are requesting that this minor undergo formal evaluation by a psychologist to assess her mental capacity in the next few days. If it is determined that she is significantly delayed and with cognitive impairment, that will raise the issue whether
or not we can override her legal right to confidentiality in not disclosing to her parents and getting parental consent for termination about her pregnancy as it will put her life in danger for various reasons

2)
The sponsor needs to have an expedited in depth home study for a number of reasons – 1) the possibility that his younger sister has a developmental delay and she will require more support than he might be able to provide;
2) the possibility that he would have to care for her if we were to release her being pregnant if she agrees to disclose her pregnancy to him; 3) to ensure the minor's safety with the (b)(6)

I have cc'd Gail Houppert who directs the Home studies and PRS to ensure that this home study is expedited given the time sensitivity with this young lady advancing in her pregnancy

3)
I am requesting that the FFS identify a possible OB practice in the sponsor's community in advance in the event that we come to the conclusion that we will discharge this young lady

4)
The shelter staff and case management staff should continue to work with the minor to help understand her situation and the importance of disclosing her medical condition to her parents or (b)(6)

I would like to raise one additional curveball, that if she is discharged to her (b)(6) and was willing to disclose her pregnancy to her (b)(6) but not her parents, that in some states (I don't know
the laws in Florida) that still would not suffice for consent.

I think it is important that we set a firm deadline for ourselves to have these tasks accomplished given the fact that she is 13 weeks pregnant and state laws limit procedures passed a certain gestational age.
Please respond with updates to the FFS Wilfred Calero on all of these matters by 2/10. The Medical Team will be happy to consult once we have a more complete picture of the situation.

Thank you for your time and help on this case.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP

LCDR, US Public Health Service

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-4639 (office)

(301) (b)(6) (cell)

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 9:12 AM

To: (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS - UAC Medical

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

4pm EST/2 pm MTN works. (b)(6) can you set up a conference call line please?

Please reply to (b)(6) if you will be on the call and what your role is in the case is since there are so many staff members included on this email.

Thanks,

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP

LCDR, US Public Health Service

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-4639 (office)

(301) (b)(6) (cell)

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) [mailto:(b)(6) @swkey.org]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:32 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF)

Subject: Re: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Hello Dr. Meyerstein, I propose 1 pm EST (11 am MTN) or 4 pm EST (2 pm MTN). I hope the times proposed work for all.

Thank you,

(b)(6) LLM

Program Director

Southwest Key Programs-Kokopelli 921

(b)(6)

Sent from my iPhone

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

On Jan 31, 2017, at 6:45 PM, Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

This case is very complex, far beyond email exchanges.

Can we please schedule a conference call to discuss this minor's case tom?

After 1pm EST?

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP

LCDR, US Public Health Service

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-4639 (office)

(301) (b)(6) (cell)

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 6:17 PM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good Afternoon Shaanan,

The sponsor is (b)(6) (b)(6) If the minor was indeed medically stable for discharge, we could of course discharge the minor to the sponsor. However, the sponsor would still
be unaware of the client being pregnant from being sexually assaulted, and wanting an abortion. Therefore, the sponsor would not be prepared for the release of the minor, and possible withdrawal from being a sponsor. Further assessment is still needed at this
time to ensure a safe release of the minor.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Fax: 480-452-0603

Phone: (b)(6)

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 2:40 PM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>

Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

(b)(6)

To be clear – if I told you that the minor was medically stable for discharge, then she could be discharged to her sponsor?

Who is the sponsor and where do they reside?

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP

LCDR, US Public Health Service

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program

Office of Refugee Resettlement

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-4639 (office)

(301) (b)(6) (cell)

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 1:03 PM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good Morning Shaanan,

The law confirms the gestational age in Arizona below:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Prohibiting Abortions Past 20 Weeks of Pregnancy (A.R.S. § 36-2159) – Prohibits abortions past 20 weeks gestation, except in the case of a medical emergency.†

The sponsor for this minor is in Florida, and the status of reunification is pending the medical condition of the client. All other documentation has been provided by the sponsor for reunification.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Fax: 480-452-0603

Phone: (b)(6)

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 10:58 AM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>

Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Can someone please confirm Gestational Age in Arizona when abortion is legal for whatever circumstance?

Where is the sponsor for this minor and what is the status of reunification?

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP

LCDR, US Public Health Service

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-4639 (office)

(301) (b)(6) (cell)

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 12:46 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good Morning!

As previously staffed with our leadership, it was determined that the notarized letter from the parents would not be sufficient for the termination to take place. The client may be open to speaking with her mother
if we were able to obtain permission to proceed with the notarized letter of consent from the mother in home country.

However, as I am under the assumption that we would only be able to proceed with the termination once we appealed to the court to obtain the judicial bypass because the mother would not be able to attend the
abortion procedure.

As the clinician has stated below, that the client does not feel comfortable informing her family, and would like to appeal. Please let me know if there are any questions.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Fax: 480-452-0603

Phone: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:54 AM

To: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: Re: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

The client continues to not want to inform any family members, her parents nor her Sponsor

She wants to appeal the Judge's decision, I have emailed the lawyers assigned to her and have not heard back.

My concern is the timeliness of this issue

(b)(6) (b)(6) *MC, LPC*

Clinician office 501

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Program 921: Kokopelli

Phone: 480-500-1076 Extension (b)(6)

Email:
(b)(6)

Regular Work Schedule: Tuesday -- Saturday, 8am-4pm

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:52:01 AM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good morning!

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I have copied her case manager and clinician to this email.

They may be better able to answer this question for you.

Thanks
☺

(b)(6)

Lead Medical Coordinator

Southwest Key Programs

Casa Kokopelli #921

D: (480) (b)(6)

C: (480) (b)(6)

F: (480) 393-8104

(b)(6) @swkey.org

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From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]

Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 4:22 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

(b)(6) and Wilfred,

Since the judge denied the judicial bypass, did the minor speak with her parents about her pregnancy over the weekend? Did the parents consent?

Thanks,

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP

LCDR, US Public Health Service

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-4639 (office)

(301) (b)(6) (cell)

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b)(6) [mailto(b)(6)@swkey.org]

Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 12:27 PM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

Subject: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

AZ Laws regarding Abortion:

Arizona law requires that women under 18 years old seeking an abortion must either have the
notarized *written permission of one of their parents/legal guardian or permission from a Superior Court Judge.*

Ensuring Adequate Consent

•Parental Consent (A.R.S. § 36-2152) – Requires parental consent for minors seeking abortions but allows for judicial bypass. Requires the parental consent to be obtained on a form to ensure that parents are informed of all of the medical
risks of abortion before giving consent. Requires parental consent to be notarized. Allows parents to sue (1) an abortion provider who performs an abortion on their minor daughter without parental consent or (2) any person who assists a minor in obtaining
an abortion without parental consent.

•Informed Consent (A.R.S. § 36-2153) – Information must be provided 24 hours in advance to a woman seeking an abortion about the risks and alternatives of the procedure, the probable gestational age and physiological characteristics
of the preborn child, and the services available from public and private agencies to assist during pregnancy and after birth. Requires that the information is provided at an in-person consultation with a doctor. Allows a woman to file a lawsuit against an
abortion provider who fails to obtain informed consent. Requires the Department of Health Services to create and maintain a website providing unbiased information about fetal development, the risks of abortion, and information about alternatives to abortion.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

•Informed Consent for Lethal Condition (A.R.S. § 36-2158) – When a woman discovers that her child may have a life-threatening birth defect or other fetal condition, information must be provided 24 hours in advance about the support that is available to her, including perinatal hospice. Requires the Department of Health Services to create and maintain a website providing unbiased information about perinatal hospice and assistance available for children with special needs.

•Opportunity to View Ultrasound (A.R.S. § 36-2156) – Requires an ultrasound to be performed at least 24 hours before every abortion, and a woman seeking abortion must be offered the opportunity to view the ultrasound and hear the baby's heartbeat, if audible.

•Coercion Prohibited (A.R.S. § 36-2153) – Prohibits a person from intimidating or coercing another person into having an abortion and allows minors to obtain public assistance benefits if parents cut off financial support because the minor refuses to have an abortion. Requires that all abortion clinics conspicuously post signs that state it is unlawful for any person to intimidate or coerce another person into having an abortion.

•Foster Parents (A.R.S. § 8-514.05) – Foster parents may not consent to abortion for a foster child.

•Fiduciaries (Arizona Code of Jud. Admin. § 7-202) – Fiduciaries may not consent to abortion for a ward without a court order.

- See more at: https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-arizona/online-health-center/minors-and-abortion-law#sthash.lWOGvCcD.dpuf

(b)(6)

Lead Medical Coordinator

Southwest Key Programs

Casa Kokopelli #921

D: (480) (b)(6)

C: (480) (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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(b)(6) @swkey.org

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Sender:	Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7FCD1FABEF934452BFF7378F6365FA8E-CALERO, WIL>
Recipient:	"Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4d88928c06a84498a966d9352f344094-Ruhkamp, Ga>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"; "Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=39e67b42d96043c688e84fa6cef42570-Velazquez,>"
Sent Date:	2017/02/06 10:56:00
Delivered Date:	2017/02/06 10:56:02
From:	Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=4D88928C06A84498A966D9352F344094-RUHKAMP, GA>
To:	"Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"; "Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=39e67b42d96043c688e84fa6cef42570-Velazquez,>"
Subject:	RE: Termination of Pregnancy request
Date:	2017/02/06 12:41:06
Priority:	Urgent
Type:	Note

Good Afternoon,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

This minor is not listed on the home study referral list so cannot be accepted as a provider. Please go into the portal to make sure the home study request has been done properly and is listed on the pending home study referral list. Not currently there. If you have problems please contact the UAC Portal helpdesk. Please let me know when the referral is posted to the list and I will get it expedited.

Thank you,
Gail

Gail Houppert
Project Officer
Division of Children Services
Office of Refugee and Resettlement
330 D Street SW, Mailroom 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Gail.Houppert@acf.hhs.gov
Office: 202-401-9324
Cell: (b)(6)

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 10:56 AM
To: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Subject: Re: Termination of Pregnancy request

(b)(6)

(b)(6) (b)(6)

From: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 10:52:09 AM
To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request

I can get this home study expedited if I have the A#.

Thanks,
Gail

Gail Houppert
Project Officer
Division of Children Services
Office of Refugee and Resettlement
330 D Street SW, Mailroom 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Gail.Houppert@acf.hhs.gov
Office: 202-401-9324
Cell: (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 10:46 AM
To: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Cc: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Subject: Re: Termination of Pregnancy request

Will work on the need to expedite today.

Will Calero

From: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 10:40:45 AM
To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Cc: Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Subject: Fw: Termination of Pregnancy request

Wifred and Gail,

Can we please expedite HS for this case.

Jsd

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 7:10:07 PM
To: (b)(6) Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS - UAC Medical; Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Subject: RE: Termination of Pregnancy request

Just to clarify she does not have a 3rd grade education. She indicated to me that she almost completed her third level of school, which was confused with third grade. She actually completed 9 years of school which would have been the first year of high school.

Wilfred Calero
Federal Field Specialist
Division of Children's Services
Office of Refugee Resettlement
202-695-4996
(b)(6)
wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 5:06 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS - UAC Medical; Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Subject: Re: Termination of Pregnancy request

Hello Team

From my experience working with this UC, I am NOT feeling that she has developmental delays

She was nervous in court and felt intimidated, this may the reason for her lack or articulation with the judge

Also, keep in mind she has only a 3rd grade education

I am feeling that it is these two reasons that she is struggling to articulate, not a development delay

I am not a psychologist so I wouldn't object to psychological testing to make the determination

(b)(6) (b)(6) *MC, LPC*
Clinician office 501
Program 921: Kokopelli
Phone: 480-500-1076 Extension (b)(6)
Email: (b)(6)
Regular Work Schedule: Tuesday -- Saturday, 8am-4pm

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 11:33:51 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS Medical; Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF)
Subject: Termination of Pregnancy request

Good afternoon,

We will be cancelling the conference call for this afternoon. After a conversation with Jim De La Cruz as to the best way forward with this case we have decided the following:

1) The judge called into question this minor's capacity for medical decision making and the field staff and shelter staff have noted that she is "delayed". As I have done in prior complex cases that involve a serious medical procedure, we are requesting that this minor undergo formal evaluation by a psychologist to assess her mental capacity in the next few days. If it is determined that she is significantly delayed and with cognitive impairment, that will raise the issue whether or not we can override her legal right to confidentiality in not disclosing to her

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

parents and getting parental consent for termination about her pregnancy as it will put her life in danger for various reasons

2) The sponsor needs to have an expedited in depth home study for a number of reasons – 1) the possibility that his younger sister has a developmental delay and she will require more support than he might be able to provide; 2) the possibility that he would have to care for her if we were to release her being pregnant if she agrees to disclose her pregnancy to him; 3) to ensure the minor's safety with the (b)(6)
   I have cc'd Gail Houppert who directs the Home studies and PRS to ensure that this home study is expedited given the time sensitivity with this young lady advancing in her pregnancy
3) I am requesting that the FFS identify a possible OB practice in the sponsor's community in advance in the event that we come to the conclusion that we will discharge this young lady
4) The shelter staff and case management staff should continue to work with the minor to help understand her situation and the importance of disclosing her medical condition to her parents or (b)(6)

   I would like to raise one additional curveball, that if she is discharged to her (b)(6) and was willing to disclose her pregnancy to her (b)(6) but not her parents, that in some states (I don't know the laws in Florida) that still would not suffice for consent.

I think it is important that we set a firm deadline for ourselves to have these tasks accomplished given the fact that she is 13 weeks pregnant and state laws limit procedures passed a certain gestational age. Please respond with updates to the FFS Wilfred Calero on all of these matters by 2/10. The Medical Team will be happy to consult once we have a more complete picture of the situation.

Thank you for your time and help on this case.

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 9:12 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS - UAC

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Medical
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

4pm EST/2 pm MTN works. (b)(6) can you set up a conference call line please?
Please reply to (b)(6) if you will be on the call and what your role is in the case is since there are so many staff members included on this email.

Thanks,

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) [mailto(b)(6)@swkey.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:32 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF)
Subject: Re: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Hello Dr. Meyerstein, I propose 1 pm EST (11 am MTN) or 4 pm EST (2 pm MTN). I hope the times proposed work for all.

Thank you,

(b)(6) LLM
Program Director
Southwest Key Programs-Kokopelli 921
(b)(6)
Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 31, 2017, at 6:45 PM, Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

> This case is very complex, far beyond email exchanges.
> Can we please schedule a conference call to discuss this minor's case tom?
> After 1pm EST?
>
> Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
> LCDR, US Public Health Service

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 6:17 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good Afternoon Shaanan,

The sponsor is (b)(6) (b)(6) If the minor was indeed medically stable for discharge, we could of course discharge the minor to the sponsor. However, the sponsor would still be unaware of the client being pregnant from being sexually assaulted, and wanting an abortion. Therefore, the sponsor would not be prepared for the release of the minor, and possible withdrawal from being a sponsor. Further assessment is still needed at this time to ensure a safe release of the minor.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

(b)(6)
Case Manager
Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli
(b)(6)
Fax: 480-452-0603
Phone: (b)(6)

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 2:40 PM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6)
To be clear – if I told you that the minor was medically stable for discharge, then she could be discharged to her sponsor?
Who is the sponsor and where do they reside?

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 1:03 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good Morning Shaanan,

The law confirms the gestational age in Arizona below:
Prohibiting Abortions Past 20 Weeks of Pregnancy (A.R.S. § 36-2159) – Prohibits abortions past 20 weeks gestation, except in the case of a medical emergency.†

The sponsor for this minor is in Florida, and the status of reunification is pending the medical condition of the client. All other documentation has been provided by the sponsor for reunification.

Thank you,

(b)(6)
Case Manager
Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli
(b)(6)
Fax: 480-452-0603
Phone: (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 10:58 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Can someone please confirm Gestational Age in Arizona when abortion is legal for whatever circumstance?
Where is the sponsor for this minor and what is the status of reunification?

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 12:46 PM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good Morning!

As previously staffed with our leadership, it was determined that the notarized letter from the parents would not be sufficient for the termination to take place. The client may be open to speaking with her mother if we were able to obtain permission to proceed with the notarized letter of consent from the mother in home country.

However, as I am under the assumption that we would only be able to proceed with the termination once we appealed to the court to obtain the judicial bypass because the mother would not be able to attend the abortion procedure.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

As the clinician has stated below, that the client does not feel comfortable informing her family, and would like to appeal. Please let me know if there are any questions.

Thank you,

(b)(6)
Case Manager
Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli
(b)(6)
Fax: 480-452-0603
Phone: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:54 AM
To: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

The client continues to not want to inform any family members, her parents nor her Sponsor

She wants to appeal the Judge's decision, I have emailed the lawyers assigned to her and have not heard back.

My concern is the timeliness of this issue

(b)(6) (b)(6) *MC, LPC*
Clinician office 501
Program 921: Kokopelli
Phone: 480-500-1076 Extension (b)(6)
Email: (b)(6)
Regular Work Schedule: Tuesday -- Saturday, 8am-4pm

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:52:01 AM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good morning!

I have copied her case manager and clinician to this email.
They may be better able to answer this question for you.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thanks ☺

(b)(6)
Lead Medical Coordinator
Southwest Key Programs
Casa Kokopelli #921
D: (480) (b)(6)
C: (480) (b)(6)
F: (480) 393-8104
(b)(6) @swkey.org
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From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 4:22 PM
To: (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

(b)(6) and Wilfred,
Since the judge denied the judicial bypass, did the minor speak with her parents about her pregnancy over the weekend? Did the parents consent?

Thanks,

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) [mailto:(b)(6) @swkey.org]
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 12:27 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Subject: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

AZ Laws regarding Abortion:
*Arizona law requires that women under 18 years old seeking an abortion must either have the **notarized** written permission of one of their parents/legal guardian or permission from a Superior Court Judge.*

Ensuring Adequate Consent

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•Parental Consent (A.R.S. § 36-2152) – Requires parental consent for minors seeking abortions but allows for judicial bypass. Requires the parental consent to be obtained on a form to ensure that parents are informed of all of the medical risks of abortion before giving consent. Requires parental consent to be notarized. Allows parents to sue (1) an abortion provider who performs an abortion on their minor daughter without parental consent or (2) any person who assists a minor in obtaining an abortion without parental consent.

•Informed Consent (A.R.S. § 36-2153) – Information must be provided 24 hours in advance to a woman seeking an abortion about the risks and alternatives of the procedure, the probable gestational age and physiological characteristics of the preborn child, and the services available from public and private agencies to assist during pregnancy and after birth. Requires that the information is provided at an in-person consultation with a doctor. Allows a woman to file a lawsuit against an abortion provider who fails to obtain informed consent. Requires the Department of Health Services to create and maintain a website providing unbiased information about fetal development, the risks of abortion, and information about alternatives to abortion.

•Informed Consent for Lethal Condition (A.R.S. § 36-2158) – When a woman discovers that her child may have a life-threatening birth defect or other fetal condition, information must be provided 24 hours in advance about the support that is available to her, including perinatal hospice. Requires the Department of Health Services to create and maintain a website providing unbiased information about perinatal hospice and assistance available for children with special needs.

•Opportunity to View Ultrasound (A.R.S. § 36-2156) – Requires an ultrasound to be performed at least 24 hours before every abortion, and a woman seeking abortion must be offered the opportunity to view the ultrasound and hear the baby's heartbeat, if audible.

•Coercion Prohibited (A.R.S. § 36-2153) – Prohibits a person from intimidating or coercing another person into having an abortion and allows minors to obtain public assistance benefits if parents cut off financial support because the minor refuses to have an abortion. Requires that all abortion clinics conspicuously post signs that state it is unlawful for any person to intimidate or coerce another person into having an abortion.

•Foster Parents (A.R.S. § 8-514.05) – Foster parents may not consent to abortion for a foster child.

•Fiduciaries (Arizona Code of Jud. Admin. § 7-202) – Fiduciaries may not consent to abortion for a ward without a court order.

- See more at: https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-arizona/online-health-center/minors-and-abortion-law#sthash.lWOGvCcD.dpuf

(b)(6)

Lead Medical Coordinator
Southwest Key Programs
Casa Kokopelli #921
D: (480) (b)(6)
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(b)(6) @swkey.org

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Sender:	Houppert (Ruhkamp), Gail (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=4D88928C06A84498A966D9352F344094-RUHKAMP, GA>
Recipient:	"Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"; "Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=39e67b42d96043c688e84fa6cef42570-Velazquez,>"
Sent Date:	2017/02/06 12:41:06
From:	(b)(6) (b)(6)
To:	"Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"
CC:	(b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) "Centeno, Raquel (ACF) (CTR) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4124a2c24e2146dfa41490bceefc5285-Centeno, Ra>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject:	HS Recommendation: Discretionary Home Stud (b)(6) A# (b)(6)
Date:	2017/02/03 02:03:58
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Will,

Reviewer concurs with recommendation of conducting a discretionary home study prior to release. UAC Portal has been updated.

Thank you,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6), MSW

Supervisory Case Coordinator

General Dynamics Information Technology

ORR Case Coordination Program

Western Region- Phoenix, AZ

(b)(6) cell

(b)(6)

www.gdit.com

**Currently assigned to A New Leaf (Dorothy Mitchel Residence) and SWK Kokopelli*

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 5:06 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6)
<(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6)
<(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6)
<(b)(6) @swkey.org>;
(b)(6) (b)(6) raquel.centeno@acf.hhs.gov; (b)(6)
(b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

Subject: Kokopelli: Discretionary Home Study Request for (b)(6) A#
(b)(6)

Hello,

Based on sponsor's young age and under ORR procedures, CM and CL are recommending discretionary home study of client to (b)(6) Sponsor resides in (b)(6) Please refer to UAC portal for further comments and information.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Fax: 480-452-0603

Phone: (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sender:	(b)(6) (b)(6)
Recipient:	"Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) swkey.org>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) "Centeno, Raquel (ACF) (CTR) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4124a2c24e2146dfa41490bceefc5285-Centeno, Ra>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) wkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent Date:	2017/02/03 02:03:46
Delivered Date:	2017/02/03 02:03:58
From:	(b)(6) (b)(6)
To:	(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
	(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; swkey.org>"; (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) "Centeno, Raquel (ACF) (CTR) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4124a2c24e2146dfa41490bceefc5285-Centeno, Ra>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; "Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"
Subject:	RE: Kokopelli: Discretionary Home Study Request for (b)(6) A# (b)(6)
Date:	2017/02/02 12:19:59
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Good Morning (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I have forwarded the email trend from Shaanan Meyerstein from yesterday. I apologize for the not advising for the home study. However, I have staffed the case with my leads, APD, and FFS before sending the referral.
I hope to be able to give you a call after 1pm today, however I may be attending court with this client all afternoon. I will call you with the CL asap when I have a chance after 1 pm.

Again, I apologize that you were not included in the staffing and were not aware of the HS request before now.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Fax: 480-452-0603

Phone: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 9:38 PM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

<(b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6)
<(b)(6)@swkey.org>;
(b)(6) (b)(6) raquel.centeno@acf.hhs.gov; (b)(6)
(b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

Subject: RE: Kokopelli: Discretionary Home Study Request for (b)(6)
(b)(6) A# (b)(6)

Hello (b)(6)

Please contact me to staff this case. Discretionary HS was not staffed prior to your submission.

I am available from 8-9:30 AM tomorrow morning or after 1 PM.

Thank you,

(b)(6) MSW

Supervisory Case Coordinator

General Dynamics Information Technology

ORR Case Coordination Program

Western Region- Phoenix, AZ

(b)(6) cell

(b)(6)

www.gdit.com

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 5:06 PM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) raquel.centeno@acf.hhs.gov; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

Subject: Kokopelli: Discretionary Home Study Request for (b)(6) A# (b)(6)

Hello,

Based on sponsor's young age and under ORR procedures, CM and CL are recommending discretionary home study of client to (b)(6) Sponsor resides in (b)(6) Please refer to UAC portal for further comments and information.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Case Manager

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Fax: 480-452-0603

Phone: (b)(6)

Sender:	(b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>
Recipient:	(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>"; (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>"; (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) "Centeno, Raquel (ACF) (CTR) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4124a2c24e2146dfa41490bceefc5285-Centeno, Ra>"; (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>"; "Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"
Sent Date:	2017/02/02 12:19:14
Delivered Date:	2017/02/02 12:19:59
From:	Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7FCD1FABEF934452BFF7378F6365FA8E-CALERO, WIL>
To:	"Centeno, Raquel (ACF) (CTR) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4124a2c24e2146dfa41490bceefc5285-Centeno, Ra>"
Subject:	Re: Kokopelli: Discretionary Home Study Request for (b)(6) A# (b)(6)
Date:	2017/02/02 09:39:40
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

That is why Im your boss and get paid big bucks.

From: Centeno, Raquel (ACF) (CTR)

Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 7:38:09 AM

To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Subject: RE: Kokopelli: Discretionary Home Study Request for (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) A# 209-(b)(6)

Yes, thank you. You put into words what I was trying to say.

Raquel Centeno, MSW

Contract Field Specialist, (CTR)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Administration for Children and Families

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Division of Children's Services

Phoenix, Arizona

Phone: (202) 765-6949

Email: raquel.centeno@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2017 7:13 AM

To: Centeno, Raquel (ACF) (CTR)

Subject: Re: Kokopelli: Discretionary Home Study Request for (b)(6)
A# (b)(6)

I think what she wants is notice so that everyone is on same page and so that if CC is opposed we dont go throught the back and forth of program submitting CC putting in a recommendation that is opposed and then
me getting involved and reversing it.

What she wants is communication we all agree then we all move forward without the mess. The real problem is that (b)(6) communication seems like program needs her permission which is not the case. Message is correct but her delivery is poor. Ill talk to her.

Will

From: Centeno, Raquel (ACF) (CTR)

Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 6:44:49 AM

To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Subject: FW: Kokopelli: Discretionary Home Study Request for (b)(6)
A# (b)(6)

Good morning Will,

I have to ask, because as far as I know, the case coordinators do not need to be doing this, the program can submit their own independent recommendation regardless of what the CC believes. So not sure why she's
asking for the CM to staff this case with her when obviously the program has made their recommendation.?

Raquel Centeno, MSW

Contract Field Specialist, (CTR)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Administration for Children and Families

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Division of Children's Services

Phoenix, Arizona

Phone: (202) 765-6949

Email:
raquel.centeno@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 9:38 PM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Centeno, Raquel (ACF) (CTR); (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Subject: RE: Kokopelli: Discretionary Home Study Request for (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) A# (b)(6)

Hello (b)(6)

Please contact me to staff this case. Discretionary HS was not staffed prior to your submission.

I am available from 8-9:30 AM tomorrow morning or after 1 PM.

Thank you,

(b)(6) (b)(6) MSW

Supervisory Case Coordinator

General Dynamics Information Technology

ORR Case Coordination Program

Western Region- Phoenix, AZ

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6) cell

(b)(6)

www.gdit.com

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 5:06 PM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) raquel.centeno@acf.hhs.gov; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

Subject: Kokopelli: Discretionary Home Study Request for (b)(6) A# (b)(6)

Hello,

Based on sponsor's young age and under ORR procedures, CM and CL are recommending discretionary home study of client to (b)(6) Sponsor resides in (b)(6) Please refer to UAC portal for further comments and information.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Fax: 480-452-0603

Phone: (b)(6)

Sender:	Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7FCD1FABEF934452BFF7378F6365FA8E-CALERO, WIL>
Recipient:	"Centeno, Raquel (ACF) (CTR) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4124a2c24e2146dfa41490bceefc5285-Centeno, Ra>"
Sent Date:	2017/02/02 09:39:39
Delivered Date:	2017/02/02 09:39:40
From:	Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7FCD1FABEF934452BFF7378F6365FA8E-CALERO, WIL>
To:	"Centeno, Raquel (ACF) (CTR) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4124a2c24e2146dfa41490bceefc5285-Centeno, Ra>"
Subject:	Re: Kokopelli: Discretionary Home Study Request for (b)(6) A# (b)(6)
Date:	2017/02/02 09:12:42
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I think what she wants is notice so that everyone is on same page and so that if CC is opposed we dont go throught the back and forth of program submitting CC putting in a recommendation that is opposed and then me getting involved and reversing it.

What she wants is communication we all agree then we all move forward without the mess. The real problem is that (b)(6) communication seems like program needs her permission which is not the case. Message is correct but her delivery is poor. Ill talk to her.

Will

From: Centeno, Raquel (ACF) (CTR)

Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 6:44:49 AM

To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Subject: FW: Kokopelli: Discretionary Home Study Request for (b)(6) A# (b)(6) (b)(6)

Good morning Will,

I have to ask, because as far as I know, the case coordinators do not need to be doing this, the program can submit their own independent recommendation regardless of what the CC believes. So not sure why she's asking for the CM to staff this case with her when obviously the program has made their recommendation.?

Raquel Centeno, MSW

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Contract Field Specialist, (CTR)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Administration for Children and Families

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Division of Children's Services

Phoenix, Arizona

Phone: (202) 765-6949

Email: raquel.centeno@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 9:38 PM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Centeno, Raquel (ACF) (CTR); (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Subject: RE: Kokopelli: Discretionary Home Study Request for (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) A# (b)(6)

Hello (b)(6)

Please contact me to staff this case. Discretionary HS was not staffed prior to your submission.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I am available from 8-9:30 AM tomorrow morning or after 1 PM.

Thank you,

(b)(6) (b)(6) MSW

Supervisory Case Coordinator

General Dynamics Information Technology

ORR Case Coordination Program

Western Region- Phoenix, AZ

(b)(6) cell

(b)(6)

www.gdit.com

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 5:06 PM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>;

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

raquel.centeno@acf.hhs.gov; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

Subject: Kokopelli: Discretionary Home Study Request for (b)(6) A# (b)(6)

Hello,

Based on sponsor's young age and under ORR procedures, CM and CL are recommending discretionary home study of client to (b)(6) Sponsor resides in (b)(6) Please refer to UAC portal for further comments and information.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Fax: 480-452-0603

Phone: (b)(6)

Sender:	Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7FCD1FABEF934452BFF7378F6365FA8E-CALERO, WIL>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Recipient:	"Centeno, Raquel (ACF) (CTR) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4124a2c24e2146dfa41490bceefc5285-Centeno, Ra>"
Sent Date:	2017/02/02 09:12:40
Delivered Date:	2017/02/02 09:12:42
From:	Centeno, Raquel (ACF) (CTR) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=4124A2C24E2146DFA41490BCEEFC5285-CENTENO, RA>
To:	"Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"
Subject:	FW: Kokopelli: Discretionary Home Study Request for (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) A# (b)(6)
Date:	2017/02/02 08:44:50
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Good morning Will,

I have to ask, because as far as I know, the case coordinators do not need to be doing this, the program can submit their own independent recommendation regardless of what the CC believes. So not sure why she's asking for the CM to staff this case with her when obviously the program has made their recommendation.?

Raquel Centeno, MSW
Contract Field Specialist, (CTR)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Division of Children's Services
Phoenix, Arizona
Phone: (202) 765-6949
Email: raquel.centeno@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 9:38 PM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Centeno, Raquel (ACF) (CTR); (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Subject: RE: Kokopelli: Discretionary Home Study Request for (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) A# (b)(6) (b)(6)

Hello (b)(6)

Please contact me to staff this case. Discretionary HS was not staffed prior to your submission.

I am available from 8-9:30 AM tomorrow morning or after 1 PM.

Thank you,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6) (b)(6), MSW

Supervisory Case Coordinator
General Dynamics Information Technology
ORR Case Coordination Program
Western Region- Phoenix, AZ
(b)(6) cell
(b)(6) @gdit.com
www.gdit.com

From: (b)(6) [mailto (b)(6) @swkey.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 5:06 PM
To: (b)(6) <(b)(6) @GDIT.com>; (b)(6) (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; raquel.centeno@acf.hhs.gov; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov
Subject: Kokopelli: Discretionary Home Study Request for (b)(6) A# (b)(6) -726

Hello,

Based on sponsor's young age and under ORR procedures, CM and CL are recommending discretionary home study of client to (b)(6) Sponsor resides in (b)(6) Please refer to UAC portal for further comments and information.

Thank you,

(b)(6)
Case Manager
Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli
(b)(6) @swkey.org
Fax: 480-452-0603
Phone: (b)(6)

Sender:	Centeno, Raquel (ACF) (CTR) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=4124A2C24E2146DFA41490BCEEFC5285-CENTENO, RA>
Recipient:	"Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"
Sent Date:	2017/02/02 08:44:49
Delivered Date:	2017/02/02 08:44:50
From:	(b)(6) <(b)(6) @GDIT.com>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To:	(b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>";
	(b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) "Centeno, Raquel (ACF) (CTR) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4124a2c24e2146dfa41490bceefc5285-Centeno, Ra>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; "Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"
Subject:	RE: Kokopelli: Discretionary Home Study Request for (b)(6) A# (b)(6)
Date:	2017/02/01 23:38:04
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Hello (b)(6)

Please contact me to staff this case. Discretionary HS was not staffed prior to your submission.

I am available from 8-9:30 AM tomorrow morning or after 1 PM.

Thank you,

(b)(6) (b)(6) MSW

Supervisory Case Coordinator

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

General Dynamics Information Technology

ORR Case Coordination Program

Western Region- Phoenix, AZ

(b)(6) cell

(b)(6)

www.gdit.com

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 5:06 PM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) raquel.centeno@acf.hhs.gov; (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

Subject: Kokopelli: Discretionary Home Study Request for (b)(6) A# (b)(6)

Hello,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Based on sponsor's young age and under ORR procedures, CM and CL are recommending discretionary home study of client to (b)(6) Sponsor resides in (b)(6) Please refer to UAC portal for further comments and information.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Fax: 480-452-0603

Phone: (b)(6)

Sender:	(b)(6) (b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) "Centeno, Raquel (ACF) (CTR) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4124a2c24e2146dfa41490bceefc5285-Centeno, Ra>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; "Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"
Sent Date:	2017/02/01 23:37:57
Delivered Date:	2017/02/01 23:38:04
From:	(b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>
To:	"Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"
CC:	(b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>";

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

	(b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; "Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Kim, Curi (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ff860dcb9fb64cd799d9a98fcc0ff8cf-Kim, Curi_3>"; "ORR DHUC </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6dfea50a0f5043538e14b4e34f0920f0-DUCS Medica>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"
Subject:	Re: Arizona Laws regarding abortion
Date:	2017/02/01 12:54:23
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Hello all,

as per Dr. Meyerstein's request we are having a conference call today 02/01/17 at 2 PM (MTN) (4 pm EST) to discuss the request of minor (b)(6) for termination of pregnancy.

The conference call number is 1-877-(b)(6)

Code: (b)(6)

For SWK Kokopelli the attendees will be:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6) LMC

(b)(6) CM

(b)(6) LCM

(b)(6) ALCM

(b)(6) LCL

(b)(6) (b)(6) CL

(b)(6) PD

(b)(6) APD

Thank you,

(b)(6) *L.L.M.*

Southwest Key Programs

Program Director

Kokopelli-921

Cell phone (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

WARNING

The information contained in this communication is confidential, and is intended only for the use of addressee. Unauthorized use, disclosure or copying is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 7:12 AM

To: (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); DCS Medical

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

4pm EST/2 pm MTN works. (b)(6) can you set up a conference call line please?

Please reply to (b)(6) if you will be on the call and what your role is in the case is since there are so many staff members included on this email.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thanks,

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP

LCDR, US Public Health Service

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-4639 (office)

(301) (b)(6) (cell)

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) [mailto:(b)(6)@swkey.org]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:32 PM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF)

Subject: Re: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Hello Dr. Meyerstein, I propose 1 pm EST (11 am MTN) or 4 pm EST (2 pm MTN). I hope the times proposed work for all.

Thank you,

(b)(6) LLM

Program Director

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Southwest Key Programs-Kokopelli 921

602-(b)(6)

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 31, 2017, at 6:45 PM, Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

> This case is very complex, far beyond email exchanges.
>
> Can we please schedule a conference call to discuss this minor's case tom?
>
> After 1pm EST?
>
> Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
>
> LCDR, US Public Health Service
>
> Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-4639 (office)

(301) (b)(6) (cell)

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 6:17 PM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Good Afternoon Shaanan,

The sponsor is (b)(6) (b)(6) If the minor was indeed medically stable for discharge, we could of course discharge the minor to the sponsor. However, the sponsor would still be unaware
of the client being pregnant from being sexually assaulted, and wanting an abortion. Therefore, the sponsor would not be prepared for the release of the minor, and possible withdrawal from being a sponsor. Further assessment is still needed at this time to
ensure a safe release of the minor.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Fax: 480-452-0603

Phone: (b)(6)

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 2:40 PM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>

Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

(b)(6)

To be clear – if I told you that the minor was medically stable for discharge, then she could be discharged to her sponsor?

Who is the sponsor and where do they reside?

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP

LCDR, US Public Health Service

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-4639 (office)

(301) (b)(6) (cell)

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 1:03 PM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good Morning Shaanan,

The law confirms the gestational age in Arizona below:

Prohibiting Abortions Past 20 Weeks of Pregnancy (A.R.S. § 36-2159) – Prohibits abortions past 20 weeks gestation, except in the case of a medical emergency.†

The sponsor for this minor is in Florida, and the status of reunification is pending the medical condition of the client. All other documentation has been provided by the sponsor for reunification.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Fax: 480-452-0603

Phone: (b)(6)

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 10:58 AM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>

Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Can someone please confirm Gestational Age in Arizona when abortion is legal for whatever circumstance?

Where is the sponsor for this minor and what is the status of reunification?

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP

LCDR, US Public Health Service

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-4639 (office)

(301) (b)(6) (cell)

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 12:46 PM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good Morning!

As previously staffed with our leadership, it was determined that the notarized letter from the parents would not be sufficient for the termination to take place. The client may be open to speaking with her mother if we
were able to obtain permission to proceed with the notarized letter of consent from the mother in home country.

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However, as I am under the assumption that we would only be able to proceed with the termination once we appealed to the court to obtain the judicial bypass because the mother would not be able to attend the abortion procedure.

As the clinician has stated below, that the client does not feel comfortable informing her family, and would like to appeal. Please let me know if there are any questions.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Fax: 480-452-0603

Phone: (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:54 AM

To: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>;
Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>

Subject: Re: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

The client continues to not want to inform any family members, her parents nor her Sponsor

She wants to appeal the Judge's decision, I have emailed the lawyers assigned to her and have not heard back.

My concern is the timeliness of this issue

(b)(6) (b)(6) *MC, LPC*

Clinician office 501

Program 921: Kokopelli

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Phone: 480-500-1076 Extension (b)(6)

Email:
(b)(6)

Regular Work Schedule: Tuesday -- Saturday, 8am-4pm

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:52:01 AM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF); Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

Good morning!

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I have copied her case manager and clinician to this email.

They may be better able to answer this question for you.

Thanks
☺

(b)(6)

Lead Medical Coordinator

Southwest Key Programs

Casa Kokopelli #921

D: (480) (b)(6)

C: (480) (b)(6)

F: (480) 393-8104

(b)(6) @swkey.org

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of the original message.

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]

Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 4:22 PM

To: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; Calero, Wilfred (ACF) <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

(b)(6) and Wilfred,

Since the judge denied the judicial bypass, did the minor speak with her parents about her pregnancy over the weekend? Did the parents consent?

Thanks,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP

LCDR, US Public Health Service

Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(202) 401-4639 (office)

(301) (b)(6) (cell)

Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) [mailto(b)(6)@swkey.org]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 12:27 PM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

Subject: Arizona Laws regarding abortion

AZ Laws regarding Abortion:

Arizona law requires that women under 18 years old seeking an abortion must either have the
notarized *written permission of one of their parents/legal guardian or permission from a Superior Court Judge.*

Ensuring Adequate Consent

•Parental Consent (A.R.S. § 36-2152) – Requires parental consent for minors seeking abortions but allows for judicial bypass. Requires the parental consent to be obtained on a form to ensure that parents are informed of all of the medical risks of abortion
before giving consent. Requires parental consent to be notarized. Allows parents to sue (1) an abortion provider who performs an abortion on their minor daughter without parental consent or (2) any person who assists a minor in obtaining an abortion without
parental consent.

•Informed Consent (A.R.S. § 36-2153) – Information must be provided 24 hours in advance to a woman seeking an abortion about the risks and alternatives of the procedure, the probable gestational age and physiological characteristics of the preborn child,
and the services available from public and private agencies to assist during pregnancy and after birth. Requires that the information is provided at an in-person consultation with a doctor. Allows a woman to file a lawsuit against an abortion provider who

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

fails to obtain informed consent. Requires the Department of Health Services to create and maintain a website providing unbiased information about fetal development, the risks of abortion, and information about alternatives to abortion.

•Informed Consent for Lethal Condition (A.R.S. § 36-2158) – When a woman discovers that her child may have a life-threatening birth defect or other fetal condition, information must be provided 24 hours in advance about the support that is available to her,
including perinatal hospice. Requires the Department of Health Services to create and maintain a website providing unbiased information about perinatal hospice and assistance available for children with special needs.

•Opportunity to View Ultrasound (A.R.S. § 36-2156) – Requires an ultrasound to be performed at least 24 hours before every abortion, and a woman seeking abortion must be offered the opportunity to view the ultrasound and hear the baby's heartbeat, if audible.

•Coercion Prohibited (A.R.S. § 36-2153) – Prohibits a person from intimidating or coercing another person into having an abortion and allows minors to obtain public assistance benefits if parents cut off financial support because the minor refuses to have
an abortion. Requires that all abortion clinics conspicuously post signs that state it is unlawful for any person to intimidate or coerce another person into having an abortion.

•Foster Parents (A.R.S. § 8-514.05) – Foster parents may not consent to abortion for a foster child.

•Fiduciaries (Arizona Code of Jud. Admin. § 7-202) – Fiduciaries may not consent to abortion for a ward without a court order.

- See more at: https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-arizona/online-health-center/minors-and-abortion-law#sthash.lWOGvCcD.dpuf

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6)

Lead Medical Coordinator

Southwest Key Programs

Casa Kokopelli #921

D: (480) (b)(6)

C: (480) (b)(6)

F: (480) 393-8104

(b)(6) @swkey.org

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Sender:	(b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>
Recipient:	"Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <agarcia@swkey.org>"; "Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Kim, Curi (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ff860dcb9fb64cd799d9a98fcc0ff8cf-Kim, Curi_3>"; "ORR DHUC </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6dfea50a0f5043538e14b4e34f0920f0-DUCS Medica>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"
Sent Date:	2017/02/01 12:53:38
Delivered Date:	2017/02/01 12:54:23
From:	(b)(6) Garcia <(b)(6) @swkey.org>
To:	"Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"; "Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"
CC:	"ORR DHUC </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6dfea50a0f5043538e14b4e34f0920f0-DUCS Medica>"
Subject:	RE: UC seeking TOP, SWK Kokopelli
Date:	2017/01/25 14:05:09
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Good morning,

Attached are the OB notes including US results.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Please feel free to contact me if you need anything.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Lead Medical Coordinator

Southwest Key Programs

Casa Kokopelli #921

D: (480) (b)(6)

C: (480) (b)(6)

F: (480) 393-8104

(b)(6) @swkey.org

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From: (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 10:00 AM

To: 'Calero, Wilfred (ACF)' <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>; Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>

Cc: DCS Medical <DCSMedical@acf.hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: UC seeking TOP, SWK Kokopelli

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Good morning,

They did not provide a physical copy of the ultrasound.

I will contact Planned Parenthood and see if they can provide a copy.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Lead Medical Coordinator

Southwest Key Programs

Casa Kokopelli #921

D: (480) (b)(6)

C: (480) (b)(6)

F: (480) 393-8104

(b)(6) @swkey.org

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From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF) [mailto:Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 7:07 AM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>

Cc: DCS Medical <DCSMedical@acf.hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: UC seeking TOP, SWK Kokopelli

Dr. Meyerstein,

Just providing a follow up, I will be arriving on site to complete the authorization to proceed with the UC's TOP on the day of the procedure.

If you have any further questions please let me know.

Thanks for your attention on this matter.

Wilfred Calero

Federal Field Specialist

Division of Children's Services

Office of Refugee Resettlement

202-695-4996

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6)

wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 11:21 PM

To: (b)(6)

Cc: DCS - UAC Medical; Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Subject: RE: UC seeking TOP, SWK Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Can you please send me the US results? I don't see any US that was performed today…

Also, if this minor will be terminating her pregnancy, there is no need to perform Zika Testing.

Just confirming that Wilfred is on board with the plan to be present at the clinic to sign consent since the minor requires consent in the State of Arizona and she does not want to disclose to her family.

As soon as I get the US, I will have the ORR director review the request and when I have an answer, will let you know.

Thank you.

Shaanan

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b)(6) [mailto(b)(6)@swkey.org]

Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 5:23 PM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

Subject: FW: UC seeking TOP, SWK Kokopelli

Importance: High

Here it is.

(b)(6)

Lead Medical Coordinator

Southwest Key Programs

Casa Kokopelli #921

D: (480) (b)(6)

C: (480) (b)(6)

F: (480) 393-8104

(b)(6)@swkey.org

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 3:12 PM

To: DCS Medical <DCSMedical@acf.hhs.gov>; 'Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)' <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>

Cc: (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>

Subject: UC seeking TOP, SWK Kokopelli

Good afternoon,

This email is to update you regarding minor:

(b)(6)

A# (b)(6)

Minor went to Planned Parenthood today for an informational session.

Minor received an ultrasound to confirm pregnancy.

Minor's gestational age is 13 weeks and 3 days.

Being that the gestational age exceeds 9 weeks, minor will have to receive a surgical abortion.

I also spoke with (b)(6) Vice President of Patient Services from Planned Parenthood.

The following documents will be needed at the time of the procedure:

1. Demographic sheet

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2.
ORR Medical and Placement Authorization Forms

3.
Required Parental Consent

a.
This form will need to be completed and notarized

Mr. Washington explained to me that per Arizona law, UC must wait at least 24 hours after the informational session before proceeding.

At this time, UC has still expressed desire to continue with the termination to her case manager.

Appointment has been set for 1/27/2017 at 7:30 AM.

I have also attached the forms provided during the visit.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Lead Medical Coordinator

Southwest Key Programs

Casa Kokopelli #921

D: (480) (b)(6)

C: (480) (b)(6)

F: (480) 393-8104

(b)(6) @swkey.org

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Sender:	(b)(6) <agarcia@swkey.org>
Recipient:	"Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"; "Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"; "ORR DHUC </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6dfea50a0f5043538e14b4e34f0920f0-DUCS Medica>"
Sent Date:	2017/01/25 14:04:40
Delivered Date:	2017/01/25 14:05:09
From:	Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7FCD1FABEF934452BFF7378F6365FA8E-CALERO, WIL>
To:	"Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"
CC:	"ORR DHUC </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6dfea50a0f5043538e14b4e34f0920f0-DUCS Medica>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"; "Kim, Curi (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ff860dcb9fb64cd799d9a98fcc0ff8cf-Kim, Curi_3>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Subject:	RE: UC seeking TOP, SWK Kokopelli
Date:	2017/01/25 12:15:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Affirmative, we will start the process of reaching out today.

Thanks for the follow up.

Wilfred Calero
Federal Field Specialist
Division of Children's Services
Office of Refugee Resettlement
202-695-4996
(b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 10:14 AM
To: (b)(6) Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Cc: DCS - UAC Medical; De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Subject: RE: UC seeking TOP, SWK Kokopelli

Wilfred,

Apparently what has happened in the past with the other SWK program in Arizona where an FFS signed for consent was not the right process. In the State of Arizona, a judicial bypass needs to be attained for this minor to have a termination without the consent of her parents. You should have a local legal aid group who can help facilitate this process.

Thank you.

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 1:21 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: DCS - UAC Medical; Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Subject: RE: UC seeking TOP, SWK Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Can you please send me the US results? I don't see any US that was performed today…
Also, if this minor will be terminating her pregnancy, there is no need to perform Zika Testing.
Just confirming that Wilfred is on board with the plan to be present at the clinic to sign consent since the minor requires consent in the State of Arizona and she does not want to disclose to her family.
As soon as I get the US, I will have the ORR director review the request and when I have an answer, will let you know.
Thank you.

Shaanan

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b)(6) [mailto:(b)(6)@swkey.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 5:23 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Subject: FW: UC seeking TOP, SWK Kokopelli
Importance: High

Here it is.

(b)(6)
Lead Medical Coordinator
Southwest Key Programs
Casa Kokopelli #921
D: (480) (b)(6)
C: (480) (b)(6)
F: (480) 393-8104
(b)(6)@swkey.org
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From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 3:12 PM
To: DCS Medical <DCSMedical@acf.hhs.gov>; 'Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)' <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>
Subject: UC seeking TOP, SWK Kokopelli

Good afternoon,

This email is to update you regarding minor:
(b)(6)
(b)(6)

Minor went to Planned Parenthood today for an informational session.
Minor received an ultrasound to confirm pregnancy.
Minor's gestational age is 13 weeks and 3 days.

Being that the gestational age exceeds 9 weeks, minor will have to receive a surgical abortion.

I also spoke with (b)(6) Vice President of Patient Services from Planned Parenthood.

The following documents will be needed at the time of the procedure:

1. Demographic sheet
2. ORR Medical and Placement Authorization Forms
3. Required Parental Consent
    a. This form will need to be completed and notarized

Mr. (b)(6) explained to me that per Arizona law, UC must wait at least 24 hours after the informational session before proceeding.
At this time, UC has still expressed desire to continue with the termination to her case manager.
Appointment has been set for 1/27/2017 at 7:30 AM.

I have also attached the forms provided during the visit.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Lead Medical Coordinator
Southwest Key Programs
Casa Kokopelli #921
D: (480) (b)(6)
C: (480) (b)(6)
F: (480) 393-8104
(b)(6) @swkey.org

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Sender:	Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7FCD1FABEF934452BFF7378F6365FA8E-CALERO, WIL>
Recipient:	"Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; "ORR DHUC </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6dfea50a0f5043538e14b4e34f0920f0-DUCS Medica>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"; "Kim, Curi (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ff860dcb9fb64cd799d9a98fcc0ff8cf-Kim, Curi_3>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Sent Date:	2017/01/25 12:15:59
Delivered Date:	2017/01/25 12:15:00
From:	Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=73D538E5AEDA4197B3381EC6EF84ED75-MEYERSTEIN,>
To:	(b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; "Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"
CC:	"ORR DHUC </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6dfea50a0f5043538e14b4e34f0920f0-DUCS Medica>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"; "Kim, Curi (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ff860dcb9fb64cd799d9a98fcc0ff8cf-Kim, Curi_3>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Subject:	RE: UC seeking TOP, SWK Kokopelli
Date:	2017/01/25 12:14:25
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Wilfred,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Apparently what has happened in the past with the other SWK program in Arizona where an FFS signed for consent was not the right process. In the State of Arizona, a judicial bypass needs to be attained for this minor to have a termination without the consent of her parents. You should have a local legal aid group who can help facilitate this process.

Thank you.

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 1:21 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: DCS - UAC Medical; Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Subject: RE: UC seeking TOP, SWK Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Can you please send me the US results? I don't see any US that was performed today…
Also, if this minor will be terminating her pregnancy, there is no need to perform Zika Testing.
Just confirming that Wilfred is on board with the plan to be present at the clinic to sign consent since the minor requires consent in the State of Arizona and she does not want to disclose to her family.
As soon as I get the US, I will have the ORR director review the request and when I have an answer, will let you know.
Thank you.

Shaanan

From: (b)(6) [mailto(b)(6)@swkey.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 5:23 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Subject: FW: UC seeking TOP, SWK Kokopelli
Importance: High

Here it is.

(b)(6)
Lead Medical Coordinator

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Southwest Key Programs
Casa Kokopelli #921
D: (480) (b)(6)
C: (480) (b)(6)
F: (480) 393-8104
(b)(6)@swkey.org
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From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 3:12 PM
To: DCS Medical <DCSMedical@acf.hhs.gov>; 'Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)' <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>
Subject: UC seeking TOP, SWK Kokopelli

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This email is to update you regarding minor:
(b)(6)
(b)(6)

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Minor received an ultrasound to confirm pregnancy.
Minor's gestational age is 13 weeks and 3 days.

Being that the gestational age exceeds 9 weeks, minor will have to receive a surgical abortion.

I also spoke with (b)(6) Vice President of Patient Services from Planned Parenthood.

The following documents will be needed at the time of the procedure:

1. Demographic sheet
2. ORR Medical and Placement Authorization Forms
3. Required Parental Consent
    a. This form will need to be completed and notarized

Mr. (b)(6) explained to me that per Arizona law, UC must wait at least 24 hours after the informational session before proceeding.
At this time, UC has still expressed desire to continue with the termination to her case manager.
Appointment has been set for 1/27/2017 at 7:30 AM.

I have also attached the forms provided during the visit.

Thank you,

(b)(6)
Lead Medical Coordinator
Southwest Key Programs
Casa Kokopelli #921
D: (480) (b)(6)
C: (480) (b)(6)
F: (480) 393-8104

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6) @swkey.org

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Recipient:	(b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; "Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"; "ORR DHUC </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6dfea50a0f5043538e14b4e34f0920f0-DUCS Medica>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"; "Kim, Curi (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ff860dcb9fb64cd799d9a98fcc0ff8cf-Kim, Curi_3>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Sent Date:	2017/01/25 12:14:23
Delivered Date:	2017/01/25 12:14:25
From:	(b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>
To:	"Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"; "Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"
CC:	"ORR DHUC </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6dfea50a0f5043538e14b4e34f0920f0-DUCS Medica>"
Subject:	RE: UC seeking TOP, SWK Kokopelli
Date:	2017/01/25 12:01:06
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Good morning,

They did not provide a physical copy of the ultrasound.

I will contact Planned Parenthood and see if they can provide a copy.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Lead Medical Coordinator

Southwest Key Programs

Casa Kokopelli #921

D: (480) (b)(6)

C: (480) (b)(6)

F: (480) 393-8104

(b)(6) @swkey.org

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From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF) [mailto:Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 7:07 AM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>

Cc: DCS Medical <DCSMedical@acf.hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: UC seeking TOP, SWK Kokopelli

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Dr. Meyerstein,

Just providing a follow up, I will be arriving on site to complete the authorization to proceed with the UC's TOP on the day of the procedure.

If you have any further questions please let me know.

Thanks for your attention on this matter.

Wilfred Calero

Federal Field Specialist

Division of Children's Services

Office of Refugee Resettlement

202-695-4996

(b)(6)

wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 11:21 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: (b)(6)

Cc: DCS - UAC Medical; Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Subject: RE: UC seeking TOP, SWK Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Can you please send me the US results? I don't see any US that was performed today…

Also, if this minor will be terminating her pregnancy, there is no need to perform Zika Testing.

Just confirming that Wilfred is on board with the plan to be present at the clinic to sign consent since the minor requires consent in the State of Arizona and she does not want to disclose to her family.

As soon as I get the US, I will have the ORR director review the request and when I have an answer, will let you know.

Thank you.

Shaanan

From: (b)(6) [mailto:(b)(6)@swkey.org]

Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 5:23 PM

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

Subject: FW: UC seeking TOP, SWK Kokopelli

Importance: High

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Here it is.

(b)(6)

Lead Medical Coordinator

Southwest Key Programs

Casa Kokopelli #921

D: (480) (b)(6)

C: (480) (b)(6)

F: (480) 393-8104

(b)(6) @swkey.org

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From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 3:12 PM

To: DCS Medical <DCSMedical@acf.hhs.gov>; 'Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)' <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>

Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>

Subject: UC seeking TOP, SWK Kokopelli

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Good afternoon,

This email is to update you regarding minor:

(b)(6)

A# (b)(6)

Minor went to Planned Parenthood today for an informational session.

Minor received an ultrasound to confirm pregnancy.

Minor's gestational age is 13 weeks and 3 days.

Being that the gestational age exceeds 9 weeks, minor will have to receive a surgical abortion.

I also spoke with (b)(6) Vice President of Patient Services from Planned Parenthood.

The following documents will be needed at the time of the procedure:

1. Demographic sheet
2. ORR Medical and Placement Authorization Forms
3. Required Parental Consent
    a. This form will need to be completed and notarized

Mr. (b)(6) explained to me that per Arizona law, UC must wait at least 24 hours after the informational session before proceeding.

At this time, UC has still expressed desire to continue with the termination to her case manager.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Appointment has been set for 1/27/2017 at 7:30 AM.

I have also attached the forms provided during the visit.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Lead Medical Coordinator

Southwest Key Programs

Casa Kokopelli #921

D: (480) (b)(6)

C: (480) (b)(6)

F: (480) 393-8104

(b)(6) @swkey.org

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Sender:	(b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>
Recipient:	"Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"; "Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"; "ORR DHUC </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6dfea50a0f5043538e14b4e34f0920f0-DUCS Medica>"

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent Date:	2017/01/25 12:00:11
Delivered Date:	2017/01/25 12:01:06
From:	Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=39E67B42D96043C688E84FA6CEF42570-VELAZQUEZ,>
To:	"Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"
CC:	"De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"
Subject:	Re: Kokopelli: Next Appointment fo (b)(6) A# (b)(6)
Date:	2017/01/25 09:56:47
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Dear Wilfred,

Thank you for the update. Please make sure that the program revive the memo from HQ medical before the procedural is conducted.

± Senior Supervisor Jim DLC for his awareness.

Thanks. Ivonne

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 7:04:48 AM

To: Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)

Subject: FW: Kokopelli: Next Appointment for (b)(6) A# (b)(6)

Ivonne,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Below you will find the appointment date for the above referenced UC's schedule TOP. I will arrive on site to monitor the approval and will be with the UC at the commencement of the procedure. The program has
agreed to provide the UC clinician to accompany and remain with the UC throughout the procedure.

If you have any further questions please let me know.

Wilfred Calero

Federal Field Specialist

Division of Children's Services

Office of Refugee Resettlement

202-695-4996

(b)(6)

wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 4:53 PM

To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: Kokopelli: Next Appointment for (b)(6) A# (b)(6)

Good Afternoon Will,

Per our conversation today, please see below information regarding the appointment from this morning. The next appointment is scheduled for Friday(1/27/2017) at 7:30am at (b)(6) location (b)(6) (b)(6) Blvd, (b)(6) (b)(6) AZ (b)(6)

The clinician (b)(6) has agreed to accompany the client to this appointment.

Please let me know if you have any other questions or concerns.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Fax: 480-452-0603

Phone: (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 3:36 PM

To: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) ; (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>

Subject: Minor seeking TOP

Good afternoon,

CM (b)(6) attended an informational session at Planned Parenthood today with minor (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) A# (b)(6) regarding termination of pregnancy.

During this visit, it was noted that the current gestational age is 13 weeks and 3 days.

Being that the gestational age exceeds 9 weeks, minor will have to receive a surgical abortion.

The cost for the termination will be $725.

The program will cover these costs on the day of the procedure.

There also may be an additional fee of $95 if the client had an RH- blood type.

At this time, ORR Medical is going by the last statement provided by the client, that the pregnancy was a result of rape.

With that being said, the procedure would be eligible for federal funding.

Dr. Meyerstein with ORR Medical called me earlier today.

He informed me that he was working on a memo that would be signed by the ORR director.

This memo would be signed and sent back stating that federal funding.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I have been in contact with the LMCs from other facilities that were more familiar with this process.

I was informed that the FFS was the one who signed the parental consent (as legal guardian).

Once the parental consent is signed, it needs to be notarized.

FFS would then have to be present at Planned Parenthood the day of the procedure.

The surgical termination does not require any follow up visits.

An informational form was provided stating the risks of the procedure.

Detailed instructions were also provided for the day of the procedure.

I spoke with (b)(6) Vice President with Patient Services.

He informed me that the following items will need to be provided the day of the procedure:

1. **SWK Demographic sheet**

2. **ORR placement and medical authorization forms**

3. **Required parental consent**

    a. Signed and notarized

4. **Payment**

Per my conversation with (b)(6) the minor still expressed desire to terminate the pregnancy.

At the time of visit, an appointment was set for the procedure.

Appointment is set for Friday 1/27/2017 at 7:30 AM.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

If you have any additional questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Lead Medical Coordinator

Southwest Key Programs

Casa Kokopelli #921

D: (480) (b)(6)

C: (480) (b)(6)

F: (480) 393-8104

agarcia@swkey.org

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Recipient:	"Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"; "De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"
Sent Date:	2017/01/25 09:56:46
Delivered Date:	2017/01/25 09:56:47
From:	Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7FCD1FABEF934452BFF7378F6365FA8E-CALERO, WIL>
To:	"Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=39e67b42d96043c688e84fa6cef42570-Velazquez,>"
Subject:	FW: Kokopelli: Next Appointment for (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) A# (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Date:	2017/01/25 09:04:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Ivonne,

Below you will find the appointment date for the above referenced UC's schedule TOP. I will arrive on site to monitor the approval and will be with the UC at the commencement of the procedure. The program has agreed to provide the UC clinician to accompany and remain with the UC throughout the procedure.

If you have any further questions please let me know.

Wilfred Calero
Federal Field Specialist
Division of Children's Services
Office of Refugee Resettlement
202-695-4996
(b)(6)
wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 4:53 PM
To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: Kokopelli: Next Appointment for (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) A# (b)(6)

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The clinician (b)(6) has agreed to accompany the client to this appointment.

Please let me know if you have any other questions or concerns.

Thank you,

(b)(6)
Case Manager
Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli
(b)(6)
Fax: 480-452-0603

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Phone: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 3:36 PM
To: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>;
(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>
Subject: Minor seeking TOP

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I was informed that the FFS was the one who signed the parental consent (as legal guardian).
Once the parental consent is signed, it needs to be notarized.
FFS would then have to be present at Planned Parenthood the day of the procedure.

The surgical termination does not require any follow up visits.
An informational form was provided stating the risks of the procedure.
Detailed instructions were also provided for the day of the procedure.

I spoke with (b)(6) Vice President with Patient Services.
He informed me that the following items will need to be provided the day of the procedure:

1. **SWK Demographic sheet**
2. **ORR placement and medical authorization forms**
3. **Required parental consent**
    a. Signed and notarized
4. **Payment**

Per my conversation with (b)(6) the minor still expressed desire to terminate the pregnancy.
At the time of visit, an appointment was set for the procedure.
Appointment is set for Friday 1/27/2017 at 7:30 AM.

If you have any additional questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6)

Lead Medical Coordinator
Southwest Key Programs
Casa Kokopelli #921
D: (480) (b)(6)
C: (480) (b)(6)
F: (480) 393-8104
(b)(6) @swkey.org
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Sender:	Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7FCD1FABEF934452BFF7378F6365FA8E-CALERO, WIL>
Recipient:	"Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=39e67b42d96043c688e84fa6cef42570-Velazquez,>"
Sent Date:	2017/01/25 09:04:45
Delivered Date:	2017/01/25 09:04:00
From:	Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7FCD1FABEF934452BFF7378F6365FA8E-CALERO, WIL>
To:	"Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"; (b)(6) <agarcia@swkey.org>"
CC:	"ORR DHUC </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6dfea50a0f5043538e14b4e34f0920f0-DUCS Medica>"
Subject:	RE: UC seeking TOP, SWK Kokopelli
Date:	2017/01/25 09:06:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Dr. Meyerstein,

Just providing a follow up, I will be arriving on site to complete the authorization to proceed with the UC's TOP on the day of the procedure.

If you have any further questions please let me know.

Thanks for your attention on this matter.

Wilfred Calero
Federal Field Specialist
Division of Children's Services
Office of Refugee Resettlement
202-695-4996
(b)(6)
wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 11:21 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: DCS - UAC Medical; Calero, Wilfred (ACF)
Subject: RE: UC seeking TOP, SWK Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Can you please send me the US results? I don't see any US that was performed today…
Also, if this minor will be terminating her pregnancy, there is no need to perform Zika Testing.
Just confirming that Wilfred is on board with the plan to be present at the clinic to sign consent since the minor requires consent in the State of Arizona and she does not want to disclose to her family.
As soon as I get the US, I will have the ORR director review the request and when I have an answer, will let you know.
Thank you.

Shaanan

From: (b)(6) [mailto:(b)(6)@swkey.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 5:23 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Subject: FW: UC seeking TOP, SWK Kokopelli
Importance: High

Here it is.

(b)(6)
Lead Medical Coordinator
Southwest Key Programs
Casa Kokopelli #921
D: (480) (b)(6)
C: (480) (b)(6)
F: (480) 393-8104
(b)(6)@swkey.org
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From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 3:12 PM
To: DCS Medical <DCSMedical@acf.hhs.gov>; 'Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)' <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6)@swkey.org>
Subject: UC seeking TOP, SWK Kokopelli

Good afternoon,

This email is to update you regarding minor:
(b)(6)
(b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Minor went to Planned Parenthood today for an informational session.
Minor received an ultrasound to confirm pregnancy.
Minor's gestational age is 13 weeks and 3 days.

Being that the gestational age exceeds 9 weeks, minor will have to receive a surgical abortion.

I also spoke with (b)(6) Vice President of Patient Services from Planned Parenthood.

The following documents will be needed at the time of the procedure:

1. Demographic sheet
2. ORR Medical and Placement Authorization Forms
3. Required Parental Consent
    a. This form will need to be completed and notarized

Mr. Washington explained to me that per Arizona law, UC must wait at least 24 hours after the informational session before proceeding.
At this time, UC has still expressed desire to continue with the termination to her case manager.
Appointment has been set for 1/27/2017 at 7:30 AM.

I have also attached the forms provided during the visit.

Thank you,

(b)(6)
Lead Medical Coordinator
Southwest Key Programs
Casa Kokopelli #921
D: (480) (b)(6)
C: (480) (b)(6)
F: (480) 393-8104
(b)(6)@swkey.org
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Sender:	Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7FCD1FABEF934452BFF7378F6365FA8E-CALERO, WIL>
Recipient:	"Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"; (b)(6) <agarcia@swkey.org>"; "ORR DHUC </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6dfea50a0f5043538e14b4e34f0920f0-DUCS Medica>"
Sent Date:	2017/01/25 09:06:55
Delivered Date:	2017/01/25 09:06:00
From:	Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=73D538E5AEDA4197B3381EC6EF84ED75-MEYERSTEIN,>
To:	(b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>"
CC:	"ORR DHUC </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6dfea50a0f5043538e14b4e34f0920f0-DUCS Medica>"; "Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Subject:	RE: UC seeking TOP, SWK Kokopelli
Date:	2017/01/25 01:21:17
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

(b)(6)

Can you please send me the US results? I don't see any US that was performed today…
Also, if this minor will be terminating her pregnancy, there is no need to perform Zika Testing.
Just confirming that Wilfred is on board with the plan to be present at the clinic to sign consent since the minor requires consent in the State of Arizona and she does not want to disclose to her family.
As soon as I get the US, I will have the ORR director review the request and when I have an answer, will let you know.
Thank you.

Shaanan

From: (b)(6) [mailto(b)(6)@swkey.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 5:23 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Subject: FW: UC seeking TOP, SWK Kokopelli
Importance: High

Here it is.

(b)(6)
Lead Medical Coordinator
Southwest Key Programs
Casa Kokopelli #921
D: (480) (b)(6)
C: (480) (b)(6)
F: (480) 393-8104
(b)(6)@swkey.org
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From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 3:12 PM
To: DCS Medical <DCSMedical@acf.hhs.gov>; 'Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)' <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>
Subject: UC seeking TOP, SWK Kokopelli

Good afternoon,

This email is to update you regarding minor:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6)
(b)(6)

Minor went to Planned Parenthood today for an informational session.
Minor received an ultrasound to confirm pregnancy.
Minor's gestational age is 13 weeks and 3 days.

Being that the gestational age exceeds 9 weeks, minor will have to receive a surgical abortion.

I also spoke with (b)(6) Vice President of Patient Services from Planned Parenthood.

The following documents will be needed at the time of the procedure:

1. Demographic sheet
2. ORR Medical and Placement Authorization Forms
3. Required Parental Consent
    a. This form will need to be completed and notarized

Mr. (b)(6) explained to me that per Arizona law, UC must wait at least 24 hours after the informational session before proceeding.
At this time, UC has still expressed desire to continue with the termination to her case manager.
Appointment has been set for 1/27/2017 at 7:30 AM.

I have also attached the forms provided during the visit.

Thank you,

(b)(6)
Lead Medical Coordinator
Southwest Key Programs
Casa Kokopelli #921
D: (480) (b)(6)
C: (480) (b)(6)
F: (480) 393-8104
(b)(6) @swkey.org
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Sender:	Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=73D538E5AEDA4197B3381EC6EF84ED75-MEYERSTEIN,>
Recipient:	(b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; "ORR DHUC </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6dfea50a0f5043538e14b4e34f0920f0-DUCS Medica>"; "Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"
Sent Date:	2017/01/25 01:21:12
Delivered Date:	2017/01/25 01:21:17
From:	(b)(6) (b)(6)
To:	"Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"
	(b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

	(b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject:	Kokopelli: Next Appointment for (b)(6) A# (b)(6)
Date:	2017/01/24 18:53:03
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Good Afternoon Will,

Per our conversation today, please see below information regarding the appointment from this morning. The next appointment is scheduled for Friday(1/27/2017) at 7:30am at (b)(6) location: (b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6) (b)(6) AZ (b)(6)

The clinician (b)(6) has agreed to accompany the client to this appointment.

Please let me know if you have any other questions or concerns.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Fax: 480-452-0603

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Phone: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 3:36 PM

To: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>

Subject: Minor seeking TOP

Good afternoon,

CM (b)(6) attended an informational session at Planned Parenthood today with minor (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) A# (b)(6) regarding termination of pregnancy.

During this visit, it was noted that the current gestational age is 13 weeks and 3 days.

Being that the gestational age exceeds 9 weeks, minor will have to receive a surgical abortion.

The cost for the termination will be $725.

The program will cover these costs on the day of the procedure.

There also may be an additional fee of $95 if the client had an RH- blood type.

At this time, ORR Medical is going by the last statement provided by the client, that the pregnancy was a result of rape.

With that being said, the procedure would be eligible for federal funding.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Dr. Meyerstein with ORR Medical called me earlier today.

He informed me that he was working on a memo that would be signed by the ORR director.

This memo would be signed and sent back stating that federal funding.

I have been in contact with the LMCs from other facilities that were more familiar with this process.

I was informed that the FFS was the one who signed the parental consent (as legal guardian).

Once the parental consent is signed, it needs to be notarized.

FFS would then have to be present at Planned Parenthood the day of the procedure.

The surgical termination does not require any follow up visits.

An informational form was provided stating the risks of the procedure.

Detailed instructions were also provided for the day of the procedure.

I spoke with (b)(6) Vice President with Patient Services.

He informed me that the following items will need to be provided the day of the procedure:

1. **SWK Demographic sheet**

2. **ORR placement and medical authorization forms**

3. **Required parental consent**

a. Signed and notarized

4. **Payment**

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Per my conversation with (b)(6) the minor still expressed desire to terminate the pregnancy.

At the time of visit, an appointment was set for the procedure.

Appointment is set for Friday 1/27/2017 at 7:30 AM.

If you have any additional questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Lead Medical Coordinator

Southwest Key Programs

Casa Kokopelli #921

D: (480) (b)(6)

C: (480) (b)(6)

F: (480) 393-8104

(b)(6) @swkey.org

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Sender:	(b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>
Recipient:	"Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

	(b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent Date:	2017/01/24 18:52:32
Delivered Date:	2017/01/24 18:53:03
From:	(b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>
To:	(b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; "Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6)
CC:	(b)(6) <marlen.flores@swkey.org>"
Subject:	FW: UC seeking TOP, SWK Kokopelli
Date:	2017/01/24 17:15:15
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Good afternoon,

Please see email below that was sent to DCS medical regarding minor in our care seeking termination of pregnancy.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Lead Medical Coordinator

Southwest Key Programs

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Casa Kokopelli #921

D: (480) (b)(6)

C: (480) (b)(6)

F: (480) 393-8104

(b)(6) @swkey.org

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From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 3:12 PM

To: DCS Medical <DCSMedical@acf.hhs.gov>; 'Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)' <Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>

Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>

Subject: UC seeking TOP, SWK Kokopelli

Good afternoon,

This email is to update you regarding minor:

(b)(6)

A# (b)(6)

Minor went to Planned Parenthood today for an informational session.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Minor received an ultrasound to confirm pregnancy.

Minor's gestational age is 13 weeks and 3 days.

Being that the gestational age exceeds 9 weeks, minor will have to receive a surgical abortion.

I also spoke with (b)(6) Vice President of Patient Services from Planned Parenthood.

The following documents will be needed at the time of the procedure:

1. Demographic sheet

2. ORR Medical and Placement Authorization Forms

3. Required Parental Consent

a. This form will need to be completed and notarized

Mr. (b)(6) explained to me that per Arizona law, UC must wait at least 24 hours after the informational session before proceeding.

At this time, UC has still expressed desire to continue with the termination to her case manager.

Appointment has been set for 1/27/2017 at 7:30 AM.

I have also attached the forms provided during the visit.

Thank you,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6)

Lead Medical Coordinator

Southwest Key Programs

Casa Kokopelli #921

D: (480) (b)(6)

C: (480) (b)(6)

F: (480) 393-8104

(b)(6) @swkey.org

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Sender:	(b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>
Recipient:	(b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; "Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"
Sent Date:	2017/01/24 17:13:20
Delivered Date:	2017/01/24 17:15:15
From:	Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7FCD1FABEF934452BFF7378F6365FA8E-CALERO, WIL>
To:	"Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=39e67b42d96043c688e84fa6cef42570-Velazquez,>"
Subject:	Re: Kokopelli: Abortion request for (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) A# (b)(6)
Date:	2017/01/18 09:59:20
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

We are waiting on that. They are. Aware.

Hey did u get a chance to approve my weekend overtime. Thanks.

See you tonite.

Will

From: Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)

Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2017 7:57:39 AM

To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Subject: Re: Kokopelli: Abortion request for (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) A# (b)(6)

Yes, we need to make sure that HQ medical has elevated the situation. We need their acknowledgment in writing.

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2017 6:37:29 AM

To: Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)

Subject: FW: Kokopelli: Abortion request for (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) A# (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Ivonne,

Just wanted to let you know that a date has been set for UC first appointment and subsequent appointment for the termination procedure. Do we need to staff with HQ in regards to proceeding with the procedure.

Thanks.

Wilfred Calero

Federal Field Specialist

Division of Children's Services

Office of Refugee Resettlement

202-695-4996

(b)(6)

wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 10:43 AM

To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Kokopelli: Abortion request for (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) A# (b)(6)

Good Morning Will,

Here are the details regarding the appointment:

The appointment is on 1/24/2017 at 10:05 AM.

This appointment is at their (b)(6) location.

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) AZ (b)(6)

The cost for the 1st initial appointment is $80.

As stated before, at this time, she will have a ultrasound to confirm pregnancy and gestational age.

Minor will also be provided with information about her options.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Fax: 480-452-0603

Phone: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Monday, January 16, 2017 10:30 AM

To: 'Calero, Wilfred (ACF)' <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>; (b)(6)
(b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) @swkey.org>;
(b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>;
(b)(6) < @swkey.org>;
(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) @swkey.org>;
(b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Kokopelli: Abortion request for (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) A# (b)(6)

Good Morning Will,

Thank you, I am following up with medical for when the procedure is scheduled and will let you know as soon as possible.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Fax: 480-452-0603

Phone: (b)(6)

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF) [mailto:Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov]

Sent: Monday, January 16, 2017 7:16 AM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @GDIT.com>

Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Kokopelli: Abortion request for (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) A# (b)(6)

(b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Please ensure that I am advised as soon as the procedure is scheduled to occur.

Thanks and great job on the summary.

Wilfred Calero

Federal Field Specialist

Division of Children's Services

Office of Refugee Resettlement

202-695-4996

(b)(6)

wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, January 06, 2017 2:25 PM

To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: Kokopelli: Abortion request for (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) A# (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Hi Will,

The client (b)(6) was sexually assaulted in COO. Please see attached SIR for more information and the client is now requesting an abortion. The following is the plan provided by two different clinics, and the Arizona laws for abortion. CM and CL are requesting authorization to have the procedure of abortion for this client.

Clinic Planned Parenthood:

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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- See more at: https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-arizona/online-health-center/minors-and-abortion-law#sthash.lWOGvCcD.dpuf

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Fax: 480-452-0603

Phone: (b)(6)

Sender:	Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7FCD1FABEF934452BFF7378F6365FA8E-CALERO, WIL>
Recipient:	"Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=39e67b42d96043c688e84fa6cef42570-Velazquez,>"
Sent Date:	2017/01/18 09:59:18
Delivered Date:	2017/01/18 09:59:20
From:	Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

	(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=39E67B42D96043C688E84FA6CEF42570-VELAZQUEZ,>
To:	"Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"
Subject:	Re: Kokopelli: Abortion request for (b)(6) A# (b)(6)
Date:	2017/01/18 09:57:39
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Yes, we need to make sure that HQ medical has elevated the situation. We need their acknowledgment in writing.

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF)

Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2017 6:37:29 AM

To: Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)

Subject: FW: Kokopelli: Abortion request for (b)(6) A# (b)(6)

Ivonne,

Just wanted to let you know that a date has been set for UC first appointment and subsequent appointment for the termination procedure. Do we need to staff with HQ in regards to proceeding with the procedure.

Thanks.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Wilfred Calero

Federal Field Specialist

Division of Children's Services

Office of Refugee Resettlement

202-695-4996

(b)(6)

wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 10:43 AM

To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Kokopelli: Abortion request for (b)(6) A# (b)(6)

Good Morning Will,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) AZ (b)(6)

The cost for the 1st initial appointment is $80.

As stated before, at this time, she will have a ultrasound to confirm pregnancy and gestational age.

Minor will also be provided with information about her options.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Fax: 480-452-0603

Phone: (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Monday, January 16, 2017 10:30 AM

To: 'Calero, Wilfred (ACF)' <Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov>; (b)(6)
(b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) @swkey.org>;
(b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>;
(b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>;
(b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) a@swkey.org>;
(b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Kokopelli: Abortion request for (b)(6) A# (b)(6)

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Thank you,

(b)(6)

Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Fax: 480-452-0603

Phone: (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF) [mailto:Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov]

Sent: Monday, January 16, 2017 7:16 AM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Kokopelli: Abortion request for (b)(6) A# (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Please ensure that I am advised as soon as the procedure is scheduled to occur.

Thanks and great job on the summary.

Wilfred Calero

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Federal Field Specialist

Division of Children's Services

Office of Refugee Resettlement

202-695-4996

(b)(6)

wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, January 06, 2017 2:25 PM

To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Fax: 480-452-0603

Phone: (b)(6)

Sender:	Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=39E67B42D96043C688E84FA6CEF42570-VELAZQUEZ,>
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Sent Date:	2017/01/18 09:57:39
From:	Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7FCD1FABEF934452BFF7378F6365FA8E-CALERO, WIL>
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Subject:	FW: Kokopelli: Abortion request for (b)(6) A# (b)(6)
Date:	2017/01/18 08:37:00
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Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 10:43 AM
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Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
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(b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6)
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(b)(6)
wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, January 06, 2017 2:25 PM
To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
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Thank you,

(b)(6)
Case Manager
Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli
(b)(6)
Fax: 480-452-0603
Phone: (b)(6)

Sender:	Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7FCD1FABEF934452BFF7378F6365FA8E-CALERO, WIL>
Recipient:	"Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=39e67b42d96043c688e84fa6cef42570-Velazquez,>"
Sent Date:	2017/01/18 08:37:27
Delivered Date:	2017/01/18 08:37:00
From:	(b)(6) (b)(6)
To:	"Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"; (b)(6) (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

CC:	(b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; @swkey.org>"; @swkey.org>"; (b)(6)
Subject:	RE: Kokopelli: Abortion request for (b)(6) A# (b)(6)
Date:	2017/01/17 12:44:36
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

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(b)(6)

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Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

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Phone: (b)(6)

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Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@swkey.org>; (b)(6)@swkey.org>;
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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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Sent: Friday, January 06, 2017 2:25 PM

To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: Kokopelli: Abortion request for (b)(6) A# (b)(6)

Hi Will,

The client (b)(6) was sexually assaulted in COO. Please see attached SIR for more information and the client is now requesting an abortion. The following is the plan provided by two different clinics, and the Arizona laws for abortion. CM and CL are requesting authorization to have the procedure of abortion for this client.

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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•Parental Consent (A.R.S. § 36-2152) – Requires parental consent for minors seeking abortions but allows for judicial bypass. Requires the parental consent to be obtained on a form to ensure that parents are informed of all of the medical
risks of abortion before giving consent. Requires parental consent to be notarized. Allows parents to sue (1) an abortion provider who performs an abortion on their minor daughter without parental consent or (2) any person who assists a minor in obtaining
an abortion without parental consent.

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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Admin. § 7-202) – Fiduciaries may not consent to abortion for a ward without a court order.

- See more at:
https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-arizona/online-health-center/minors-and-abortion-law#sthash.lWOGvCcD.dpuf

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Fax: 480-452-0603

Phone: (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sender:	(b)(6) (b)(6)
Recipient:	"Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent Date:	2017/01/17 12:43:27
Delivered Date:	2017/01/17 12:44:36
From:	Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=39E67B42D96043C688E84FA6CEF42570-VELAZQUEZ,>
To:	"De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"; "Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"
Subject:	FW: Kokopelli: Abortion request for (b)(6) A# (b)(6)
Date:	2017/01/16 16:11:31
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Dear Jim,
FYI, Program is working with ORR HQ Medical team to coordinate a plan and provide the UC with requested medical termination of her pregnancy

Summary:

The client (b)(6) was sexually assaulted in COO. Please see attached SIR for more information and the client is now requesting an abortion. The following is the plan provided by two different clinics, and the Arizona laws for abortion. CM and CL are requesting authorization to have the procedure of abortion for this client.

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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Recipient:	"De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"; "Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"
Sent Date:	2017/01/16 16:11:30
Delivered Date:	2017/01/16 16:11:31
From:	(b)(6) (b)(6)
To:	"Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"; (b)(6) (b)(6)
CC:	(b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject:	RE: Kokopelli: Abortion request for (b)(6) A# (b)(6)
Date:	2017/01/16 12:31:04
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Good Morning Will,

Thank you, I am following up with medical for when the procedure is scheduled and will let you know as soon as possible.

Thank you,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6)

Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Fax: 480-452-0603

Phone: (b)(6)

From: Calero, Wilfred (ACF) [mailto:Wilfred.Calero@acf.hhs.gov]

Sent: Monday, January 16, 2017 7:16 AM

To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Kokopelli: Abortion request for (b)(6) A# (b)(6)

(b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Please ensure that I am advised as soon as the procedure is scheduled to occur.

Thanks and great job on the summary.

Wilfred Calero

Federal Field Specialist

Division of Children's Services

Office of Refugee Resettlement

202-695-4996

(b)(6)

wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, January 06, 2017 2:25 PM

To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: Kokopelli: Abortion request for (b)(6) A# (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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Thank you,

(b)(6)

Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Fax: 480-452-0603

Phone: (b)(6)

Sender:	(b)(6) (b)(6)
Recipient:	"Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) @swkey.org>; "(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6) swkey.org>; (b)(6) @swkey.org>;

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

	(b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent Date:	2017/01/16 12:30:28
Delivered Date:	2017/01/16 12:31:04
From:	Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7FCD1FABEF934452BFF7378F6365FA8E-CALERO, WIL>
To:	(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
CC:	(b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) ey.org>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject:	RE: Kokopelli: Abortion request for (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) A# (b)(6)
Date:	2017/01/16 09:15:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

(b)(6)

Please ensure that I am advised as soon as the procedure is scheduled to occur.

Thanks and great job on the summary.

Wilfred Calero
Federal Field Specialist
Division of Children's Services
Office of Refugee Resettlement
202-695-4996
(b)(6)
wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, January 06, 2017 2:25 PM
To: Calero, Wilfred (ACF); (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: Kokopelli: Abortion request for (b)(6) A# (b)(6)

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(b)(6)
Case Manager
Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli
(b)(6)
Fax: 480-452-0603
Phone: (b)(6)

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Recipient:	(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) < @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) < (b) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent Date:	2017/01/16 09:15:58
Delivered Date:	2017/01/16 09:15:00
From:	Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7FCD1FABEF934452BFF7378F6365FA8E-CALERO, WIL>
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Subject:	RE: Kokopelli: Abortion request for (b)(6) A# (b)(6)
Date:	2017/01/16 09:15:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Ivonne,

This is the case I spoke to you about last week. Program is working with ORR HQ to coordinate a plan and provide the UC with requested medical termination of her pregnancy.

Was not sure if you wanted me to send to Jim directly or if you wanted to review and staff prior to the send up. The appointment for the procedure has not been scheduled as of yet.

Wilfred Calero
Federal Field Specialist
Division of Children's Services
Office of Refugee Resettlement
202-695-4996
(b)(6)
wilfred.calero@acf.hhs.gov

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that the client could take two pills if she was not already 11 weeks. They can proceed up until 23 weeks and the cost would remain the same of a total of $560.00. The clinic works with NNAF for additional funds for low to no income patients, however NNAF have an automated message (1/6/2017) stating that they are out of funds until February 1st.

AZ Laws regarding Abortion:

*Arizona law requires that women under 18 years old seeking an abortion must either have the **notarized** written permission of one of their parents/legal guardian or permission from a Superior Court Judge.*

Ensuring Adequate Consent

•Parental Consent (A.R.S. § 36-2152) – Requires parental consent for minors seeking abortions but allows for judicial bypass. Requires the parental consent to be obtained on a form to ensure that parents are informed of all of the medical risks of abortion before giving consent. Requires parental consent to be notarized. Allows parents to sue (1) an abortion provider who performs an abortion on their minor daughter without parental consent or (2) any person who assists a minor in obtaining an abortion without parental consent.

•Informed Consent (A.R.S. § 36-2153) – Information must be provided 24 hours in advance to a woman seeking an abortion about the risks and alternatives of the procedure, the probable gestational age and physiological characteristics of the preborn child, and the services available from public and private agencies to assist during pregnancy and after birth. Requires that the information is provided at an in-person consultation with a doctor. Allows a woman to file a lawsuit against an abortion provider who fails to obtain informed consent. Requires the Department of Health Services to create and maintain a website providing unbiased information about fetal development, the risks of abortion, and information about alternatives to abortion.

•Informed Consent for Lethal Condition (A.R.S. § 36-2158) – When a woman discovers that her child may have a life-threatening birth defect or other fetal condition, information must be provided 24 hours in advance about the support that is available to her, including perinatal hospice. Requires the Department of Health Services to create and maintain a website providing unbiased information about perinatal hospice and assistance available for children with special needs.

•Opportunity to View Ultrasound (A.R.S. § 36-2156) – Requires an ultrasound to be performed at least 24 hours before every abortion, and a woman seeking abortion must be offered the opportunity to view the ultrasound and hear the baby's heartbeat, if audible.

•Coercion Prohibited (A.R.S. § 36-2153) – Prohibits a person from intimidating or coercing another person into having an abortion and allows minors to obtain public assistance benefits if parents cut off financial support because the minor refuses to have an abortion. Requires that all abortion clinics conspicuously post signs that state it is unlawful for any person to intimidate or coerce another person into having an abortion.

•Foster Parents (A.R.S. § 8-514.05) – Foster parents may not consent to abortion for a foster child.

•Fiduciaries (Arizona Code of Jud. Admin. § 7-202) – Fiduciaries may not consent to abortion for a ward without a court order.

- See more at: https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-arizona/online-health-center/minors-and-abortion-law#sthash.lWOGvCcD.dpuf

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sender:	Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7FCD1FABEF934452BFF7378F6365FA8E-CALERO, WIL>
Recipient:	"Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=39e67b42d96043c688e84fa6cef42570-Velazquez,>"
Sent Date:	2017/01/16 09:15:28
Delivered Date:	2017/01/16 09:15:00
From:	(b)(6) (b)(6)
To:	"Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"; (b)(6) (b)(6)
CC:	(b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject:	Kokopelli: Abortion request for (b)(6) A# (b)(6)
Date:	2017/01/06 16:26:10
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Hi Will,

The client (b)(6) was sexually assaulted in COO. Please see attached SIR for more information and the client is now requesting an abortion. The following is the plan provided by two different clinics, and the Arizona
laws for abortion. CM and CL are requesting authorization to have the procedure of abortion for this client.

Clinic Planned Parenthood:

An initial appointment would be made for the above client. She would receive an ultra sound to confirm the exact age of the fetus, and a counseling session to advise the client on additional options regarding abortion, adoption, foster

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care, etc. The abortion can happen up until the 16th week of the pregnancy at this clinic, however, the older the fetus the more expensive the procedure will cost. The initial appointment will cost $80. The client will be seen within 24 hours for the actual abortion. As the cost ranges based on how far along the fetus is at the time of the abortion, CM was unable to determine the actual cost. However, the client can apply for additional funds to have this cost reduced. After disclosing for the second appointment that her parents would be unable to attend, that we as legal guardians could attend with client, they stated that we would need to provide documentation of proof that we are legal guardians.

Clinic Desert Star Family Planning:

An initial appointment would include the ultrasound, counseling session and cost $50. The second visit would cost $510.00 and would be within 24 hours that the procedure would take place. This clinic stated that the client could take two pills if she was not already 11 weeks. They can proceed up until 23 weeks and the cost would remain the same of a total of $560.00. The clinic works with NNAF for additional funds for low to no income patients, however NNAF have an automated message (1/6/2017) stating that they are out of funds until February 1st.

AZ Laws regarding Abortion:

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•Parental Consent (A.R.S. § 36-2152) – Requires parental consent for minors seeking abortions but allows for judicial bypass. Requires the parental consent to be obtained on a form to ensure that parents are informed of all of the medical risks of abortion before giving consent. Requires parental consent to be notarized. Allows parents to sue (1) an abortion provider who performs an abortion on their minor daughter without parental consent or (2) any person who assists a minor in obtaining an abortion without parental consent.

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of the preborn child, and the services available from public and private agencies to assist during pregnancy and after birth. Requires that the information is provided at an in-person consultation with a doctor. Allows a woman to file a lawsuit against an
abortion provider who fails to obtain informed consent. Requires the Department of Health Services to create and maintain a website providing unbiased information about fetal development, the risks of abortion, and information about alternatives to abortion.

•Informed Consent for Lethal Condition (A.R.S. § 36-2158) – When a woman discovers that her child may have a life-threatening birth defect or other fetal condition, information must be provided 24 hours in advance about the support that
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minor refuses to have an abortion. Requires that all abortion clinics conspicuously post signs that state it is unlawful for any person to intimidate or coerce another person into having an abortion.

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•Fiduciaries (Arizona Code of Jud.
Admin. § 7-202) – Fiduciaries may not consent to abortion for a ward without a court order.

- See more at:
https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-arizona/online-health-center/minors-and-abortion-law#sthash.lWOGvCcD.dpuf

Thank you,

(b)(6)

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Case Manager

Southwest Key Program - Kokopelli

(b)(6)

Fax: 480-452-0603

Phone: (b)(6)

Sender:	(b)(6) (b)(6)
Recipient:	"Calero, Wilfred (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7fcd1fabef934452bff7378f6365fa8e-Calero, Wil>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; "(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6) "(b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) <(b)(6) @swkey.org>"; (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent Date:	2017/01/06 16:25:22
Delivered Date:	2017/01/06 16:26:10

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"
CC:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Subject:	RE: OB-GYN resource
Date:	2017/03/05 10:50:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

I think the more we know about (b)(5)

(b)(5)

And anything else Michael identifies.

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Sent: Sunday, March 05, 2017 10:34 AM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Subject: OB-GYN resource

Jonathan,
I have a conference call scheduled with a family friend OB-GYN for 11am (she was driving and wanted to call me back when she got home; I gave her a list of questions which she said she felt comfortable answering and with certainty; she has expertise in this arena and is a very reputable source). Just spoke to Michael to see if there were any (b)(5)
Do you have anything specific since we cant defer to local OB-GYN because it is closed and no on-call number?

Shaanan

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=73d538e5aeda4197b3381ec6ef84ed75-Meyerstein,>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/05 10:50:39
Delivered Date:	2017/03/05 10:50:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Subject:	RE: 2 Rockville High students charged with rape after brutal bathroom assault - URGENT Please review
Date:	2017/03/21 16:19:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Looks great to me.

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 4:15 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: FW: 2 Rockville High students charged with rape after brutal bathroom assault - URGENT Please review

How is this - ?

_____

(b)(5)

_____

_____

2 Rockville High students charged with rape after brutal bathroom assault

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

http://wtop.com/montgomery-county/2017/03/2-charged-rape-rockville-high-school-bathroom-assault/

WASHINGTON — Two Rockville High School students accused of brutally raping a 14-year-old classmate in a school bathroom will stay in jail after a Rockville district court judge ordered the two teens held without bond Friday afternoon.

Henry Sanchez, 18, of the Aspen Hill neighborhood of Rockville, Maryland, and Jose Montano, 17, have been charged with first-degree rape and two counts of first-degree sexual offense in the violent assault of the female student. WTOP has a policy of not naming minors charged with crimes but Montano is being charged as an adult.

The students were arrested Thursday.

The victim told police she was walking in a school hallway on March 16 at about 9 a.m. when the two male students approached her, according to charging documents. Montano asked her twice to have sex, and after she refused, he forced her into a boys' bathroom and then into a stall, according to police.

The student told police that Montano and Sanchez raped her multiple times, according to the court documents. She cried out in pain and repeatedly told the two students to stop, she told police.

Forensic investigators said an inspection of the boys' bathroom later turned up suspected blood "that may be mixed with male fluid," the court documents stated.

Sanchez and Montano were arrested at school, police said, and have been held since Thursday.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement says they have a detainer on Sanchez, a citizen of Guatemala. The agency could not comment on Montano's case since he is a minor.

In a letter to parents, Montgomery County Public Schools said school officials notified police immediately after the student reported the assault to a staff member.

"Ensuring a safe, secure and welcoming learning environment for all of our students is our top priority," school officials said in the letter. "Our staff

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

remains vigilant in the monitoring of our school each and every day. Please remind your child that if they believe they are a victim of an assault or see something inappropriate, they should immediately tell a staff member."

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/21 16:19:01
Delivered Date:	2017/03/21 16:19:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
Subject:	RE: Family Planning Memo SOP - RE: Portal documentation -
Date:	2017/03/21 16:24:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

No, I don't think we need to include the DOD file—it was just already in the zip file and I wasn't sure how to delete it.
We don't have any real background on the case in question—that's just the context in which we were forwarded the email from Curi Kim to the FFS team—which I think is the best evidence we have that the draft policy was being followed by Medical Team and staff. The case it was provided in is one we don't know much about.
Jonathan

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 4:22 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: RE: Family Planning Memo SOP - RE: Portal documentation -

Did you think we should include the DOD file in the ZIP?

Also – in the chain – why did we transfer the UC from SWK to Heartland for the termination? Thanks

---

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 4:15 PM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: FW: Family Planning Memo SOP - RE: Portal documentation -

Ken,

Please review the below to go to Scott in response to his question to me today. I owe him an answer today or tonight—OK to send?

Jonathan

Scott,

(b)(5)

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(b)(5)

Jonathan

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2017 8:56 AM
To: 'White, Jonathan (ACF) (Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov)'
Subject: FW: Family Planning Memo SOP - RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6)

Note to file for Jonathan: Received as part of the Zip files provided on Timeline development for (b)(6) case, 3/9/17.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 1:27 PM
To: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: FW: Family Planning Memo SOP - RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6)

Jose Gonzalez, LMSW, FFS Supervisor
USDHHS-ACF-ORR-DUCO
Jose.gonzalez@acf.hhs.gov
202-631-3777
http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/ucs

From: Kim, Curi (ACF)
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 8:41 AM
To: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Buckley, Kirsten (ACF)
Subject: RE: Family Planning Memo SOP - RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6)

As long as the SIR and Health tab has all the relevant information, the FFS doesn't need to spend time writing a lengthy memo like they used to. If federal funds are to be used, medical officer will complete the simple template memo for OD.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 9:35 AM
To: Kim, Curi (ACF); Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Cc: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Buckley, Kirsten (ACF)
Subject: Re: Family Planning Memo SOP - RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6)

Dr. Curry are we still doing the Situational awareness memo or are we talking about same thing just different language.

From: Kim, Curi (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 10:53:32 PM
To: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Cc: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Buckley, Kirsten (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Subject: RE: Family Planning Memo SOP - RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6)

Hi, Monica,
Yes, that is correct – FFS Memo no longer needed. Relevant info should be in the SIR and the Health tab.

From: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 4:51 PM
To: Kim, Curi (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Cc: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Buckley, Kirsten (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Subject: RE: Family Planning Memo SOP - RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6)

Good afternoon Dr. Kim,

Just wanted to check-in with you, is the below unofficial procedures what we should be following for future UC with potential medical procedures? We no longer need to complete the memos?

Thank you,

Monica Gonzalez, MPA
Federal Field Specialist-Chicago
DHHS/ACF/ORR/DCS
(202) 748-1900

From: Kim, Curi (ACF)
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2016 12:42 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR); Banzon, Julissa (ACF); Brooks, Teresa (ACF)
Cc: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Buckley, Kirsten (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Fink, David (ACF)
Subject: Family Planning Memo SOP - RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6)

Just including ACF folks on this email chain.

This got confusing since we weren't in the office and Janell isn't here anymore – she was handling all the termination requests – and because I don't think the Ops Guide for Family Planning has been finalized.

Now that we're back in the office, we're looking at the hard copies of the last several termination memos that were signed by OD; I see that we should be following the last version of the Ops Guide (see attached). I reached out to Shannon (not to be confused with Shaanan) about the status of the Family Planning Ops Guide and she said it's with Policy (so none of us has a final version). It seems that even though the Family Planning Ops Guide is not official and apparently not widely circulated (since it's not cleared), Janell was coordinating with FFSs to handle each termination memo as they occurred.

I have cut and pasted the relevant section from the unofficial Ops Guide (I accepted track changed because otherwise it's too messy to read) below. Again, see attachment if you want to review the track changes version – FFS memo is no longer required per edits/comment. For the hard copy packet that Bob will sign off on, note that we did use most of the language in the FFS memo – we just re-purposed the document as "clinical summary" (changing it from memo format) as supporting documentation.

CARE PROVIDER

1) **IMMEDIATELY, BUT NO LATER THAN FOUR (4) HOURS** after a UC requests to terminate her pregnancy, completes an *SIR* following procedures in ➔ **ORR Ops Guide, Section 5.7.3 Significant Incidents** and copies the Medical Team at DCSMedical@acf.hhs.gov on the *SIR* notification. The *SIR* must include the following information:
    - Current gestational age of the pregnancy
    - Any known complications identified by the medical professional
    - Date of the request for termination of pregnancy and to whom the request was made
    - The name and location of the clinic, hospital, or office where the pregnancy termination will occur
    - Whether parental consent or notification was made, or whether a judicial bypass has been or will be sought, if required under state law (the disbursement of federal funds will be contingent on meeting the requirement of state law)
    - Reason why federal funds are being requested, if applicable
    - Nature of urgent request (e.g., the termination procedure needs to occur within 48 hours), if applicable

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- Any other relevant information[SH1]
- If any of this information is not available, the care provider will note in the *SIR* what information is pending and when the information is expected to be available. Missing information must be documented in an *SIR Addendum* immediately upon receipt.

NOTE: If the care provider is unable to coordinate pregnancy termination services or services are unavailable in the region, the care provider must immediately notify the FFS. In coordination with the FFS, the care provider must initiate a transfer to a care provider that is able to coordinate services and that is located in a region where services are available following transfer procedures in ➔ **ORR Ops Guide, Section 1.2 Transfers within the ORR Care Provider Network.**

2) Makes parental notification, seeks parental consent, or seeks a judicial bypass, as required under state law. Care provider should seek the assistance of the legal service provider or attorney of record during this process.

2) After submitting the *SIR*, responds to requests from ORR for information and updates as soon as possible, but within four (4) hours of the request.

3) Consults with the Medical Team to immediately schedule the appropriate consultations with medical providers and the pregnancy termination procedure. The pregnancy termination procedure must be scheduled to occur no sooner than 72 hours after submission of the *SIR*. This should happen concurrently with the process to request federal funds for the pregnancy termination including obtaining a *Physician's Certification*, if applicable (see below).

4) Makes arrangements to transport the UC to the pregnancy termination procedure.

5) Submits *SIR Addendums* and adds documentation in the UC Portal Medical Module as appropriate.

Requesting Federal Funding for a Pregnancy Termination

Federal funds are available to pay for an abortion if:

- • The pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest; or
- • In the case where a woman suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness, including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself, that would, as certified by a physician, place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed.

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CARE PROVIDER

WITHIN 24 HOURS of determining the termination would qualify for federal funding, sends an email notification to the Medical Team, with a copy to the FFS and CFS, as follows:

To:	Medical Team
Cc:	FFS and CFS
Subject Line:	"Request for Federal Funds for Pregnancy Termination"

Body:	• UC's name and A #
	• Reason why federal funds are being requested:
	  ○ An act of rape
	  ○ An act of incest
	  ○ Life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself, that would place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed
	• Any other relevant information

Attachments:	• *SIR* • *SIR Addendums* • Signed *Understanding Your Options* handout • Clinical notes (if requesting federal funds for an act of rape or incest) • *Physician's Certification* (if requesting federal funds for a life-endangering physical condition)

URGENT REQUESTS FOR A FEDERALLY-FUNDED PREGNANCY TERMINATION

If the request is urgent (e.g., the termination procedure needs to occur within 48 hours), the care provider must send the above notification **IMMEDIATELY** upon determining the termination would qualify for federal funding. ORR will expedite the approval process for pregnancy termination using federal funds for urgent requests.

MEDICAL TEAM

WITHIN 24 HOURS of receiving the care provider's email notification, reviews the attached supporting documentation, , completes the *Use of Federal Funds to Terminate a Pregnancy Decision Memo*, and routes the memo and supporting documentation to the DCS Director for approval.

DCS DIRECTOR

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

WITHIN 12 HOURS of receiving the memo and supporting documentation, reviews and signs the *Use of Federal Funds to Terminate a Pregnancy Decision Memo* and routes the signed memo to the Medical Team and copies the FFS and CFS.

MEDICAL TEAM

WITHIN 12 HOURS of receiving the signed *Use of Federal Funds to Terminate a Pregnancy Decision Memo*, notifies the care provider of the DCS Director's decision.

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR)
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2016 12:19 PM
To: Kim, Curi (ACF); Diane Pena; Banzon, Julissa (ACF); Brooks, Teresa (ACF)
Cc: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Susan Trudeau; Ricardo Jonas; Esmeralda Zavala; Lauren Selph; Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Buckley, Kirsten (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Fink, David (ACF)
Subject: RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6) (b)(6)

I have communicated with Diane Pena that the procedure was authorized via email by Director Carey (via Andrea) on 11/25; the papers are being signed today.
The UC will be going for her appointment this afternoon.

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: Kim, Curi (ACF)
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2016 12:02 PM
To: Diane Pena; Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR); Banzon, Julissa (ACF); Brooks, Teresa (ACF)
Cc: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Susan Trudeau; Ricardo Jonas; Esmeralda Zavala; Lauren Selph; Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Buckley, Kirsten (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Fink, David (ACF)
Subject: RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Not sure where this is, either.

Michael and I are in the office – one of us can walk the memo to Bob.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

When is the appointment scheduled?

Thanks,
Curi

Curi Kim, MD, MPH
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Refugee Health
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5585
curi.kim@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: Diane Pena [mailto:DPena@heartlandalliance.org]
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2016 11:39 AM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR); Banzon, Julissa (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); Brooks, Teresa (ACF)
Cc: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Susan Trudeau; Ricardo Jonas; Esmeralda Zavala; Lauren Selph; Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Buckley, Kirsten (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Fink, David (ACF)
Subject: RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Good morning, I am checking in to see if the memo has been signed. Please let us know either way and if we need to cancel or reschedule today's appointment.

Thanks,
Diane

-----Original Message-----
From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]
Sent: Thursday, November 24, 2016 9:42 AM
To: Banzon, Julissa (ACF); Diane Pena; Kim, Curi (ACF); Brooks, Teresa (ACF)
Cc: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Susan Trudeau; Ricardo Jonas; Esmeralda Zavala; Lauren Selph; Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Buckley, Kirsten (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Fink, David (ACF)
Subject: RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Good morning and Happy Thanksgiving -

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Just to close the loop of communication for this morning. I just spoke with Teresa Brooks, the on-call supervisor for the FFS team who is covering for the holiday to see where we stand with this case and timeline for the memo's. Given the fact that the minor is being transferred Friday to Chicago and any procedure would not be until Monday, this has become urgent and not emergent for today's business and the skeleton staff. The Medical Team (me) and FFS staff (Teresa) will be working on drafting our respective memo's for the Termination over the next 24hrs with it being the first item of business Friday AM to get the needed signatures from headquarters.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday - if there are any problems or urgent medical issues, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program Office of Refugee Resettlement Administration for Children and Families U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: Banzon, Julissa (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 6:47 PM
To: Diane Pena; Kim, Curi (ACF)
Cc: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR); Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Susan Trudeau; Ricardo Jonas; Esmeralda Zavala; Lauren Selph; Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Buckley, Kirsten (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Fink, David (ACF)
Subject: RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Good evening,

Following my call with Diane a few moments ago, as discussed, upon receipt of the ORR Director- signed approval memo from HQ, FFS will advise Heartland needed approval has been received and to proceed accordingly. As discussed, given gestational concerns, hopefully approval memo can be expedited, for Heartland to be able to proceed with the soonest available appointment secured for Monday 11/28.

Thank you all,

Julissa Portales Banzon, M.S.
Federal Field Specialist, Chicago
U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

ACF/ORR/DCS
202-430-7944

-----Original Message-----
From: Diane Pena [mailto:DPena@heartlandalliance.org]
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 4:31 PM
To: Kim, Curi (ACF)
Cc: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR); Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Banzon, Julissa (ACF); Susan Trudeau; Ricardo Jonas; Esmeralda Zavala; Lauren Selph; Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Buckley, Kirsten (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Fink, David (ACF)
Subject: Re: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6)
(b)(6)

Thank you. Yes, this makes sense and we will complete the Portal documentation as described below. In addition to the Portal documentation, do we need to submit a separate SIR as well or is that not necessary?

Thanks,
Diane

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 23, 2016, at 4:09 PM, Kim, Curi (ACF)
<Curi.Kim@acf.hhs.gov<mailto:Curi.Kim@acf.hhs.gov>>wrote:

Thank you for asking us about how to document in the Portal; this is a tricky one.

One problem is that the previous shelter didn't document her healthcare visits exploring termination in the right place to begin with.

Here is a screenshot of how the report looks:

<image004.jpg>

As you can see, the 11/14 visits should have been entered as "Update Visits" to the IME because the condition of pregnancy was first identified during the IME and thus is not a new diagnosis. (When the data is pulled from the Portal, it'll just look like she somehow was pregnant twice.)

Anyway, in your case, to document correctly, please add an Update Visit under the IME. Under the Outcome of the Evaluation section, select "A complication or secondary condition was diagnosed" and a list of diagnoses will appear; click on the Genito-urinary/Reproductive category and select "Elective abortion" for the first Update Visit. For the second and third Update Visits, select "Condition or symptoms related to initial complaint." We don't want to select "Elective abortion" as a diagnosis for the second and third visits as then it will look like she had three abortions when we pull the data from the Portal.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

<image003.png>

Hope this makes sense.

Let you know if you have any questions!

Thanks,
Curi

Curi Kim, MD, MPH
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Refugee Health
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5585
curi.kim@acf.hhs.gov<mailto:curi.kim@acf.hhs.gov>
www.acf.hhs.gov<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/>

From: Diane Pena [mailto:DPena@heartlandalliance.org]
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 3:14 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR); Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Banzon, Julissa (ACF); Susan Trudeau; Ricardo Jonas; Esmeralda Zavala; Lauren Selph; Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Fink, David (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF)
Subject: RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6)

Thank you, Shaaanan.

SWK is working on the flight arrangements to transfer her to CHAP on Friday, and we have made the appointments for the 3 days starting on Monday.

Monica, attached is the Parental Notification waiver letter. As discussed, please have the SWK case managers obtain a signature from the mother and then scan it back to me before Monday.

I also have a few questions about documentation:

1. How should we document the procedure in the Medical section of the Portal? Anything specific that we should include?

2. Should we email about the DCS Medical Team about the procedure?

3. Do we need to complete an SIR as well?

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thanks,
Diane

Diane Peña | Associate Director of Program Operations Heartland Alliance | SAFEty Initiatives / Youth &Residential Services
4822 N Broadway Ave, 2nd Floor Chicago, IL 60640
O: 773.433.1200 C: 773.447.4680 F: 773.271.8810
E: dpena@heartlandalliance.org<mailto:dpena@heartlandalliance.org>W: www.heartlandalliance.org<http://www.heartlandalliance.org/>

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 12:34 PM
To: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Banzon, Julissa (ACF); Diane Pena; Susan Trudeau; Ricardo Jonas; Esmeralda Zavala; Lauren Selph; Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Fink, David (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF)
Subject: RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency (b)(6)

I called the healthcare provider that will be carrying out the proposed 3 day procedure - Family Planning Associates - just to clarify why the abortion would take 3 days and had the clinic clarify the day by day procedure. This seems appropriate after confirming with various Obstetric resources.

Thank you all for your efforts in facilitating this medical transfer.

Have a wonderful holiday.

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program Office of Refugee Resettlement Administration for Children and Families U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov<mailto:Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>

From: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 1:22 PM
To: Banzon, Julissa (ACF); Diane Pena; Susan Trudeau; Ricardo Jonas; Esmeralda Zavala; Lauren Selph
Cc: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Fink, David (ACF)
Subject: RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6)

Hello,

The program is working on submitting the memo to be submitted to HQ.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thank you,

Monica Gonzalez, MPA
Federal Field Specialist-Chicago
DHHS/ACF/ORR/DCS
(202) 748-1900

From: Banzon, Julissa (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 12:14 PM
To: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Diane Pena; Susan Trudeau; Ricardo Jonas; Esmeralda Zavala; Lauren Selph
Cc: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Fink, David (ACF)
Subject: RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6)

Good afternoon,

Given the nature and time sensitivity/urgency of this transfer request and per approval from Senior FFS Supervisor Jim De La Cruz and ORR medical team to proceed with transfer from SWK to CHAP to ensure minor 's access to specialized reproductive/medical follow-up services, will you please advise if memo was already submitted to ORR/HQ to secure written approval for requested medical procedure (now determined to be a 3-day procedure)?

Copying FFS Supervisor David Fink as he is covering for Jose this week.

Thank you,

Julissa Portales Banzon, M.S.
Federal Field Specialist, Chicago
U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services
ACF/ORR/DCS
202-430-7944

From: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 11:25 AM
To: Diane Pena; Susan Trudeau; Ricardo Jonas; Esmeralda Zavala; Lauren Selph
Cc: Banzon, Julissa (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Subject: RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6)

Hi Diana,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thank you for following up with the information. I will ensure the program communicates all the info to the UC and begin the transfer communications with CHAP.

Thank you,

Monica Gonzalez, MPA
Federal Field Specialist-Chicago
DHHS/ACF/ORR/DCS
(202) 748-1900

From: Diane Pena [mailto:DPena@heartlandalliance.org]
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 11:03 AM
To: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Susan Trudeau; Ricardo Jonas; Esmeralda Zavala; Lauren Selph
Cc: Banzon, Julissa (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Subject: RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6)

Hi Monica,

Yes, we can accept this minor at CHAP on Friday. Please have the SWK team contact Esmeralda regarding the travel information for this transfer.

I have contacted Family Planning Associates, which is able to terminate pregnancies up to 23.3 weeks. The procedure involves 3-6 hour appointments for 3 consecutive days and we are able to make appointments staring on Monday, 11/28/16. Please note that if Family Planning Associates determines that she is beyond 23 weeks, then we will continue pre-natal care at CHAP and counsel her on other options, including adoption.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Thanks,
Diane

Diane Peña | Associate Director of Program Operations Heartland Alliance | SAFEty Initiatives / Youth &Residential Services
4822 N Broadway Ave, 2nd Floor Chicago, IL 60640
O: 773.433.1200 C: 773 (b)(6) F: 773.271.8810
E: dpena@heartlandalliance.org<mailto:dpena@heartlandalliance.org>W: www.heartlandalliance.org<http://www.heartlandalliance.org/>

From: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF) [mailto:Monica.Gonzalez@acf.hhs.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 10:18 AM
To: Diane Pena

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: Banzon, Julissa (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Subject: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6)
Importance: High

Hello Diane,

Thank you for accepting the above UC into the CHAP program. As discussed, please find attached the SIRs for the above UC who has requested to terminate her pregnancy due to being raped. We are looking to transfer her by Friday, November 25th. Program has received approval for UC to terminate the pregnancy from FFS Supervisor Jim De La Cruz and ORR Medical Team.

Below is a synopsis from the medical team at SWK:

1)I called OB's office for further clarification and confirmation since there is a discrepancy on number of weeks gestation. She was 19 weeks gestation on 11/14/16. Reason for discrepancy: The minor disclosed during IME on 11/11/16 to shelter medical provider that her LMP had been 10/28/16, but per OB's office staff and OB's Progress Notes, minor stated LMP had been 7/03/2016. She also had an ultrasound done the day of visit 11/14/16, which was also used to estimate fetus' gestational age of 19 weeks on 11/14/16. Full Progress Notes were faxed to us today confirming his information.

2) Per her OB/GYN, she informed me today that she does not counsel either way (for/against) when a client discloses they wish to terminate pregnancy, nor do they refer them elsewhere. The client will have to do this on their own. In our minor's case, I will find a different place to refer minor to ASAP so that risks of procedure and options are discussed with the minor. I will also consult with Clinical Dept. on this.

3) Mother has been notified and is supportive.

4)Minor is aware of options and risks.

In terms of Family Reunification-this is a CAT1-with mother in Iowa.

Program is currently working on the transfer packet.

Thank you,

Monica Gonzalez, MPA
Federal Field Specialist-Chicago
DHHS/ACF/ORR/DCS
(202) 748-1900

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Unless specifically indicated, nothing in this email should be interpreted as a digital or electronic signature that can be used to form, execute, document, agree to, enter into, accept or authenticate a contract or other legal document. This electronic mail transmission and any attached documents may contain confidential or privileged information for the sole use of the intended recipient(s). Any review, use, distribution or disclosure by anyone other than the intended recipient(s) is strictly prohibited. If you believe that you have received this message in error, please notify the sender by reply transmission and delete or destroy the message without copying or disclosing it.
--

Unless specifically indicated, nothing in this email should be interpreted as a digital or electronic signature that can be used to form, execute, document, agree to, enter into, accept or authenticate a contract or other legal document. This electronic mail transmission and any attached documents may contain confidential or privileged information for the sole use of the intended recipient(s). Any review, use, distribution or disclosure by anyone other than the intended recipient(s) is strictly prohibited. If you believe that you have received this message in error, please notify the sender by reply transmission and delete or destroy the message without copying or disclosing it.
--

Will separate what will be available immediately and what needs to be in addendum later. Please comment if you have suggestions on that.

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/21 16:24:15
Delivered Date:	2017/03/21 16:24:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Just checking you are both still here We are still looking at this, but just want to make sure you are available to sign through 6 pm today?

- Judy Haron -

Deputy Associate General Counsel

Children, Families and Aging Division

HHS Office of the General Counsel

(202) 690 8005

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release this message and any attachments without the approval of the Office of the General Counsel. If you are not an intended recipient, or have received this message in error, please delete it without reading it and please do not print, copy, forward, disseminate,
or otherwise use the information. Also, please notify the sender that you have received this communication in error. Your receipt of this message is not intended to waive any applicable privilege.

From: Grogg, Adam A. (CIV) [mailto:Adam.A.Grogg@usdoj.gov]

Sent: Thursday, May 04, 2017 4:28 PM

To: Haron, Judith (HHS/OGC); Palacios, Caitlin (HHS/OGC)

Cc: Phipps, Peter (CIV)

Subject: ACLU v. Price: responses to interrogatories

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Davis, Gregory (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=47b15d866d8040ed839cdfd5c2b7cb89-Davis, Greg>"
Subject:	ORR Deputy Director billet documents
Date:	2017/05/24 16:35:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Attached are:
Billet excel spreadsheet
Job posting from USAJobs at time of hiring
Draft Corps PD doc created at the time

Jonathan D. White
Commander, U.S. Public Health Service
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW
(202) 690-6984
jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Davis, Gregory (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=47b15d866d8040ed839cdfd5c2b7cb89-Davis, Greg>"
Sent Date:	2017/05/24 16:35:27
Delivered Date:	2017/05/24 16:35:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Subject:	RE: Pregnancy Notification May 20-26, 2017
Date:	2017/05/26 11:40:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

I think this is more of a legal than medical question. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 11:38 AM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: FW: Pregnancy Notification May 20-26, 2017

(b)(5)

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Unaccompanied Children Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
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330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lloyd, Scott (ACF)
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 11:11 AM
To: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: White, Jonathan (ACF); Misegades, Lara (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Pregnancy Notification May 20-26, 2017

Thank you, Michael.

(b)(5)

Scott

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 10:41 AM
To: Lloyd, Scott (ACF)
Cc: White, Jonathan (ACF); Misegades, Lara (ACF)
Subject: Pregnancy Notification May 20-26, 2017

Mr. Lloyd,

Below is the requested information regarding pregnancy notifications. The date range is from May 20-26, 2017.

16 yo UAC, admitted on May 22, 2017 to SWK Casa Phoenix was screen positive for pregnancy during the initial medical exam. Child report pregnancy was a result of consensual sexual relations with a 19 yo male in COO. UAC reported that she was approximately 24 weeks pregnant. DHUC was informed via standard reporting procedures. The child is being referred to OB/GYN services and was started on prenatal vitamins. The UAC made no statement or allegation of sexual abuse or assault. There is no medical concern related to this pregnancy identified at this time. The portal does not indicate any request related to information regarding pregnancy termination.

UPDATE on Prior Pregnancy Notifications:

16 yo UAC, admitted on May 16, 2017 to Youth for Tomorrow in Bristow, VA, reported to be 2 months pregnant. Child reported the pregnancy was a result of consensual sexual relations however to a 20 yo male in COO. DHUC was informed via Intake notification

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

on May 16, 2017. DHUC is following up with the program to determine the current clinical plan for the UAC. The portal does not indicate any request related to information regarding pregnancy termination. UPDATE: UAC evaluated by OB Services and determined via US to be ~10 weeks pregnant. The child is continuing routine prenatal care. There is no medical concern related to this pregnancy identified at this time.

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Unaccompanied Children Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Sent Date:	2017/05/26 11:40:51
Delivered Date:	2017/05/26 11:40:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Subject:	RE: Pregnancy Notification May 20-26, 2017
Date:	2017/05/26 11:55:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

(b)(5)

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 11:42 AM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: RE: Pregnancy Notification May 20-26, 2017

(b)(5)

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Unaccompanied Children Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 11:41 AM
To: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Subject: RE: Pregnancy Notification May 20-26, 2017

I think this is more of a legal than medical question. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 11:38 AM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: FW: Pregnancy Notification May 20-26, 2017

(b)(5)

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Unaccompanied Children Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

From: Lloyd, Scott (ACF)
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 11:11 AM
To: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: White, Jonathan (ACF); Misegades, Lara (ACF); Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Pregnancy Notification May 20-26, 2017

Thank you, Michael.

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

Scott

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 10:41 AM
To: Lloyd, Scott (ACF)
Cc: White, Jonathan (ACF); Misegades, Lara (ACF)
Subject: Pregnancy Notification May 20-26, 2017

Mr. Lloyd,

Below is the requested information regarding pregnancy notifications. The date range is from May 20-26, 2017.

16 yo UAC, admitted on May 22, 2017 to SWK Casa Phoenix was screen positive for pregnancy during the initial medical exam. Child report pregnancy was a result of consensual sexual relations with a 19 yo male in COO. UAC reported that she was approximately 24 weeks pregnant. DHUC was informed via standard reporting procedures. The child is being referred to OB/GYN services and was started on prenatal vitamins. The UAC made no statement or allegation of sexual abuse or assault. There is no medical concern related to this pregnancy identified at this time. The portal does not indicate any request related to information regarding pregnancy termination.

UPDATE on Prior Pregnancy Notifications:

16 yo UAC, admitted on May 16, 2017 to Youth for Tomorrow in Bristow, VA, reported to be 2 months pregnant. Child reported the pregnancy was a result of consensual sexual relations however to a 20 yo male in COO. DHUC was informed via Intake notification on May 16, 2017. DHUC is following up with the program to determine the current clinical plan for the UAC. The portal does not indicate any request related to information regarding pregnancy termination. UPDATE: UAC evaluated by OB Services and determined via US to be ~10 weeks pregnant. The child is continuing routine prenatal care. There is no medical concern related to this pregnancy identified at this time.

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Unaccompanied Children Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Mary E. Switzer Building

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Sent Date:	2017/05/26 11:58:49
Delivered Date:	2017/05/26 11:55:00

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Viola, Sarah (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3941641c71ba463aa7a089412fe45d7f-Viola, Sara>"
Subject:	FW: For Your Review: FOA#2 Transmittal updated
Date:	2017/05/26 15:13:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 3:19 PM
To: Lloyd, Scott (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: For Your Review: FOA#2 Transmittal updated

Scott,

After the call with Amanda, Daphne, Scott, and me this morning about the FOAs, Amanda asked us to add a paragraph to the FOA#2 transmittal (b)(5) (b)(5) I have prepared a paragraph in the attached draft, at the start of the section #4.

With regard to 1135, the LTFC beds FOA, I am looking into that to see if we have a parallel situation. I will advise when I know more.

As always, please let me know anything I can do to help.

Jonathan

Jonathan D. White
Commander, U.S. Public Health Service
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW
(202) 690-6984
jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Viola, Sarah (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3941641c71ba463aa7a089412fe45d7f-Viola, Sara>"

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Sent Date:	2017/05/26 15:13:39
Delivered Date:	2017/05/26 15:13:00

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Holt, Lydia (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=679190009c0f4ad2b219f787dcca6a98-Holt, Lydia>"
Subject:	Re: reduction of staff at Homestead
Date:	2017/03/31 12:42:32
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Lydia,

Toby and Mark at ASPA may benefit from a heads up.

Jonathan

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Holt, Lydia (ACF)

Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 12:41:16 PM

To: Irizarry, Tania (ACF); Acker Housman, Stephanie (ACF)

Cc: Davis, Gregory (ACF); Hooban, Tala (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Volovar, Jill (ACF); Crespo, Hilda (ACF)

Subject: RE: reduction of staff at Homestead

Thanks Tania for the advanced notice.

It is greatly appreciated.

Best regards,

Lydia

From: Irizarry, Tania (ACF)

Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 12:36 PM

To: Holt, Lydia (ACF); Acker Housman, Stephanie (ACF)

Cc: Davis, Gregory (ACF); Hooban, Tala (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Volovar, Jill (ACF); Crespo, Hilda (ACF)

Subject: reduction of staff at Homestead

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Hello,

The information below is for your awareness and in case you want to prepare a statement in advance of potential media attention due to the termination of employees at Homestead next week.

(b)(5)

-

Plans:

-

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

Thank you,

Tania Irizarry

Senior Project Officer, COR &Monitoring Lead

Division of Unaccompanied Children Operations (DUCO)

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Mary E. Switzer Building

330 C ST SW

Room 5012B

Washington DC 20201

Office: 202-690-7995

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(BB) (b)(6)

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Holt, Lydia (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=679190009c0f4ad2b219f787dcca6a98-Holt, Lydia>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/31 12:42:30
Delivered Date:	2017/03/31 12:42:32

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
CC:	"Misegades, Lara (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bb1ce43ecb18472b86f2b1dd90441103-Misegades,>"
Subject:	RE: UC requesting pregnancy termination
Date:	2017/03/29 11:10:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Received. Do I understand correctly:

(b)(5)

If I understand correctly, I will recommend to leadership that we concur with your recommendation, but I do want Scott to weigh in under the circumstances. Please confirm my understanding of your email is correct and if so I'll check with ORR Director.

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 11:04 AM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Misegades, Lara (ACF)
Subject: FW: UC requesting pregnancy termination
Importance: High

Jonathan,

Please see the email below.

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

This language would be my response to the program.

Can I proceed?

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Unaccompanied Children Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) [mailto (b)(6) @swkey.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 6:14 PM
To: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Sanchez, Alex (ACF); Silvia F. Mendoza; Claudia M Ruiz; Reina Cossio; Jennifer Matos Ramos
Subject: UC requesting pregnancy termination

Hello Dr. Bartholomew, I am writing in regards to female minor, (b)(6) she is the youth that arrived at Las Palmas Program 924 and was requesting to terminate her pregnancy. At this time minor has been taken to OB/GYN appointment where it is confirmed that she is 9 weeks 6 days pregnant. Case manager notified us that the only things pending to reunify minor was medical (xray, labs, ect). Upon requesting chest xray, PCP noted that youth's xray was abnormal. Although she is negative for TB condition, the following findings were documented.

Findings as reported by (b)(6) *MD: There is a dextroconvex thoracolumbar scoliosis measuring approx 8 degrees, with apex at T12-L1, with suspicion butterfly vertebrae at T12 and possibly T11.*

For this reason PCP is referring to neurologist for further evaluation. We have called to schedule an appointment for neurologist in which they are telling us that it will be about 3 weeks for an appointment and they need to verify they can see a pregnant minor. Taking into consideration her pregnancy and her decision to terminate, keeping her

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here will add weeks to her pregnancy to or about 12 weeks. I am asking for your guidance as to how to proceed from here.

Will minor be able to proceed with pregnancy termination? (She still refuses to tell mom in COO, sponsor is aware of pregnancy)

Is the neurologist visit necessary here or can that be followed up with upon reunification?

Thank you in advance.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Casa Las Palmas

Southwest Key Program 924

Cell: (b)(6) if there is no answer, please call (b)(6)

"What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal."

-Albert Pine

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Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Misegades, Lara (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bb1ce43ecb18472b86f2b1dd90441103-Misegades,>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/29 11:10:53
Delivered Date:	2017/03/29 11:10:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Holt, Lydia (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=679190009c0f4ad2b219f787dcca6a98-Holt, Lydia>"
Subject:	Re: reduction of staff at Homestead
Date:	2017/03/31 12:43:58
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Great minds think alike!

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Holt, Lydia (ACF)

Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 12:43:14 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Subject: RE: reduction of staff at Homestead

I am preparing their email now.

Thanks,

Lydia

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)

Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 12:43 PM

To: Holt, Lydia (ACF)

Subject: Re: reduction of staff at Homestead

Lydia,

Toby and Mark at ASPA may benefit from a heads up.

Jonathan

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

CDR Jonathan White

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Incident Commander, Unaccompanied Children Influx Response

(202) 690-6984 (office)

(202) (b)(6) (blackberry)

Jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

From: Holt, Lydia (ACF)

Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 12:41:16 PM

To: Irizarry, Tania (ACF); Acker Housman, Stephanie (ACF)

Cc: Davis, Gregory (ACF); Hooban, Tala (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Volovar, Jill (ACF); Crespo, Hilda (ACF)

Subject: RE: reduction of staff at Homestead

Thanks Tania for the advanced notice.

It is greatly appreciated.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Best regards,

Lydia

From: Irizarry, Tania (ACF)

Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 12:36 PM

To: Holt, Lydia (ACF); Acker Housman, Stephanie (ACF)

Cc: Davis, Gregory (ACF); Hooban, Tala (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Volovar, Jill (ACF); Crespo, Hilda (ACF)

Subject: reduction of staff at Homestead

Hello,

The information below is for your awareness and in case you want to prepare a statement in advance of potential media attention due to the termination of employees at Homestead next week.

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

Plans:

(b)(5)

Thank you,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Tania Irizarry

Senior Project Officer, COR &Monitoring Lead

Division of Unaccompanied Children Operations (DUCO)

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Mary E. Switzer Building

330 C ST SW

Room 5012B

Washington DC 20201

Office: 202-690-7995

(BB) (b)(6)

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Holt, Lydia (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=679190009c0f4ad2b219f787dcca6a98-Holt, Lydia>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/31 12:43:57
Delivered Date:	2017/03/31 12:43:58

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Robinson, Trina (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=af3f960a6c3e4233879991b2a7ac71d3-Robinson, T>"
Subject:	RE: Request: Resume for Scott Lloyd
Date:	2017/05/10 12:52:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Sure. The Corps CV is very long and annoying, but it's what I have. See attached.

From: Robinson, Trina (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 12:12 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: Request: Resume for Scott Lloyd
Importance: High

Good Afternoon Jonathan,

Please send me a copy of your resume. I am creating a binder for Scott Lloyd w/Leadership information.

Thank you in advance,

Trina L. Robinson, MS, HCS
Executive Officer
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Office of the Director
Mary E. Switzer Building, 5th Floor (Room: 5111)
330 C Street, SW, Washington, DC 20201
Voice: (202) 205-9557
Cell: (b)(6)
trina.robinson@acf.hhs.gov
Telework: Every Monday
AWS: Every Thursday

"There are no secrets to success. Don't waste time looking for them. Success is the result of perfection, hard work, learning from failure, loyalty to those for whom you work and persistence. "Colin Powell"

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>

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Recipient:	"Robinson, Trina (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=af3f960a6c3e4233879991b2a7ac71d3-Robinson, T>"
Sent Date:	2017/05/10 12:52:29
Delivered Date:	2017/05/10 12:52:00

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
CC:	"Misegades, Lara (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bb1ce43ecb18472b86f2b1dd90441103-Misegades,>"
Subject:	RE: UC requesting pregnancy termination
Date:	2017/03/29 11:16:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Got it. I will share with ORR Director and provide guidance as soon as received.

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 11:16 AM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Misegades, Lara (ACF)
Subject: RE: UC requesting pregnancy termination

Received. Do I understand correctly:

- The UC who previously requested pregnancy termination is determined to be 9 weeks gestational age stage (Correct)
- The minor is ready for reunification unless there is a medical hold on discharge (Correct)
- The medical team at the provider is asking to pause discharge for a neurologist test, which cannot be scheduled in under 3 weeks. (I am unclear about this statement, the provider evaluating the child recommend the child be referred to a neurologist for evaluation of the possible butterfly vertebrae. This evaluation can be performed post discharge from our program. The program is recommending discharge with neurology follow-up)
- You are recommending that the discharge occur and the neuro test be part of the post-discharge plan (Correct)

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Unaccompanied Children Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 11:11 AM
To: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: Misegades, Lara (ACF)
Subject: RE: UC requesting pregnancy termination

Received. Do I understand correctly:

- The UC who previously requested pregnancy termination is determined to be 9 weeks gestational age stage
- The minor is ready for reunification unless there is a medical hold on discharge
- The medical team at the provider is asking to pause discharge for a neurologist test, which cannot be scheduled in under 3 weeks
- You are recommending that the discharge occur and the neuro test be part of the post-discharge plan

(b)(5)

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 11:04 AM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Misegades, Lara (ACF)
Subject: FW: UC requesting pregnancy termination
Importance: High

Jonathan,

Please see the email below.

If the butterfly vertebrae does exist, in the absence of any other symptoms or physical exam findings, it would be very unlikely for her to have the rare disorders that is sometimes associated with this. This likely represents a normal anatomic variant. First of all, if she had severe disease, there would likely be more findings on physical exam and she might be symptomatic such as bladder or bowel incontinence. But this doesn't seem to be the case.

I see no reason to delay release of this minor to her sponsor (aunt) in Florida. Post release services should be considered and a safety plan in place that will ensure an appointment with a neurologist.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

This language would be my response to the program.

Can I proceed?

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Unaccompanied Children Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) [mailto:(b)(6) @swkey.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 6:14 PM
To: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Sanchez, Alex (ACF); Silvia F. Mendoza; Claudia M Ruiz; Reina Cossio; Jennifer Matos Ramos
Subject: UC requesting pregnancy termination

Hello Dr. Bartholomew, I am writing in regards to female minor (b)(6) she is the youth that arrived at Las Palmas Program 924 and was requesting to terminate her pregnancy. At this time minor has been taken to OB/GYN appointment where it is confirmed that she is 9 weeks 6 days pregnant. Case manager notified us that the only things pending to reunify minor was medical (xray, labs, ect). Upon requesting chest xray, PCP noted that youth's xray was abnormal. Although she is negative for TB condition, the following findings were documented.

Findings as reported by Erica Yang MD: There is a dextroconvex thoracolumbar scoliosis measuring approx 8 degrees, with apex at T12-L1, with suspicion butterfly vertebrae at T12 and possibly T11.

For this reason PCP is referring to neurologist for further evaluation. We have called to schedule an appointment for neurologist in which they are telling us that it will be about 3 weeks for an appointment and they need to verify they can see a pregnant minor. Taking into consideration her pregnancy and her decision to terminate, keeping her here will add weeks to her pregnancy to or about 12 weeks. I am asking for your guidance as to how to proceed from here.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Will minor be able to proceed with pregnancy termination? (She still refuses to tell mom in COO, sponsor is aware of pregnancy)

Is the neurologist visit necessary here or can that be followed up with upon reunification?

Thank you in advance.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Casa Las Palmas

Southwest Key Program 924

Cell: (b)(6) if there is no answer, please call (b)(6)

"What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal."

-Albert Pine

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Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>

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Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Misegades, Lara (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bb1ce43ecb18472b86f2b1dd90441103-Misegades,>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/29 11:16:53
Delivered Date:	2017/03/29 11:16:00

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
Subject:	FW: Family Planning Memo SOP - RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency:
Date:	2017/03/31 14:52:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Ken,
Per your request.
Jonathan

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2017 8:56 AM
To: 'White, Jonathan (ACF) (Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov)'
Subject: FW: Family Planning Memo SOP - RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6)

Note to file for Jonathan: Received as part of the Zip files provided on Timeline development for (b)(6) case, 3/9/17.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 1:27 PM
To: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: FW: Family Planning Memo SOP - RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency (b)(6)

Jose Gonzalez, LMSW, FFS Supervisor
USDHHS-ACF-ORR-DUCO
Jose.gonzalez@acf.hhs.gov
202-631-3777
http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/ucs

From: Kim, Curi (ACF)
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 8:41 AM
To: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Cc: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Buckley, Kirsten (ACF)
Subject: RE: Family Planning Memo SOP - RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency (b)(6)

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As long as the SIR and Health tab has all the relevant information, the FFS doesn't need to spend time writing a lengthy memo like they used to. If federal funds are to be used, medical officer will complete the simple template memo for OD.

From: Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 9:35 AM
To: Kim, Curi (ACF); Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Cc: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Buckley, Kirsten (ACF)
Subject: Re: Family Planning Memo SOP - RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6)

Dr. Curry are we still doing the Situational awareness memo or are we talking about same thing just different language.

From: Kim, Curi (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 10:53:32 PM
To: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Cc: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Buckley, Kirsten (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Subject: RE: Family Planning Memo SOP - RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency (b)(6)

Hi, Monica,
Yes, that is correct – FFS Memo no longer needed. Relevant info should be in the SIR and the Health tab.

From: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF)
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 4:51 PM
To: Kim, Curi (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF)
Cc: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Buckley, Kirsten (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Subject: RE: Family Planning Memo SOP - RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6)

Good afternoon Dr. Kim,

Just wanted to check-in with you, is the below unofficial procedures what we should be following for future UC with potential medical procedures? We no longer need to complete the memos?

Thank you,

Monica Gonzalez, MPA
Federal Field Specialist-Chicago
DHHS/ACF/ORR/DCS
(202) 748-1900

From: Kim, Curi (ACF)
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2016 12:42 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR); Banzon, Julissa (ACF); Brooks, Teresa (ACF)
Cc: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Buckley, Kirsten (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Fink, David (ACF)

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Subject: Family Planning Memo SOP - RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency (b)(6)

Just including ACF folks on this email chain.

This got confusing since we weren't in the office and Janell isn't here anymore – she was handling all the termination requests – and because I don't think the Ops Guide for Family Planning has been finalized.

Now that we're back in the office, we're looking at the hard copies of the last several termination memos that were signed by OD; I see that we should be following the last version of the Ops Guide (see attached). I reached out to Shannon (not to be confused with Shaanan) about the status of the Family Planning Ops Guide and she said it's with Policy (so none of us has a final version). It seems that even though the Family Planning Ops Guide is not official and apparently not widely circulated (since it's not cleared), Janell was coordinating with FFSs to handle each termination memo as they occurred.

I have cut and pasted the relevant section from the unofficial Ops Guide (I accepted track changed because otherwise it's too messy to read) below. Again, see attachment if you want to review the track changes version – FFS memo is no longer required per edits/comment. For the hard copy packet that Bob will sign off on, note that we did use most of the language in the FFS memo – we just re-purposed the document as "clinical summary" (changing it from memo format) as supporting documentation.

CARE PROVIDER

1) **IMMEDIATELY, BUT NO LATER THAN FOUR (4) HOURS** after a UC requests to terminate her pregnancy, completes an *SIR* following procedures in ➔ **ORR Ops Guide, Section 5.7.3 Significant Incidents** and copies the Medical Team at DCSMedical@acf.hhs.gov on the *SIR* notification. The *SIR* must include the following information:

   - Current gestational age of the pregnancy
   - Any known complications identified by the medical professional
   - Date of the request for termination of pregnancy and to whom the request was made
   - The name and location of the clinic, hospital, or office where the pregnancy termination will occur
   - Whether parental consent or notification was made, or whether a judicial bypass has been or will be sought, if required under state law (the disbursement of federal funds will be contingent on meeting the requirement of state law)
   - Reason why federal funds are being requested, if applicable
   - Nature of urgent request (e.g., the termination procedure needs to occur within 48 hours), if applicable
   - Any other relevant information[SH1]

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- If any of this information is not available, the care provider will note in the *SIR* what information is pending and when the information is expected to be available. Missing information must be documented in an *SIR Addendum* immediately upon receipt.

NOTE: If the care provider is unable to coordinate pregnancy termination services or services are unavailable in the region, the care provider must immediately notify the FFS. In coordination with the FFS, the care provider must initiate a transfer to a care provider that is able to coordinate services and that is located in a region where services are available following transfer procedures in ➔ **ORR Ops Guide, Section 1.2 Transfers within the ORR Care Provider Network.**

2) Makes parental notification, seeks parental consent, or seeks a judicial bypass, as required under state law. Care provider should seek the assistance of the legal service provider or attorney of record during this process.

2) After submitting the *SIR*, responds to requests from ORR for information and updates as soon as possible, but within four (4) hours of the request.

3) Consults with the Medical Team to immediately schedule the appropriate consultations with medical providers and the pregnancy termination procedure. The pregnancy termination procedure must be scheduled to occur no sooner than 72 hours after submission of the *SIR*. This should happen concurrently with the process to request federal funds for the pregnancy termination including obtaining a *Physician's Certification*, if applicable (see below).

4) Makes arrangements to transport the UC to the pregnancy termination procedure.

5) Submits *SIR Addendums* and adds documentation in the UC Portal Medical Module as appropriate.

Requesting Federal Funding for a Pregnancy Termination

Federal funds are available to pay for an abortion if:

- • The pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest; or
- • In the case where a woman suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness, including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself, that would, as certified by a physician, place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed.

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CARE PROVIDER

WITHIN 24 HOURS of determining the termination would qualify for federal funding, sends an email notification to the Medical Team, with a copy to the FFS and CFS, as follows:

To:	Medical Team
Cc:	FFS and CFS
Subject Line:	"Request for Federal Funds for Pregnancy Termination"

Body:	• UC's name and A #
	• Reason why federal funds are being requested:
	  ○ An act of rape
	  ○ An act of incest
	  ○ Life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself, that would place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed
	• Any other relevant information

Attachments:	• *SIR* • *SIR Addendums* • Signed *Understanding Your Options* handout • Clinical notes (if requesting federal funds for an act of rape or incest) • *Physician's Certification* (if requesting federal funds for a life-endangering physical condition)

URGENT REQUESTS FOR A FEDERALLY-FUNDED PREGNANCY TERMINATION

If the request is urgent (e.g., the termination procedure needs to occur within 48 hours), the care provider must send the above notification **IMMEDIATELY** upon determining the termination would qualify for federal funding. ORR will expedite the approval process for pregnancy termination using federal funds for urgent requests.

MEDICAL TEAM

WITHIN 24 HOURS of receiving the care provider's email notification, reviews the attached supporting documentation, , completes the *Use of Federal Funds to Terminate a Pregnancy Decision Memo*, and routes the memo and supporting documentation to the DCS Director for approval.

DCS DIRECTOR

WITHIN 12 HOURS of receiving the memo and supporting documentation, reviews and signs the *Use of Federal Funds to Terminate a Pregnancy Decision Memo* and routes the signed memo to the Medical Team and copies the FFS and CFS.

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MEDICAL TEAM

WITHIN 12 HOURS of receiving the signed *Use of Federal Funds to Terminate a Pregnancy Decision Memo*, notifies the care provider of the DCS Director's decision.

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR)
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2016 12:19 PM
To: Kim, Curi (ACF); Diane Pena; Banzon, Julissa (ACF); Brooks, Teresa (ACF)
Cc: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Susan Trudeau; Ricardo Jonas; Esmeralda Zavala; Lauren Selph; Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Buckley, Kirsten (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Fink, David (ACF)
Subject: RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6) (b)(6)

I have communicated with Diane Pena that the procedure was authorized via email by Director Carey (via Andrea) on 11/25; the papers are being signed today.
The UC will be going for her appointment this afternoon.

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

From: Kim, Curi (ACF)
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2016 12:02 PM
To: Diane Pena; Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR); Banzon, Julissa (ACF); Brooks, Teresa (ACF)
Cc: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Susan Trudeau; Ricardo Jonas; Esmeralda Zavala; Lauren Selph; Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Buckley, Kirsten (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Fink, David (ACF)
Subject: RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Not sure where this is, either.

Michael and I are in the office – one of us can walk the memo to Bob.

When is the appointment scheduled?

Thanks,
Curi

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Curi Kim, MD, MPH
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Refugee Health
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5585
curi.kim@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: Diane Pena [mailto:DPena@heartlandalliance.org]
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2016 11:39 AM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR); Banzon, Julissa (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); Brooks, Teresa (ACF)
Cc: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Susan Trudeau; Ricardo Jonas; Esmeralda Zavala; Lauren Selph; Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Buckley, Kirsten (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Fink, David (ACF)
Subject: RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Good morning, I am checking in to see if the memo has been signed. Please let us know either way and if we need to cancel or reschedule today's appointment.

Thanks,
Diane

-----Original Message-----
From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]
Sent: Thursday, November 24, 2016 9:42 AM
To: Banzon, Julissa (ACF); Diane Pena; Kim, Curi (ACF); Brooks, Teresa (ACF)
Cc: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Susan Trudeau; Ricardo Jonas; Esmeralda Zavala; Lauren Selph; Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Buckley, Kirsten (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Fink, David (ACF)
Subject: RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6) (b)(6)

Good morning and Happy Thanksgiving -
Just to close the loop of communication for this morning. I just spoke with Teresa Brooks, the on-call supervisor for the FFS team who is covering for the holiday to see where we stand with this case and timeline for the memo's. Given the fact that the minor is being transferred Friday to Chicago and any procedure would not be until Monday, this has become urgent and not emergent for today's business

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and the skeleton staff. The Medical Team (me) and FFS staff (Teresa) will be working on drafting our respective memo's for the Termination over the next 24hrs with it being the first item of business Friday AM to get the needed signatures from headquarters.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday - if there are any problems or urgent medical issues, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program Office of Refugee Resettlement Administration for Children and Families U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: Banzon, Julissa (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 6:47 PM
To: Diane Pena; Kim, Curi (ACF)
Cc: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR); Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Susan Trudeau; Ricardo Jonas; Esmeralda Zavala; Lauren Selph; Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Buckley, Kirsten (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Fink, David (ACF)
Subject: RE: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency (b)(6)
(b)(6)

Good evening,

Following my call with Diane a few moments ago, as discussed, upon receipt of the ORR Director- signed approval memo from HQ, FFS will advise Heartland needed approval has been received and to proceed accordingly. As discussed, given gestational concerns, hopefully approval memo can be expedited, for Heartland to be able to proceed with the soonest available appointment secured for Monday 11/28.

Thank you all,

Julissa Portales Banzon, M.S.
Federal Field Specialist, Chicago
U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services
ACF/ORR/DCS
202-430-7944

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-----Original Message-----
From: Diane Pena [mailto:DPena@heartlandalliance.org]
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 4:31 PM
To: Kim, Curi (ACF)
Cc: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR); Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Banzon, Julissa (ACF); Susan Trudeau; Ricardo Jonas; Esmeralda Zavala; Lauren Selph; Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Buckley, Kirsten (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Fink, David (ACF)
Subject: Re: Portal documentation - RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency (b)(6) (b)(6)

Thank you. Yes, this makes sense and we will complete the Portal documentation as described below. In addition to the Portal documentation, do we need to submit a separate SIR as well or is that not necessary?

Thanks,
Diane

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 23, 2016, at 4:09 PM, Kim, Curi (ACF) <Curi.Kim@acf.hhs.gov<mailto:Curi.Kim@acf.hhs.gov>>wrote:

Thank you for asking us about how to document in the Portal; this is a tricky one.

One problem is that the previous shelter didn't document her healthcare visits exploring termination in the right place to begin with.

Here is a screenshot of how the report looks:

<image004.jpg>

As you can see, the 11/14 visits should have been entered as "Update Visits" to the IME because the condition of pregnancy was first identified during the IME and thus is not a new diagnosis. (When the data is pulled from the Portal, it'll just look like she somehow was pregnant twice.)

Anyway, in your case, to document correctly, please add an Update Visit under the IME. Under the Outcome of the Evaluation section, select "A complication or secondary condition was diagnosed" and a list of diagnoses will appear; click on the Genito-urinary/Reproductive category and select "Elective abortion" for the first Update Visit. For the second and third Update Visits, select "Condition or symptoms related to initial complaint." We don't want to select "Elective abortion" as a diagnosis for the second and third visits as then it will look like she had three abortions when we pull the data from the Portal.

<image003.png>

Hope this makes sense.

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Let you know if you have any questions!

Thanks,
Curi

Curi Kim, MD, MPH
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Refugee Health
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5585
curi.kim@acf.hhs.gov<mailto:curi.kim@acf.hhs.gov>
www.acf.hhs.gov<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/>

From: Diane Pena [mailto:DPena@heartlandalliance.org]
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 3:14 PM
To: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR); Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Banzon, Julissa (ACF); Susan Trudeau; Ricardo Jonas; Esmeralda Zavala; Lauren Selph; Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Fink, David (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF)
Subject: RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency (b)(6)

Thank you, Shaaanan.

SWK is working on the flight arrangements to transfer her to CHAP on Friday, and we have made the appointments for the 3 days starting on Monday.

Monica, attached is the Parental Notification waiver letter. As discussed, please have the SWK case managers obtain a signature from the mother and then scan it back to me before Monday.

I also have a few questions about documentation:

1. How should we document the procedure in the Medical section of the Portal? Anything specific that we should include?

2. Should we email about the DCS Medical Team about the procedure?

3. Do we need to complete an SIR as well?

Thanks,
Diane

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Diane Peña | Associate Director of Program Operations Heartland Alliance | SAFEty Initiatives / Youth &Residential Services
4822 N Broadway Ave, 2nd Floor Chicago, IL 60640
O: 773.433.1200 C: 773.447.4680 F: 773.271.8810
E: dpena@heartlandalliance.org<mailto:dpena@heartlandalliance.org>W: www.heartlandalliance.org<http://www.heartlandalliance.org/>

From: Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR) [mailto:Shaanan.Meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 12:34 PM
To: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Banzon, Julissa (ACF); Diane Pena; Susan Trudeau; Ricardo Jonas; Esmeralda Zavala; Lauren Selph; Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Fink, David (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF)
Subject: RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency (b)(6)

I called the healthcare provider that will be carrying out the proposed 3 day procedure - Family Planning Associates - just to clarify why the abortion would take 3 days and had the clinic clarify the day by day procedure. This seems appropriate after confirming with various Obstetric resources.

Thank you all for your efforts in facilitating this medical transfer.

Have a wonderful holiday.

Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
LCDR, US Public Health Service
Medical Officer - Unaccompanied Children's Program Office of Refugee Resettlement Administration for Children and Families U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-4639 (office)
(301) (b)(6) (cell)
Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov<mailto:Shaanan.meyerstein@acf.hhs.gov>

From: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 1:22 PM
To: Banzon, Julissa (ACF); Diane Pena; Susan Trudeau; Ricardo Jonas; Esmeralda Zavala; Lauren Selph
Cc: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Fink, David (ACF)
Subject: RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency (b)(6)

Hello,

The program is working on submitting the memo to be submitted to HQ.

Thank you,

Monica Gonzalez, MPA
Federal Field Specialist-Chicago

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DHHS/ACF/ORR/DCS
(202) 748-1900

From: Banzon, Julissa (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 12:14 PM
To: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Diane Pena; Susan Trudeau; Ricardo Jonas; Esmeralda Zavala; Lauren Selph
Cc: De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF); Fink, David (ACF)
Subject: RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6)

Good afternoon,

Given the nature and time sensitivity/urgency of this transfer request and per approval from Senior FFS Supervisor Jim De La Cruz and ORR medical team to proceed with transfer from SWK to CHAP to ensure minor 's access to specialized reproductive/medical follow-up services, will you please advise if memo was already submitted to ORR/HQ to secure written approval for requested medical procedure (now determined to be a 3-day procedure)?

Copying FFS Supervisor David Fink as he is covering for Jose this week.

Thank you,

Julissa Portales Banzon, M.S.
Federal Field Specialist, Chicago
U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services
ACF/ORR/DCS
202-430-7944

From: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 11:25 AM
To: Diane Pena; Susan Trudeau; Ricardo Jonas; Esmeralda Zavala; Lauren Selph
Cc: Banzon, Julissa (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Subject: RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency: (b)(6)

Hi Diana,

Thank you for following up with the information. I will ensure the program communicates all the info to the UC and begin the transfer communications with CHAP.

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Thank you,

Monica Gonzalez, MPA
Federal Field Specialist-Chicago
DHHS/ACF/ORR/DCS
(202) 748-1900

From: Diane Pena [mailto:DPena@heartlandalliance.org]
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 11:03 AM
To: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF); Susan Trudeau; Ricardo Jonas; Esmeralda Zavala; Lauren Selph
Cc: Banzon, Julissa (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Subject: RE: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency; (b)(6)

Hi Monica,

Yes, we can accept this minor at CHAP on Friday. Please have the SWK team contact Esmeralda regarding the travel information for this transfer.

I have contacted Family Planning Associates, which is able to terminate pregnancies up to 23.3 weeks. The procedure involves 3-6 hour appointments for 3 consecutive days and we are able to make appointments staring on Monday, 11/28/16. Please note that if Family Planning Associates determines that she is beyond 23 weeks, then we will continue pre-natal care at CHAP and counsel her on other options, including adoption.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Thanks,
Diane

Diane Peña | Associate Director of Program Operations Heartland Alliance | SAFEty Initiatives / Youth &Residential Services
4822 N Broadway Ave, 2nd Floor Chicago, IL 60640
O: 773.433.1200 C: 773.447.4680 F: 773.271.8810
E: dpena@heartlandalliance.org<mailto:dpena@heartlandalliance.org>W: www.heartlandalliance.org<http://www.heartlandalliance.org/>

From: Gonzalez, Monica (ACF) [mailto:Monica.Gonzalez@acf.hhs.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 10:18 AM
To: Diane Pena
Cc: Banzon, Julissa (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Meyerstein, Shaanan (ACF) (CTR); Gonzalez, Jose (ACF)
Subject: Transfer of UC with Medical Urgency; (b)(6)
Importance: High

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Hello Diane,

Thank you for accepting the above UC into the CHAP program. As discussed, please find attached the SIRs for the above UC who has requested to terminate her pregnancy due to being raped. We are looking to transfer her by Friday, November 25th. Program has received approval for UC to terminate the pregnancy from FFS Supervisor Jim De La Cruz and ORR Medical Team.

Below is a synopsis from the medical team at SWK:

1)I called OB's office for further clarification and confirmation since there is a discrepancy on number of weeks gestation. She was 19 weeks gestation on 11/14/16. Reason for discrepancy: The minor disclosed during IME on 11/11/16 to shelter medical provider that her LMP had been 10/28/16, but per OB's office staff and OB's Progress Notes, minor stated LMP had been 7/03/2016. She also had an ultrasound done the day of visit 11/14/16, which was also used to estimate fetus' gestational age of 19 weeks on 11/14/16. Full Progress Notes were faxed to us today confirming his information.

2) Per her OB/GYN, she informed me today that she does not counsel either way (for/against) when a client discloses they wish to terminate pregnancy, nor do they refer them elsewhere. The client will have to do this on their own. In our minor's case, I will find a different place to refer minor to ASAP so that risks of procedure and options are discussed with the minor. I will also consult with Clinical Dept. on this.

3) Mother has been notified and is supportive.

4)Minor is aware of options and risks.

In terms of Family Reunification-this is a CAT1-with mother in Iowa.

Program is currently working on the transfer packet.

Thank you,

Monica Gonzalez, MPA
Federal Field Specialist-Chicago
DHHS/ACF/ORR/DCS
(202) 748-1900

Unless specifically indicated, nothing in this email should be interpreted as a digital or electronic signature that can be used to form, execute, document, agree to, enter into, accept or authenticate a

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contract or other legal document. This electronic mail transmission and any attached documents may contain confidential or privileged information for the sole use of the intended recipient(s). Any review, use, distribution or disclosure by anyone other than the intended recipient(s) is strictly prohibited. If you believe that you have received this message in error, please notify the sender by reply transmission and delete or destroy the message without copying or disclosing it.
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--

Will separate what will be available immediately and what needs to be in addendum later. Please comment if you have suggestions on that.

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/31 14:52:14
Delivered Date:	2017/03/31 14:52:00

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Subject:	RE: UC requesting pregnancy termination
Date:	2017/03/29 17:05:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Stand by.

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 4:59 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: FW: UC requesting pregnancy termination

Hi Jonathan,

Can we proceed with the current recommendation?

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Unaccompanied Children Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
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Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) [mailto (b)(6) @swkey.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 4:22 PM
To: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF); Sanchez, Alex (ACF)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Silvia F. Mendoza; Claudia M Ruiz; Reina Cossio; Jennifer Matos Ramos; White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF)
Subject: Re: UC requesting pregnancy termination

Good afternoon, in response to your questions, We, at Las Palmas have staffed this case and here are the answers to your questions.

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1. Minor has received services provided at shelter with her clinician. The program is moving towards reunification and supporting the minor's plan of abortion once arriving to her destination in Florida, where she will receive abortion counseling services. Would you recommend otherwise?

2. Sponsor has been notified of pregnancy during a family session. Minor has disclosed that she would like to have an abortion. Minor has declined to inform mother in COO about the pregnancy. The safety plan developed for minor includes that she would notify and get consent from mother before moving forward with abortion once in Florida. Sponsor has expressed full support of any decision client makes towards her pregnancy.

3. Safety plan has been developed with information of resources for both prenatal care and abortion services. Medical will develop a safety plan for referral to neurologist once reunified with sponsor.

Your guidance is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your time.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Southwest Key Program 924

Cell: (b)(6)

"What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal."

-Albert Pine

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From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) <Michael.Bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 12:00:19 PM
To: Rosalia Ortiz; Sanchez, Alex (ACF)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Silvia F. Mendoza; Claudia M Ruiz; Reina Cossio; Jennifer Matos Ramos; White, Jonathan (ACF); De LA Cruz, James (ACF); Ivonne Velazquez
Subject: RE: UC requesting pregnancy termination

Good Afternoon,

Can you answer the following questions?

- Can we confirm that the minor has received options counseling for the pregnancy as discussed?
- Can we confirm that the sponsor and the minor's parents have been notified of the pregnancy?
- Can we please ensure that resources for pregnancy supports in Florida where the minor is headed are part of the discharge plan?

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Unaccompanied Children Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) [mailto (b)(6) @swkey.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 6:27 PM
To: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

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Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Sanchez, Alex (ACF); Silvia F. Mendoza; Claudia M Ruiz; Reina Cossio; Jennifer Matos Ramos
Subject: Re: UC requesting pregnancy termination

My apologies, she is a category 2. She will be reunified with her aunt in Miami Florida. As per case managers case is ready to submit.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Casa Esperanza

Southwest Key Program 960

Cell: (b)(6)

"What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal."

-Albert Pine

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From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 5:14:15 PM
To: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Alex.Sanchez@ACF.hhs.gov; Silvia F.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Mendoza; Claudia M Ruiz; Reina Cossio; Jennifer Matos Ramos
Subject: UC requesting pregnancy termination

Hello Dr. Bartholomew, I am writing in regards to female minor, (b)(6) she is the youth that arrived at Las Palmas Program 924 and was requesting to terminate her pregnancy. At this time minor has been taken to OB/GYN appointment where it is confirmed that she is 9 weeks 6 days pregnant. Case manager notified us that the only things pending to reunify minor was medical (xray, labs, ect). Upon requesting chest xray, PCP noted that youth's xray was abnormal. Although she is negative for TB condition, the following findings were documented.

Findings as reported by Erica Yang MD: There is a dextroconvex thoracolumbar scoliosis measuring approx 8 degrees, with apex at T12-L1, with suspicion butterfly vertebrae at T12 and possibly T11.

For this reason PCP is referring to neurologist for further evaluation. We have called to schedule an appointment for neurologist in which they are telling us that it will be about 3 weeks for an appointment and they need to verify they can see a pregnant minor. Taking into consideration her pregnancy and her decision to terminate, keeping her here will add weeks to her pregnancy to or about 12 weeks. I am asking for your guidance as to how to proceed from here.

Will minor be able to proceed with pregnancy termination? (She still refuses to tell mom in COO, sponsor is aware of pregnancy)

Is the neurologist visit necessary here or can that be followed up with upon reunification?

Thank you in advance.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Casa Las Palmas

Southwest Key Program 924

Cell: (b)(6) if there is no answer, please call (b)(6)

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-Albert Pine

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Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/29 17:05:08
Delivered Date:	2017/03/29 17:05:00

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Subject:	RE: UC Requesting pregnancy termination
Date:	2017/03/31 16:16:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Received. I am reviewing and then will engage Scott to confirm next steps.

Jonathan

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 4:15 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: FW: UC Requesting pregnancy termination

Jonathan,

Please see the below email.

DHUC recommendation is that the child is ready for discharge.

Please advise on whether the program can proceed.

Thank you

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Unaccompanied Children Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C St SW, MS 5123
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

From: (b)(6) [mailto (b)(6) @swkey.org]
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 3:56 PM
To: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: White, Jonathan (ACF); Misegades, Lara (ACF); Velazquez, Ivonne (ACF); (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: UC Requesting pregnancy termination

Good afternoon Dr. Bartholomew-

After we reaching out to the program we got clarification on the response to the questions you asked:

- Can we confirm that the minor has received options counseling for the pregnancy as discussed?

The minor was given a pregnancy counseling session today at 10:00am by Adelante Clinic (letter attached)

- Can we confirm that the sponsor and the minor's parents have been notified of the pregnancy?

Yes, her sponsor (aunt) was notified by phone of the minor's pregnancy during a family session by the minor in the presence of the her clinician.

- Can we please ensure that resources for pregnancy supports in Florida where the minor is headed are part of the discharge plan?

Yes, all pertinent information will be included in the discharge envelope.

Resources for pregnancy care:

We have contacted:

1. Medical Care For Women: Liburd Carmelle MD

   119095th St, Miami, FL 33150. Phone: (305) 696-9400

   This office offers Spanish speaking services. I was informed that the office does accept Medicaid. In case the minor don't have the insurance the alos have the self-pay program that allow a full OB exam from $60 to$180. The next appointment available is 4/11. The clinical medical assistance name is (b)(6)

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2. Borinquen Health Care Center

3601ederal Highway .Miami FL 33137. 305-576-6611

We have spoken to (b)(6) with the appointment department. They are Spanish speaking. She has stated that minor and aunt can come in as a walk in M-F 730am-11am. They will go to the 3rd floor where they will sign in at OB/GYN reception area. Minor needs birth certificate and immunizations at time of sign in. Sponsor (aunt) will need an ID and verification of release form. Payment is done according to a sliding scale.

Resources for Neurologist

We have contacted:

Neuro Network Partners (Nicklaus Children's Hospital)
3200 SW 60th Court, Suite 302
Miami, FL 33155
Phone: 305-662-8330
Fax: 305-663-2813
Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30am - 5:00pm
Closed for Lunch 1:00pm - 2:00pm
We spoke to (b)(6) the receptionist. They are Spanish speaking. She stated that sponsor (aunt) needs to call and leave her contact information with receptionist. Receptionist will then pass along information to nurse, nurse will then call sponsor (aunt). Phone call will consist of payment plan options and estimate of visit.

Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Thank you,

(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Direct: (b)(6)
Cell: (5
frivera@swkey.org

SouthWest Key Programs, National Headquarters. 6002 Jain Lane| Austin, Texas 78721 | Ph: 512.462.2181 (b)(6)
Fax: 512.462.2028 1 Cell (b)(6)

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message to the above address via the United States Postal Service. We will reimburse any costs you incur in notifying and returning the message to us.

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) [mailto:Michael.Bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov]
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 10:27 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) @swkey.org>; (b)(6) (b)(6)
Cc: White, Jonathan (ACF) <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>; Misegades, Lara (ACF) <Lara.Misegades@acf.hhs.gov>; Ivonne Velazquez <ivonne.velazquez@acf.hhs.gov>
Subject: UC Requesting pregnancy termination

Good Morning,

ORR received the response to the previous questions from the program. The responses need further clarity. It might be best if you all can reach back to the program and provide answers to the following questions again:

- • Can we confirm that the minor has received options counseling for the pregnancy as discussed?
- • Can we confirm that the sponsor and the minor's parents have been notified of the pregnancy?
- • Can we please ensure that resources for pregnancy supports in Florida where the minor is headed are part of the discharge plan?

Thank you

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Unaccompanied Children Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
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Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-401-5375
michael.bartholomew@acf.hhs.gov
www.acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/31 16:16:33
Delivered Date:	2017/03/31 16:16:00

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
CC:	"Misegades, Lara (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bb1ce43ecb18472b86f2b1dd90441103-Misegades,>"
Subject:	RE: Presentation
Date:	2017/03/31 16:39:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

CDR Bartholomew,

Thank you for the opportunity to review. I have made some edits to the presentation, particularly the introductory section characterizing the program. A few things we are not permitted use in presentations to the public (outside the Federal government):

(b)(5)

I have tried to provide pre-cleared slide information for those areas that had to be removed.

Sorry to be a pain about this. Please let me know any questions that may remain.

Jonathan

From: Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 6:34 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Cc: Misegades, Lara (ACF)
Subject: Presentation

CDR White,

Attached to this email is a PDF version of Dr. Meyerstein's presentation on April 4th at Children's National Medical Center. He is a presenter during their Global Health course. The audience for his presentation will consist mainly of medical residents and medical students, however these sessions are open to those faculty and staff with an interest in global health.

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Both LCDR Misegades and I have reviewed and provided edits to the presentation and subsequently have provided Division clearance.

I am submitting this to you for your review, consideration and clearance.

V/r

Michael L. Bartholomew, M.D., FAAP
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service
Director, Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children (DHUC)
Unaccompanied Children Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
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Recipient:	"Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"; "Misegades, Lara (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bb1ce43ecb18472b86f2b1dd90441103-Misegades,>"
Sent Date:	2017/03/31 16:39:40
Delivered Date:	2017/03/31 16:39:00

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Davis, Gregory (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=47b15d866d8040ed839cdfd5c2b7cb89-Davis, Greg>"; "Gnipp, Gregg (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b07ccff1ca5f45f3ba9332e64acf9553-Gnipp, Greg>"; "Hooban, Tala (ACF) (Tala.Hooban@acf.hhs.gov)"; "Applegate, Allen (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2807fe61d8a64954a391b9ccaeff184a-Applegate,>"
Subject:	FW: ORR Shelter Operation Report BCFS HHS EMD
Date:	2017/05/08 09:07:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

DPLites:

I thought you might find both interesting and indeed very useful the attached Shelter Operations Report prepared by BCFS on its Bliss operation.

Jonathan

From: (b)(6) [mailto(b)(6)@bcfs.net]
Sent: Saturday, May 06, 2017 5:08 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Polen, Alexis (ACF)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: ORR Shelter Operation Report BCFS HHS EMD

Jonathan and Alexis,
Hope you are having a good weekend. Attached you will find our operations report regarding the ORR shelter operation 2016-2017 at the Dona Ana Range Complex. I am resending this document; it has been updated with terminology to reflect the preferred use of UAC vs UC. Again, please let me know if you have any questions.
Take care,
Kari

Kari Tatro EVP/COO – Administration, Education &Emergency Operations
BCFS
Administrative &Foundation Office
1506 Bexar Crossing | San Antonio, TX 78232
office (210) 832-5000 |**fax** (210) 832-5005
direct (210) 208-5607|**cell** (b)(6)
corporate website www.BCFS.net | **program website** www.BCFS.net/EMD

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From: Kari Tatro
Sent: Thursday, May 4, 2017 2:50 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF) <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>; 'Polen, Alexis (ACF)' <Alexis.Polen@acf.hhs.gov>
Subject: ORR Shelter Operation Report BCFS HHS EMD

Hello Jonathan and Alexis,
Attached you will find our operations report regarding the ORR shelter operation 2016-2017 at the Dona Ana Range Complex. This provides a summary of the operation relative to scope, timeline and services rendered. Please let me know if you have any questions.
Hope all is well,
Kari

Kari Tatro EVP/COO – Administration, Education &Emergency Operations
BCFS
Administrative &Foundation Office
1506 Bexar Crossing | San Antonio, TX 78232
office (210) 832-5000 |**fax** (210) 832-5005
direct (210) 208-5607|**cell** (210) 865-6400
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Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Davis, Gregory (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=47b15d866d8040ed839cdfd5c2b7cb89-Davis, Greg>"; "Gnipp, Gregg (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b07ccff1ca5f45f3ba9332e64acf9553-Gnipp, Greg>"; "Hooban, Tala (ACF) (Tala.Hooban@acf.hhs.gov)"; "Applegate, Allen (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2807fe61d8a64954a391b9ccaeff184a-Applegate,>"
Sent Date:	2017/05/08 09:07:47
Delivered Date:	2017/05/08 09:07:00

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"; "Kurkjy, Brian (ACF) (CTR) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=faee3bcd11ca4d88b8e39a7a6a4b49e0-Kurkjy, Bri>"
CC:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
Subject:	RE: HHS Priorities Data Call
Date:	2017/05/01 13:15:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

I have attached the update with UAC information. We have responses on Mental Health and Disaster Response.

From: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Sent: Monday, May 01, 2017 12:33 PM
To: Kurkjy, Brian (ACF) (CTR)
Cc: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: FW: HHS Priorities Data Call

Brian,

I have attached the draft copy. You will receive updates from DRA, Faith an Jonathan. Please update the sheet and send it to Ken for his review and then to Scott. This is due by 5pm.

Thanks,
Laura

From: Lloyd, Scott (ACF)
Sent: Monday, May 01, 2017 7:59 AM
To: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: FW: HHS Priorities Data Call

Hi Laura,

Do we have info on this?

Thank you,
Scott

From: Pilato, Anna (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 5:56 PM
To: ACF - Senior Leadership Officials

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: Powers, Mary (ACF)
Subject: HHS Priorities Data Call

Dear Colleagues,

Following up on our discussion this afternoon regarding Secretary Price's priorities, please see below the data points that we are collecting from each program. The deadline for this information is **COB Monday, May 1, 2017**. As a reminder, we welcome information on the following topics, with a focus on the first two:

1. Opioids and Substance Abuse
2. Mental Health
3. Childhood Obesity
4. Disaster and Emergency Response

The following questions should be used to guide your response:

- Which of your current programs touch these priorities?
- How many grants are currently funding activities and programs around these priorities?
- How much funding is currently being directed to those grants?
- Are there partners or national experts (faith-based/NGOs/etc) working in these areas who we should be aware of?
- Is there any state activity on this that we should be aware of?
- Has there been any significant activity (events, campaigns, etc) around these priorities in your program offices over the past year?

Do not worry about formatting, the Office of Communications will standardize and create one comprehensive document. Also remember, that we should think outside the box and stretch a little on how we can make connections with the Secretary's priorities. This is only a starting point for future and subsequent discussions, so there are no bad ideas or suggestions. I look forward to hearing from you in the coming weeks and months on how we can best link the tremendous work you do each and every day with the priorities of the department.

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Please let me, Mary Powers or Johnathan Monroe know if you have any questions or concerns while completing this request. Send your submissions to Johnathan at Johnathan.Monroe@acf.hhs.gov and cc Mary at Mary.powers@acf.hhs.gov.

Best Regards,
Anna Pilato
Deputy Assistant Secretary, External Affairs
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
202-401-9216
Anna.Pilato@acf.hhs.gov

cid:image001.png@01D286C2.CC054300

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"; "Kurkjy, Brian (ACF) (CTR) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=faee3bcd11ca4d88b8e39a7a6a4b49e0-Kurkjy, Bri>"; "Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
Sent Date:	2017/05/01 13:15:20
Delivered Date:	2017/05/01 13:15:00

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"
Subject:	Re: Our call this AM.
Date:	2017/10/21 11:24:42
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Received. Stand by.

Jonathan White

Commander, US Public Health Service

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Jonathan.White@acf.hhs.gov

(202) (b)(6)

On: 21 October 2017 11:17, "De LA Cruz, James (ACF)" <James.DeLACruz@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sir,

Please see the chain of emails. Let us know if we should proceed with sending the FR Packet to the sponsor. In regards to proceeding past that we would wait for Senior Management to tell us on Monday if we should
procced with coordinating finger print services, contact with the consulate if necessary, and arranging for PRS.

James S. De La Cruz

DHHS/ACF/ORR/DCS

Senior Federal Field Specialist Supervisor

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Division of Children's Services

Mary E. Switzer Building, 5th Floor (Room: 5223)

330 C Street SW

Washington, DC 20201

Office: 202-690-8477

Cell: (b)(6)

Fax: 202-401-1022

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/ucs

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: De LA Cruz, James (ACF)

Sent: Saturday, October 21, 2017 10:43 AM

To: Jessica Martinez; Brooks, Teresa (ACF)

Cc: Melissa Aguilar

Subject: Re: Our call this AM.

This great Jessica. This will be elevated to Senior Management. Let's pause until we receive directions on how to proceed.

Jsd

On: 21 October 2017 10:33, "Jessica Martinez" <jessica.martinez@iestex.org>wrote:

Good Morning,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I'd like to provide the following brief update,

Please be advised, that I made contact with UAC's (b)(6) Jose Luis (unverified at this moment as proof of relationship is pending). Minor's (b)(6) Jose Luis, reiterated he intends on providing
a fax number for care provider to forward FRA. According to Jose Luis, he does not know his physical address, but understands that his mother reported he was in Atlanta, however, he wished to correct that information and reported he resides and works in "Crystal
Springs" Mississippi. In addition, Jose Luis stated he has a DIP (Documento de Identificacion Personal) from his home country of Guatemala. According to minor's (b)(6) he resides alone, he denies any other household members at this point, however he states
it is very difficult for him to contact care provider and be available to complete sponsor assessment because he works 6 days out of the week from 9am-8pm. He assured Program Director that he would text fax number and physical address this evening. I will follow up with minor's (b)(6) the evening of 10/21/17 to further discuss reunification process as due to time constraints minor's (b)(6) was not able to remain on phone call. Please note, on 10/18 assigned Case Manager received via email from minor's mother in home country a copy of minor's birth certificate and a copy of (b)(6) DIP (GU Identification card), minor's mother stated she would work diligently on obtaining her son's (minor's (b)(6) birth certificate. Case Manager will reach out to minor's mother today, 10/21 in order to follow-up with request for (b)(6) birth certificate so that formal proof of relationship may be established (all previously documents received to date have been uploaded to portal). According to assigned Case Manager R. Cummings, she has only been able to make contact with minor's (b)(6) on two brief occasions, the longest contact was established on 10/18 and lasted approximately 20 minutes at which time Case Manager discussed family reunification process, fingerprint requirements, and probably home study. According to assigned Case Manager, minor's (b)(6) reported he did not know his physical address and shared that he was apprehensive about fingerprints and home study, but nonetheless he agreed to partake and complete all reunification
requirements.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns regarding the update provided, I will gladly be of assistance, thank you.

Jessica Martinez, Program Director

IES LF SHELTER

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: De LA Cruz, James (ACF) <James.DeLACruz@acf.hhs.gov>

Sent: Saturday, October 21, 2017 8:24 AM

To: Brooks, Teresa (ACF); Jessica Martinez

Subject: Our call this AM.

Hi Teresa and Jessica,

Please find a summary of our call.

Let's see what the (b)(6) or the person(s) with whom the (b)(6) is staying will do to comply with ORR reunification procedures. We can proceed to learn what the (b)(6) says about sponsorship.
Please remember that neither ORR nor the program can tell anyone about the UAC's pregnancy status per the court order at this time—that part
remains in force.

To do this we should ask the (b)(6) about what documents he has to show proof of address, ID, and relationship. We also need to know if he has any criminal charges and if the believes that others in the household

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

will allow for public record checks or fingerprint check if necessary. Last, will he be willing to proceed to provide all these things on Tuesday? If he is lacking documents etc then on we can ask the Guatemalan consulate to assist on Tuesday. Tuesday is the target day to proceed if approval is provided from ORR Senior Management.

Last bullet. We are just finding out if the (b)(6) will sponsor in a tight time frame. WE CANNOT proceed with the FRP steps listed above until Senior Management is informed about what you find out and they give us a go.

James S. De La Cruz

DHHS/ACF/ORR/DCS

Senior Federal Field Specialist Supervisor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"De LA Cruz, James (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2eba95d119ab4cd6a77b34616dc3366c-De LA Cruz,>"
Sent Date:	2017/10/21 11:24:40
Delivered Date:	2017/10/21 11:24:42

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Brown, Anastasia (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=504943f4a32143f9b007879481c72fc6-Brown, Anas>"
Subject:	RE: Abortion vs. poverty; luxury, privately/govt funded abortions; and #JusticeForJane
Date:	2017/10/23 13:07:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Yes, she wrote me as well.

I am so sorry that ORR staff are in the crossfire on this issue.

Jonathan

-----Original Message-----
From: Brown, Anastasia (ACF)
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2017 12:52 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: FW: Abortion vs. poverty; luxury, privately/govt funded abortions; and #JusticeForJane

Jonathan,
Curi said you wanted us to forward these to you. I haven't had any voice messages but did receive this email. I had forwarded it to Lydia.
Anastasia

-----Original Message-----
From: (b)(6) [mailto:(b)(6)@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 21, 2017 3:50 AM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Swartz, Tricia (ACF); Simmons, Joann (ACF); Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF); Rubenstein, Carl (ACF); Colon, Mr. Ramon L (ACF); Kim, Curi (ACF); Brown, Anastasia (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF); ACF OPA Media Inquiries (ACF/OA)
Cc: media@aclu.org
Subject: Fwd: Abortion vs. poverty; luxury, privately/govt funded abortions; and #JusticeForJane

can anyone at this agency explain credibly how an abortion for "Jane"
be denied while so much other hypocrisy exists with Scott Lloyd and other supposed pro-life persons??

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: (b)(6)@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Oct 21, 2017 at 3:36 AM
Subject: Abortion vs. poverty; luxury, privately/govt funded abortions; and #JusticeForJane
To: ORRDirector@acf.hhs.gov
Cc: media@aclu.org

Scott Lloyd,

You're a "cabinet member" of a man who participates in child prostitution which funds abortions as well. That person is *rump who runs escort services a/k/a prostitution. Or did you think he was the ONLY casino owner in Vegas or New Jersey who didn't offer VIP (prostitution/sex escort) services or use escorts to "close deals"?
Does MeLayinYa *rump ring a bell?? This should remind you of her start or life accomplishment while actual First Ladies jumped rope or hopscotch as kids:
http://nypost.com/2016/08/01/melania-trumps-girl-on-girl-photos-from-racy-shoot-revealed/.
Pregnancies don't really fit into pornography or sex marketing/trafficking.

And then there's *rump's China sex escort services:
https://www.google.com/search?q=trump+china+sex+escort&oq=trump+chin&aqs=chrome.0.69i59j0j69i57j0l3.6513j0j8&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8
-- Escort means the men (or women) are escorted right to bed for sexual services including from children.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I also personally know of a teen who was prostituted out of *rump Tower NYC. She was fired for poor and cheaper Euro girls whose travel visas could be controlled while paying the children less money with less risks. However, abortions were forced as pregnancies could be used to blackmail *rump's clients who relied upon discretion, including keeping sex acts with children a secret.

Unknown to this NYC teen after she was fired, she used the name of a phony corporation in *rump's name to apply for an NYC HPD apartment (employment history) after being tossed out of *rump Tower NYC where she engaged in sex acts for free room and board. That phony corporation caused red flags and led right to *rump, and the phony corporation is one of many falsities on *rump's tax returns and one of the many reasons *rump is refusing to publicly disclose his returns while claiming to be wealthy and calling others frauds, phonies, etc.

Gee... if this teen is wrong, only one way to confirm this: *rump's tax returns for the past 2-decades. Ironic that *rump can hide his tax returns after forcing nation to witness his birther rants which led to forcing President Barack Obama to disclose his birth certificate PUBLICLY because of pure ignorance, while *rump himself was engaging in child prostitution and other degrading acts with degrading persons such as Jeffrey Epstein.
www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4164082/Pedophile-Jeffrey-Epstein-accused-new-sex-traffick-case.html

In case your selective pro-life memory kicks in again: Epstein was CONVICTED of soliciting minors for sex. One of which (or more than
disclosed) was raped by *rump, and subsequently filed a lawsuit against *rump. I wonder how many of those children were forced to have abortions for "client discretion"???

But please address the following:

1. Poverty is #1 child killer worldwide. Shouldn't this be your focus instead of pretending to be pro-life? Poverty related deaths happen AFTER the fetus is carried to term, or even while the fetus is still developing. Where are your "pro-life cries for help" for those countless and avoidable deaths which increase daily?

2. What are you doing to stop wealthy women who use abortion as birth control? Nothing, I'm quite sure of that as several wealthy women directly associated with you, *rump and his cabinet, and GOP members use abortion as birth control. Are wealthy stopped from flying to other areas/states including countries to have abortion(s) or fired from their jobs? NOPE! in fact, you're still associated with privileged abortion persons and their wealthy doctors at political functions. Does Hope Hicks use birth control? She's unwed and has "male partners". Or is she on the Bristol Palin Abstinence-Pregnancy Out of Wedlock Plan?

3. Israel allows abortion ON DEMAND. Yet US funds Israel.

Can the pro-life hypocrisy stop and allow the child being held in refugee resettlement camp have her abortion? #JusticeForJane

I will supporting any woman who wants to have an abortion especially because of the above 3 issues, and GOP's "budget" policies which do not provide proper healthcare for poor unborn, BORN babies, returning war veterans, elderly and terminally ill.

If you want to play God, do as God does: STANDS BACK AND ALLOWS PERSONS TO MAKE THEIR OWN DEMOCRATIC CHOICES. And THEN do what the U.S. Constitution states: SEPARATE CHURCH AND STATE. Your personal religious beliefs are not to be enforced upon others. Religion is a personal choice and path to take or NOT to take.

If you think you're God or doing any Gods' work, you're miserably failing. Unless your God is a god of pure evil, ignorance and hypocrisy, in which case you're succeeding in representing that god well.

--
If you can't handle me at my worst, then you sure as hell don't deserve me at my best. -Marilyn Monroe

--
If you can't handle me at my worst, then you sure as hell don't deserve me at my best. -Marilyn Monroe

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Brown, Anastasia (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=504943f4a32143f9b007879481c72fc6-Brown, Anas>"
Sent Date:	2017/10/23 13:07:10

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Delivered Date:	2017/10/23 13:07:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "White, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Subject:	RE: Adoption Request
Date:	2017/10/23 13:59:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Forward them to me.

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2017 1:56 PM
To: White, Laura (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: Fwd: Adoption Request

I guess we should collect all these and decide how to handle.

Begin Forwarded Message:
From: "(b)(6) @gmail.com>
Subject: Adoption Request
Date: 23 October 2017 13:22
To: "Tota, Kenneth (ACF)" <kenneth.tota@acf.hhs.gov>

Mr. Tota,

We heard the recent news stories about the young undocumented woman requesting an abortion. We would like to offer to adopt the child she is carrying, if she is willing to carry the baby to full term. Would you be able to direct our offer to her and to those who could help facilitate the adoption process if she is interested in pursuing this with us?

We have been married three and a half years, and have a son who is almost one. We hope to have more children in the coming years and feel that adoption would be another beautiful way to grow our family. We would be happy to share more information about ourselves and to go through the formal process of preparing for an independent adoption if she would be willing to consider us.

We are grieved that this young woman feels trapped between incredibly difficult alternatives and we hope that adoption would be a chance for her to have a fresh start. Please let her know that we are praying for her in this challenging time.

Many thanks,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6)

Señor Tota,

Escuchamos las noticias recientes sobre la joven indocumentada que solicita un aborto. Nos gustaría ofrecer adoptar al niño que lleva, si está dispuesta a llevar al bebé a término completo. ¿Podría comunicarle nuestra oferta a ella y a aquellos que podrían ayudar a facilitar el proceso de adopción si ella está interesada en continuar con esto?

Hemos estado casados por tres años y medio, y tenemos un hijo que de casi un año. Esperamos tener más hijos en los próximos años y sentimos que la adopción sería otra forma hermosa de hacer crecer nuestra familia. Estaríamos felices de compartir más información sobre nosotros y pasar por el proceso formal de preparación para una adopción independiente si estuviera dispuesta a considerarnos.

Nos duele que esta joven mujer se sienta atrapada entre alternativas increíblemente difíciles y esperamos que la adopción sea una oportunidad para que tenga un nuevo comienzo. Por favor, hágale saber que estamos rezando por ella en este desafiante momento.

Muchas gracias,

(b)(6)

(Traducido por Pablo Serna)

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "White, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Sent Date:	2017/10/23 13:59:44
Delivered Date:	2017/10/23 13:59:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"White, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Subject:	RE:
Date:	2017/10/23 14:54:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Nope, not reportable.

From: White, Laura (ACF)
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2017 2:47 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: FW:

Nor does this one—right?

From (b)(6) [mailto (b)(6) @gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, October 20, 2017 10:35 PM
To: ORR Director (ACF); Bena, Anna Marie (HHS/OGC) (ACF)
Subject:

Mr. Scott Lloyd and Ms. Anna Maria Bena,

The "Jane Doe" being denied an abortion in this article is a minor, and therefore was raped, as she was not of legal age to give consent for sex. And yet, you are forcing the trauma of unwanted pregnancy and birth on her with absolutely no regard to how it will affect her: http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/10/20/559152061/appeals-court-sets-terms-for-abortion-for-teen-immigrant

Anyone who uses their power to force birth on women and girls should have to face the same consequences. They should first be forced to endure 9 months of nausea, weight gain, and fatigue inducing medication, 8 hours of contraction mimicking electric shocks, a 7.75# rubber baby doll pushed in and out of their pelvic bodily orifices until their organs prolapse and literally herniate out of their bodies, be denied the physical therapy that may help repair the damages, suffer permanent scarring from their chests down to their thighs, be committed to paying $304,480 over the next 18 years to someone else's life, take forced career setbacks, and take depression inducing medication for a year following the assault on their bodies. This will cover many common issues women face as a result of pregnancy and childbirth. To be really fair, we should make some of them "birth" twin dolls, others pay double, triple, or even more to account for special needs, as well as forcing some of them to choose a person in terror life they love dearly and know that person will have to suffer tremendous pain, knowing that they are the cause of it, bc they want to destroy others' rights to protect themselves, and even sometimes, suffering unborn babies. Still not anything compared to real life, but it's a start.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

God does not want you to forcibly control others. You are not doing God's work. You are abusing your power. You are both in positions to affect positive change - look at the ramifications of your actions! If you continue to deny legal, safe abortions and force unwanted births, you are guaranteeing that many will suffer and die unnecessarily by seeking aboutions wherever they can, resulting in unsafe abortions.

I respect my life and my body too much to ever put the law above myself, and I am teaching my children to do the same.

Athanasia Badoian

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"White, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Sent Date:	2017/10/23 14:54:38
Delivered Date:	2017/10/23 14:54:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	(b)(6) com"
Subject:	Information on sponsoring a UAC
Date:	2017/10/23 16:34:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Dr. Cunningham,

Thanks for your telephone call. As we discussed, below is brief summary and a link to learn more about the process for applying (try the link marked "here"). If you have questions, my contact information is at the bottom of the screen.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jonathan

PROCESS FOR APPLICATION TO SPONSOR UAC IN ORR CARE

ORR care provider facility staff contacts the potential sponsor following policies found at 2.2.1 Identification of Qualified Sponsors and 2.2.2 Contacting Potential Sponsors and sends the *Family Reunification Packet* (found here) to the potential sponsor.

The potential sponsor completes the sponsorship process following policies found at 2.2.3 The Application for Release; 2.2.4 Required Documents for Submission with the Application for Release; and, 2.2.6 Additional Questions and Answers about this Topic. Completing the sponsorship application process includes:

- Filing forms from the *Family Reunification Packet*, including a *Family Reunification Application*, submitting all required supporting documentation;
- Completes a background check; household members completes background checks (if required) following relevant policies found at Section 2.5.1 Criteria for Background Checks; and,
- Agreeing to a home study, if applicable (see, section 2.4.2 Home Study Requirement, for more information concerning which cases receive home studies).

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The ORR care provider simultaneously completes the assessment process, which includes:

- Interviews of the potential sponsor, the child and other family members;
- Completion of clinical and case management assessments (such as the UC Assessment and UC Case Review); and,
- Any additional information, specific to the case, as needed.

Once the application and assessments are complete, the release recommendation process starts.
The ORR care provider, case coordinator and if applicable, home study case worker, review all assessments/interviews, publicly available background check information, and submit their release recommendations to the ORR/Federal Field Specialist. For more information on the review process see policies at 2.7 Recommendations and Decisions on Release, specifically policies from 2.7.1 through 2.7.6. If the case requires FBI background check and CA/N check results, that information is reviewed by the ORR/FFS directly, see 2.5.2 Results of Background Checks on Release Decisions for more information.
ORR considers the following factors at section 2.4.1 Assessment Criteria when evaluating family members and other potential sponsors:

- The nature and extent of the sponsor's previous and current relationship with the child or youth and the unaccompanied child's family, if a relationship exists.
- The sponsor's motivation for wanting to sponsor the child or youth.
- The unaccompanied child's parent or legal guardian's perspective on the release to the identified potential sponsor (for cases in which the parent or legal guardian has designated a sponsor).
- The child or youth's views on the release and whether he or she wants to be released to the individual.
- The sponsor's understanding of the unaccompanied child's needs, as identified by ORR and the care provider.
- The sponsor's plan to provide adequate care, supervision, access to community resources, and housing.
- The sponsor's understanding of the importance of ensuring the unaccompanied child's presence at all future hearings or proceedings, including immigration court proceedings.
- The linguistic and cultural background of the child or youth and the sponsor, including cultural, social, and communal norms and practices for the care of children.
- The sponsor's strengths, resources, and mitigating factors in relation to any risks or special concerns of the child or sponsor, such as a criminal background, history of substance abuse, mental health issues, or domestic violence and child welfare concerns.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

- The unaccompanied child's current functioning and strengths in relation to any risk factors or special concerns, such as children or youth who are victims of human trafficking; are a parent or are pregnant; have special needs, disabilities or medical or mental health issues; have a history of criminal, juvenile justice, or gang involvement; or a history of behavioral issues.

Jonathan D. White
Commander, U.S. Public Health Service
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW
(202) 690-6984
jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	(b)(6) .com"
Sent Date:	2017/10/23 16:34:48
Delivered Date:	2017/10/23 16:34:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"White, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Subject:	FW: ACOG, AAP, SAHM Letter to Director Lloyd
Date:	2017/10/23 16:46:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Sorry—I tried to cc you but I autocorrected myself instead.

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2017 4:44 PM
To: Lloyd, Scott (ACF); Moreno, Mr. Pedro (ACF); Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Cc: White, Jonathan (ACF); Swartz, Tricia (ACF); Bartholomew, Michael (ACF)
Subject: FW: ACOG, AAP, SAHM Letter to Director Lloyd

Forwarding since this was sent to me.

From: Rebecca Nathanson [mailto:rnathanson@acog.org]
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2017 4:28 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); tricia.swartz@acf.hhs.gov.
Cc: Rachel Gandell Tetlow
Subject: FW: ACOG, AAP, SAHM Letter to Director Lloyd

Hello Jonathan and Tricia,

My name is Rebecca Nathanson, and I work in Government Affairs at the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. I wanted to make sure to pass along the attached letter from the Presidents of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine to Director Scott Lloyd expressing serious concerns about reports of women and adolescents in Office of Refugee Resettlement shelters being denied access to reproductive health care. The letter was sent on Friday, October 20th.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you might have.

Best,
Becca

Rebecca Nathanson
Federal Affairs Manager
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Rnathanson@acog.org
Direct: 202-314-2322

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cell: (b)(6)

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"White, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Sent Date:	2017/10/23 16:46:37
Delivered Date:	2017/10/23 16:46:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	(b)(6) @yahoo.com"
Subject:	Information on sponsoring a UAC
Date:	2017/10/23 17:15:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Ms. Sacks,

Thanks for your telephone call. As we discussed, below is brief summary and a link to learn more about the process for applying (try the link marked "here"). If you have questions, my contact information is at the bottom of the screen.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jonathan

PROCESS FOR APPLICATION TO SPONSOR UAC IN ORR CARE

ORR care provider facility staff contacts the potential sponsor following policies found at 2.2.1 Identification of Qualified Sponsors and 2.2.2 Contacting Potential Sponsors and sends the *Family Reunification Packet* (found here) to the potential sponsor.

The potential sponsor completes the sponsorship process following policies found at 2.2.3 The Application for Release; 2.2.4 Required Documents for Submission with the Application for Release; and, 2.2.6 Additional Questions and Answers about this Topic. Completing the sponsorship application process includes:

- Filing forms from the *Family Reunification Packet*, including a *Family Reunification Application*, submitting all required supporting documentation;
- Completes a background check; household members completes background checks (if required) following relevant policies found at Section 2.5.1 Criteria for Background Checks; and,
- Agreeing to a home study, if applicable (see, section 2.4.2 Home Study Requirement, for more information concerning which cases receive home studies).

The ORR care provider simultaneously completes the assessment process, which includes:

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- Interviews of the potential sponsor, the child and other family members;
- Completion of clinical and case management assessments (such as the UC Assessment and UC Case Review); and,
- Any additional information, specific to the case, as needed.

Once the application and assessments are complete, the release recommendation process starts.

The ORR care provider, case coordinator and if applicable, home study case worker, review all assessments/interviews, publicly available background check information, and submit their release recommendations to the ORR/Federal Field Specialist. For more information on the review process see policies at 2.7 Recommendations and Decisions on Release, specifically policies from 2.7.1 through 2.7.6. If the case requires FBI background check and CA/N check results, that information is reviewed by the ORR/FFS directly, see 2.5.2 Results of Background Checks on Release Decisions for more information.

ORR considers the following factors at section 2.4.1 Assessment Criteria when evaluating family members and other potential sponsors:

- The nature and extent of the sponsor's previous and current relationship with the child or youth and the unaccompanied child's family, if a relationship exists.
- The sponsor's motivation for wanting to sponsor the child or youth.
- The unaccompanied child's parent or legal guardian's perspective on the release to the identified potential sponsor (for cases in which the parent or legal guardian has designated a sponsor).
- The child or youth's views on the release and whether he or she wants to be released to the individual.
- The sponsor's understanding of the unaccompanied child's needs, as identified by ORR and the care provider.
- The sponsor's plan to provide adequate care, supervision, access to community resources, and housing.
- The sponsor's understanding of the importance of ensuring the unaccompanied child's presence at all future hearings or proceedings, including immigration court proceedings.
- The linguistic and cultural background of the child or youth and the sponsor, including cultural, social, and communal norms and practices for the care of children.
- The sponsor's strengths, resources, and mitigating factors in relation to any risks or special concerns of the child or sponsor, such as a criminal background, history of substance abuse, mental health issues, or domestic violence and child welfare concerns.
- The unaccompanied child's current functioning and strengths in relation to any risk factors or special concerns, such as children or youth who are victims of human

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trafficking; are a parent or are pregnant; have special needs, disabilities or medical or mental health issues; have a history of criminal, juvenile justice, or gang involvement; or a history of behavioral issues.

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Deputy Director for Children's Programs
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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW
(202) 690-6984
jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	(b)(6) @yahoo.com"
Sent Date:	2017/10/23 17:15:18
Delivered Date:	2017/10/23 17:15:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Hooban, Tala (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cc1590dcc77b438a88278a9587822546-Tala Hooban>"
Subject:	Re: HHS Preparedness for Pregnant Women Workgroup: Assessing and addressing needs post-Hurricane Harvey
Date:	2017/09/05 21:10:54
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Chris would know more. I understand Corps officers are deploying for ASPR recovery to work with ACF on assessments of human services and community systems. I think it's Allen's old assessment tool.

Jonathan White

Commander, US Public Health Service

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

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On: 05 September 2017 20:56, "Hooban, Tala (ACF)" <Tala.Hooban@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

<esv8@cdc.gov>, "Ellington, Sascha R. (CDC/ONDIEH/NCCDPHP)"
<frk5@cdc.gov>, "Franks, Jessica (CDC/ONDIEH/NCBDDD)" <luj8@cdc.gov>,
"Glover, Maleeka (CDC/OPHPR/DEO)" <mhg6@cdc.gov>, "Moore, Cynthia
(CDC/ONDIEH/NCBDDD)" <cam0@cdc.gov>, "Peacock, Georgina
(CDC/ONDIEH/NCBDDD)"
<ghn3@cdc.gov>, "Benke, (b)(6) (HRSA)" <MBenke@hrsa.gov>, "Lennon, Todd
(HRSA)" <TLennon@hrsa.gov>, "Mautone-Smith, Nancy (HRSA)" <NMautone-
Smith@hrsa.gov>, "Rhoden, Makeva (HRSA)" <MRhoden@hrsa.gov>, "Lu, Michael
(HRSA)" <MLu@hrsa.gov>, "Lawler, Michele (HRSA)"
<MLawler@hrsa.gov>, "Dykton, Christopher T. (HRSA)" <CDykton@hrsa.gov>,
"lmarquardt@hrs.gov" <lmarquardt@hrs.gov>, "Resnick, James (HRSA)"
<JResnick@hrsa.gov>, "Pressman, Emilee (HRSA)" <EPressman@hrsa.gov>, "Scott,
Joan (HRSA)" <JScott2@hrsa.gov>, "Mann,
Marie (HRSA)" <MMann@hrsa.gov>, "Sadler, Christie (HRSA)" <CSadler@hrsa.gov>,
"carolyn.aoyama@ihs.gov" <carolyn.aoyama@ihs.gov>, "Arnesen, Stacey (NIH/NLM)
[E]" <arneses@mail.nlm.nih.gov>, "Begg, Lisa (NIH/OD) [E]" <beggl@od.nih.gov>,
"Brown, Jeremy (NIH/NIGMS)
[E]" <jeremy.brown@nih.gov>, "cornelit@mail.nih.gov" <cornelit@mail.nih.gov>,
"Glavin, Sarah (NIH/NICHD) [E]" <glavins@mail.nih.gov>, "Halvorson, Lisa
(NIH/NICHD) [E]" <lisa.halvorson@nih.gov>, "Siegel, David (NIH/NICHD) [E]"
<siegelda@mail.nih.gov>, "Bennett-Pagan,
Sandra (HHS/OASH)" <Sandra.Bennett-pagan@hhs.gov>, "Bouvion, Renee
(HHS/OASH)" <Renee.Bouvion@hhs.gov>, "Calderon, Susana R. (HHS/OASH)"
<Susana.Calderon@hhs.gov>, "Collins Sharp, Beth (OS/OASH/OWH/DPI)"
<Beth.Collins-Sharp@hhs.gov>, "Devietti, Elizabeth (OS/OASH)"
<Elizabeth.Devietti@hhs.gov>, "Girgenti, Angela (HHS/OASH)"
<Angela.Girgenti@hhs.gov>, "Hoersch, Michelle (HHS/OASH)"
<Michelle.Hoersch@hhs.gov>, "Leggin, Brooke (HHS/OWH)"
<Brooke.Leggin@hhs.gov>, "Robinson, Laurie (HHS/OPHS)"
<Laurie.Robinson@hhs.gov>, "Ceinos,
Gustavo (OS/OASH)" <Gustavo.Ceinos@hhs.gov>, "Shrimplin, Sarah (OS/OASH)"
<Sarah.Shrimplin@hhs.gov>, "Simon, Alan (OS/OASH)" <Alan.Simon@hhs.gov>,
"Strawder, Kay A (HHS/OASH)" <Kay.Strawder@hhs.gov>, "Swanson, Lewissa
(OS/OASH)" <Lewissa.Swanson@hhs.gov>,
"Townser, Joyce (HHS/OASH)" <Joyce.Townser@hhs.gov>, "Tytel, Jessica
(OS/OASH)" <Jessica.Tytel@hhs.gov>, "Uddin, Sayeedha (OS/OASH)"
<Sayeedha.Uddin@hhs.gov>, "Worstell, Mary (HHS/OASH)"
<Mary.Worstell@hhs.gov>, "Vignier, Marline (HHS/OASH)"
<Marline.Vignier@hhs.gov>,
"EMG Recovery (OS/ASPR)" <EMGRECOVERY@HHS.GOV>, "OS EMG ABC
(HHS/ASPR)" <EMGABC@hhs.gov>

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Hooban, Tala (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cc1590dcc77b438a88278a9587822546-Tala Hooban>"
Subject:	Re: HHS Preparedness for Pregnant Women Workgroup: Assessing and addressing needs post-Hurricane Harvey
Date:	2017/09/05 21:52:49
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

That is ridiculous.

Jonathan White

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Deputy Director for Children's Programs

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Jonathan.White@acf.hhs.gov

(202) (b)(6)

On: 05 September 2017 21:30, "Hooban, Tala (ACF)" <Tala.Hooban@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

lol Chris said we just have folks at IRCT. I so confused.

On: 05 September 2017 21:10, "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:

Chris would know more. I understand Corps officers are deploying for ASPR recovery to work with ACF on assessments of human services and community systems. I think it's Allen's old assessment tool.

Jonathan White

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(CDC/ONDIEH/NCBDDD) (CTR)" <lqx9@cdc.gov>, "Dziuban, Eric
(CDC/ONDIEH/NCBDDD)"
<esv8@cdc.gov>, "Ellington, Sascha R. (CDC/ONDIEH/NCCDPHP)"
<frk5@cdc.gov>, "Franks, Jessica (CDC/ONDIEH/NCBDDD)" <luj8@cdc.gov>,
"Glover, Maleeka (CDC/OPHPR/DEO)" <mhg6@cdc.gov>, "Moore, Cynthia
(CDC/ONDIEH/NCBDDD)" <cam0@cdc.gov>, "Peacock, Georgina
(CDC/ONDIEH/NCBDDD)"
<ghn3@cdc.gov>, "Benke, Maria (HRSA)" <MBenke@hrsa.gov>, "Lennon, Todd
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Smith@hrsa.gov>, "Rhoden, Makeva (HRSA)" <MRhoden@hrsa.gov>, "Lu, Michael
(HRSA)" <MLu@hrsa.gov>, "Lawler, Michele (HRSA)"
<MLawler@hrsa.gov>, "Dykton, Christopher T. (HRSA)" <CDykton@hrsa.gov>,
"lmarquardt@hrs.gov" <lmarquardt@hrs.gov>, "Resnick, James (HRSA)"
<JResnick@hrsa.gov>, "Pressman, Emilee (HRSA)" <EPressman@hrsa.gov>, "Scott,
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"carolyn.aoyama@ihs.gov" <carolyn.aoyama@ihs.gov>, "Arnesen, Stacey (NIH/NLM)
[E]" <arneses@mail.nlm.nih.gov>, "Begg, Lisa (NIH/OD) [E]" <beggl@od.nih.gov>,
"Brown, Jeremy (NIH/NIGMS)
[E]" <jeremy.brown@nih.gov>, "cornelit@mail.nih.gov" <cornelit@mail.nih.gov>,
"Glavin, Sarah (NIH/NICHD) [E]" <glavins@mail.nih.gov>, "Halvorson, Lisa
(NIH/NICHD) [E]" <lisa.halvorson@nih.gov>, "Siegel, David (NIH/NICHD) [E]"
<siegelda@mail.nih.gov>, "Bennett-Pagan,
Sandra (HHS/OASH)" <Sandra.Bennett-pagan@hhs.gov>, "Bouvion, Renee
(HHS/OASH)" <Renee.Bouvion@hhs.gov>, "Calderon, Susana R. (HHS/OASH)"
<Susana.Calderon@hhs.gov>, "Collins Sharp, Beth (OS/OASH/OWH/DPI)"
<Beth.Collins-Sharp@hhs.gov>, "Devietti, Elizabeth (OS/OASH)"
<Elizabeth.Devietti@hhs.gov>, "Girgenti, Angela (HHS/OASH)"
<Angela.Girgenti@hhs.gov>, "Hoersch, Michelle (HHS/OASH)"
<Michelle.Hoersch@hhs.gov>, "Leggin, Brooke (HHS/OWH)"
<Brooke.Leggin@hhs.gov>, "Robinson, Laurie (HHS/OPHS)"
<Laurie.Robinson@hhs.gov>, "Ceinos,
Gustavo (OS/OASH)" <Gustavo.Ceinos@hhs.gov>, "Shrimplin, Sarah (OS/OASH)"
<Sarah.Shrimplin@hhs.gov>, "Simon, Alan (OS/OASH)" <Alan.Simon@hhs.gov>,
"Strawder, Kay A (HHS/OASH)" <Kay.Strawder@hhs.gov>, "Swanson, Lewissa
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"Townser, Joyce (HHS/OASH)" <Joyce.Townser@hhs.gov>, "Tytel, Jessica
(OS/OASH)" <Jessica.Tytel@hhs.gov>, "Uddin, Sayeedha (OS/OASH)"
<Sayeedha.Uddin@hhs.gov>, "Worstell, Mary (HHS/OASH)"
<Mary.Worstell@hhs.gov>, "Vignier, Marline (HHS/OASH)"
<Marline.Vignier@hhs.gov>,
"EMG Recovery (OS/ASPR)" <EMGRECOVERY@HHS.GOV>, "OS EMG ABC
(HHS/ASPR)" <EMGABC@hhs.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"White, Jonathan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e9b5fe526f1d4ba0a6cc8ddee8ec4d87-Jonathan Wh>"
Subject:	Fwd: Capacity Report Updates 09/05/17
Date:	2017/09/08 05:36:13
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Jonathan White

Commander, US Public Health Service

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Jonathan.White@acf.hhs.gov

(202) (b)(6)

From: "ACF Orrducs_Intakes (ACF)" <Orrducs_Intakes@acf.hhs.gov>

Subject: Capacity Report Updates 09/05/17

Date: 05 September 2017 15:10

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: "Acker Housman, Stephanie (OS/ASPE)" <Stephanie.AckerHousman@hhs.gov>, "Belay, Olympia (ACF) (CTR)" <Olympia.Belay@acf.hhs.gov>, "Davis, Gregory (ACF)" <Gregory.Davis@acf.hhs.gov>, "De LA Cruz, James (ACF)" <James.DeLACruz@acf.hhs.gov>, "Mella, Emily (ACF)" <Emily.Mella@acf.hhs.gov>, "Herrera, Ms. Rocio M. (ACF)" <Rocio.Herrera@acf.hhs.gov>, "Hogle, Olivia (ACF)" <Olivia.Hogle@acf.hhs.gov>, "Kabirigi, Mpinga (ACF) (CTR)" <Mpinga.Kabirigi@acf.hhs.gov>, "Keberab, Meron (ACF) (CTR)" <Meron.Keberab@acf.hhs.gov>, "Kurkjy, Brian (ACF) (CTR)" <Brian.Kurkjy@acf.hhs.gov>, "ORR DHUC" <DCSMedical@acf.hhs.gov>, "ORR DUCO - Project Officers" <DUCSProjectsOfficers@acf.hhs.gov>, "Sualog, Jallyn (ACF)" <Jallyn.Sualog@ACF.hhs.gov>, "Torres, Sabrina (ACF)" <Sabrina.Torres@acf.hhs.gov>, "Umana, Johanna (ACF) (CTR)" <Johanna.Umana@acf.hhs.gov>, "Viola, Sarah (ACF)" <Sarah.Viola@acf.hhs.gov>, "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>

Good Afternoon,

Please see the attached Capacity Report Updates for 09/04/17. There were **587** beds unavailable.

Thank you,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Johanna

ORR/DUCO Intakes

202-401-5709

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"White, Jonathan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e9b5fe526f1d4ba0a6cc8ddee8ec4d87-Jonathan Wh>"
Sent Date:	2017/09/08 05:36:11
Delivered Date:	2017/09/08 05:36:13

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Davis, Gregory (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=47b15d866d8040ed839cdfd5c2b7cb89-Davis, Greg>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Subject:	His House/pregnant UAC
Date:	2017/09/05 15:31:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Just noting based on conversation with Michael that His House is authorized to shelter pregnant UAC, who may have flight restrictions depending upon health and gestational age. We should have Jill or DHUC check that. Just linking you two. CAPT Davis deson't have enough complexity for this transfer and I hate to see him bored.

Jonathan D. White
Commander, U.S. Public Health Service
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW
(202) 690-6984
jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Davis, Gregory (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=47b15d866d8040ed839cdfd5c2b7cb89-Davis, Greg>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Sent Date:	2017/09/05 15:31:26
Delivered Date:	2017/09/05 15:31:00

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Hooban, Tala (ACF) (Tala.Hooban@acf.hhs.gov)"
Subject:	Sharing invitation: White, Jonathan (ACF) - Calendar
Date:	2017/09/11 11:03:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Sharing

White, Jonathan (ACF) (Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov) has invited you to view his or her Microsoft Exchange Calendar. For instructions on how to view shared folders on Exchange, see the following article:

http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=57561

~~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

Jonathan D. White
Commander, U.S. Public Health Service
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
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Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Hooban, Tala (ACF) (Tala.Hooban@acf.hhs.gov)"
Sent Date:	2017/09/11 11:04:04
Delivered Date:	2017/09/11 11:03:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Davis, Gregory (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=47b15d866d8040ed839cdfd5c2b7cb89-Davis, Greg>"
Subject:	FW: Senior leader brief
Date:	2017/09/11 14:47:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

From: Ball, Harvey (ACF)
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 2:31 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Hooban, Tala (ACF)
Cc: Garza, Roberto (ACF)
Subject: Senior leader brief

Attached is a couple of examples of the Senior Leader Brief. Input is due by 1500

The story board is also due at 1500.

John (202) 619-7839 is the task force information manager for Irma. He would be able to help you.

I would appreciate if you drop Mike Vineyard a line saying you are working toward input or at least got the message I passed along.

—

Harvey J Ball, Jr., M.S.-CCC-SLP, M.P.H.
Licensed and Certified Speech Language Pathologist
Commander, U.S. Public Health Service
Lead Recovery Coordinator
Office Human Services Emergency Preparedness and Response
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street, SW | Room 4008C | Washington, DC 20201
O: 202-401-1230 | M: (b)(6)

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Davis, Gregory (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=47b15d866d8040ed839cdfd5c2b7cb89-Davis, Greg>"
Sent Date:	2017/09/11 14:47:16
Delivered Date:	2017/09/11 14:47:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"Davis, Gregory (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=47b15d866d8040ed839cdfd5c2b7cb89-Davis, Greg>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Subject:	Fwd: Action Required--Due Tues/Sept.19: Federal Manager's Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA)
Date:	2017/09/12 12:51:41
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

FYI. No actions required from ether of you yet; let me review whole thing first to see if/what is needed. I've done these before for OHSEPR and they were usually uncomplicated for divisions that don't award grants.

Jonathan White

Commander, US Public Health Service

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Jonathan.White@acf.hhs.gov

(202) (b)(6)

From: "Papanicolas, Koula (ACF) (CTR)" <Koula.Papanicolas@acf.hhs.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Subject: Action Required--Due Tues/Sept.19: Federal Manager's Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA)

Date: 12 September 2017 11:55

To: "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>, "Sualog, Jallyn (ACF)" <Jallyn.Sualog@ACF.hhs.gov>

Cc: "Tota, Kenneth (ACF)" <kenneth.tota@acf.hhs.gov>, "Simmons, Joann (ACF)" <joann.simmons@acf.hhs.gov>

Good morning
Jonathan and Jallyn,

Each year, the Acting Assistant Secretary provides assurance to the Secretary that ACF is in compliance with the requirements of the Federal Manager's Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA). Your certification that management controls in your program and administrative areas are adequately described and evaluated, is required for the Acting Assistant Secretary to provide this assurance.

I am attaching a copy of your Division's FY2016 submission as well as the Report's Introductory pages. Please make sure your Division is correctly listed on the introductory pages and that your update accurately reflects your division's activities in FY2017. Given that the UAC Program has gone through a restructuring since the FY 16 submission, please consider re-organizing the UAC section to reflect the current structure. In order for Budget to meet the FY17 FMFIA Report deadline we ask that you submit your update to me no later than Tuesday, September 19.

Thank you in advance for your input and please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Koula Papanicolas

Program Analyst

Division of Budget and Data Analysis

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Department of Health and Human Services

(202-401-0927)

Koula.Papanicolas@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Davis, Gregory (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=47b15d866d8040ed839cdfd5c2b7cb89-Davis, Greg>"; "Bartholomew, Michael (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=Bartholomew, Michael>"
Sent Date:	2017/09/12 12:51:39
Delivered Date:	2017/09/12 12:51:41

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
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Subject:	Fwd: Hurricane Irma: Requests for updated information
Date:	2017/09/14 08:37:58
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

We should probably add to today's Irma bullets "ORR has confirmed two residential shelter programs were not significantly damaged and will reopen when power is restored."

Jonathan White

Commander, US Public Health Service

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Jonathan.White@acf.hhs.gov

(202) (b)(6)

From: "ACF hswatchofficer" <hswatchofficer@acf.hhs.gov>

Subject: Hurricane Irma: Requests for updated information

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Date: 14 September 2017 08:28

To: "ACF hswatchofficer" <hswatchofficer@acf.hhs.gov>, "Jones, Gwendolyn (ACF)" <gwendolyn.jones@acf.hhs.gov>, "Mccarrell, Cory (ACF)" <Cory.Mccarrell@acf.hhs.gov>, "Tinsley, Jewellynne (ACF)" <Jewellynne.Tinsley@ACF.hhs.gov>, "Akwuole, Kenneth (ACF)" <Kenneth.Akwuole@ACF.hhs.gov>, "Alexander, Josezetta (ACF" <Josezetta.Alexander@acf.hhs.gov>, "Allender, Mark (ACF)" <Mark.Allender@acf.hhs.gov>, "Ball Jabbour, Emily (ACF)" <Emily.Ball@ACF.hhs.gov>, "Beltran, Marco (ACF)" <Marco.Beltran@ACF.hhs.gov>, "Brown, Janis (ACF)" <Janis.Brown@ACF.hhs.gov>, "Christopher, Lauren (ACF)" <lauren.christopher@acf.hhs.gov>, "Cohen, Abby (ACF)" <Abby.Cohen@acf.hhs.gov>, "Daniels, Jeff (ACF)" <Jeffrey.Daniels@acf.hhs.gov>, "Davis, Gregory (ACF)" <Gregory.Davis@acf.hhs.gov>, "Drake, Sheila (ACF)" <Sheila.Drake@ACF.hhs.gov>, "Feeney, Kimberly (ACF)" <Kimberly.Feeney@acf.hhs.gov>, "Hardy, Tony (ACF)" <tony.hardy@acf.hhs.gov>, "Harris, Sherri (ACF)" <Sherri.Harris@acf.hhs.gov>, "Hassett, Seth (ACF)" <Seth.Hassett@ACF.hhs.gov>, "Holloway, Christopher (ACF)" <Christopher.Holloway@acf.hhs.gov>, "Johnson, Betty (ACF)" <Betty.Johnson@acf.hhs.gov>, "Jones, David (ACF)" <David.Jones@acf.hhs.gov>, "Kantsiper, Rebecca (ACF)" <Rebecca.Kantsiper@acf.hhs.gov>, "Keenan-Guerra, Flavia (ACF)" <Flavia.Keenan-Guerra@acf.hhs.gov>, "Kelley, Marylouise (ACF)" <Marylouise.Kelley@ACF.hhs.gov>, "Kelvington, Areon (ACF)" <Areon.Kelvington@acf.hhs.gov>, "Koutstaal, Stanley (ACF)" <stanley.koutstaal@acf.hhs.gov>, "Kurkjy, Brian (ACF) (CTR)" <Brian.Kurkjy@acf.hhs.gov>, "Lucas, Sarah (ACF) (CTR)" <Sarah.Lucas@acf.hhs.gov>, "Maloney, Maxine (ACF)" <Maxine.Maloney@acf.hhs.gov>, "Owens, Mr. Javan (ACF)" <Javan.Owens@acf.hhs.gov>, "Palmer, Victoria (ACF)" <Victoria.Palmer@acf.hhs.gov>, "Pratt, Roydon (ACF)" <Roydon.Pratt@acf.hhs.gov>, "Rahman, Mr. Akm (ACF)" <Akm.Rahman@acf.hhs.gov>, "Rowley, Theresa (ACF)" <Theresa.Rowley@acf.hhs.gov>, "Russell, Elizabeth (ACF)" <Elizabeth.Russell@acf.hhs.gov>, "Savage, Donnell (ACF)" <donnell.savage@acf.hhs.gov>, "Sheehan, Jamie (ACF)" <Jamie.Sheehan@ACF.hhs.gov>, "Sosne, Kenneth (ACF)" <Kenneth.Sosne@acf.hhs.gov>, "Spates, Amy (ACF)" <amy.spates@acf.hhs.gov>, "Sualog, Jallyn (ACF)" <Jallyn.Sualog@ACF.hhs.gov>, "Tota, Kenneth (ACF)" <kenneth.tota@acf.hhs.gov>, "Vucic, Nicholas (ACF)" <Nicholas.Vucic@acf.hhs.gov>, "Wallace Jr., Keith (ACF)" <Keith.Wallace@acf.hhs.gov>, "Weeden, Daphne (ACF)" <daphne.weeden@acf.hhs.gov>, "Wheatley PhD., Ellen (ACF)" <Ellen.Wheatley@acf.hhs.gov>, "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>, "White, Laura (ACF)" <Laura.White@acf.hhs.gov>, "White,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

LeBretia (ACF)" <LeBretia.White@ACF.hhs.gov>, "Wolfe, Kenneth (ACF)" <kenneth.wolfe@acf.hhs.gov>, "Zaborsky, Claudia (ACF) (CTR)" <Claudia.Zaborsky@acf.hhs.gov>

Cc: "Hooban, Christopher (ACF)" <Christopher.Hooban@acf.hhs.gov>, "Garza, Roberto (ACF)" <Roberto.Garza@acf.hhs.gov>, "Hammond, Reginald (ACF)" <Reginald.Hammond@ACF.hhs.gov>

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FEMA Disaster Declared Locations:

- US Virgin Islands (DR-4335): St. John (Island), St. Thomas (Island)
- Puerto Rico (DR-4336): Canovanas (Municipio), Culebra (Municipio), Loiza (Municipio), Vieques (Municipio)
- Florida (DR-4337): Broward, Charlotte, Clay, Collier, Duval, Flagler, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Palm Beach, Pinellas, Putnam, Sarasota, St. Johns

Programmatic Impacts

Administration for Native Americans:
Nothing to report.

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Administration on Children, Youth and Families/Children's Bureau:
Nothing to report.

Office of Child Care:

Region 2

- **Puerto Rico**: The RPM is in contact with the CCDF lead agency. At this point, because of storm damage, power outages, etc. there are no numbers to report on providers closed, damaged, etc.

- **Virgin Islands**: The RPM is in contact with the CCDF lead agency. At this point, because of storm damage, power outages, etc. there are not yet new numbers to report on providers closed, damaged, etc. The RPM will have contact (call) with the lead agency later today.

Region 4

- **Alabama**: The RPM is in contact with the CCDF lead agency. No numbers of providers closed, damaged, etc. yet. Poarch Tribe (CCDF grantee) is included in the emergency declaration for Alabama.

- **Florida:** RPM receiving information. CCDF is administered by the state through Early Learning Coalitions. Many of these agencies are reporting closure as the result of COOP plans requiring closure when schools are closed, power

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outages, damage to their buildings, etc. Damage assessments are just beginning in many parts of the state regarding the situation of child care providers. The Miami-Dade ELC has indicated that one staff person who remained in the Lower Keys has been reported missing. In Florida, the Miccosukee tribe, a CCDF Tribal grantee, has power and communications down.

-

Georgia: The RPM is in contact with the CCDF lead agency. No numbers of providers closed, damaged, etc. yet.

Office of Head Start:

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Grantees are reporting centers closed or damaged as a result of Hurricane Irma in PR, VI, AL, FL, GA, SC, and TN. This list includes a number of states that are not in the FEMA disaster declared
locations. Until more information is available on the impacted area, OHS is reporting the total number of centers in each state with a break out of open, closed, and undetermined. The total number of centers will decrease as we learn more about which counties were impacted.

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	Total Centers	Centers Open	Centers Closed	Centers Undetermined
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VI	8	0	8	0
R04	2,409	92	625	1,692

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of St. Thomas and St. John.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

- Grantee Unity in Williston, FL: Reports not having any damage. The agency is closed this week until they are able to obtain power and can contact other agencies.

- Children's Home Society in Winter Park, Florida: The grantee's email server and power are on intermittently at this time. Their offices are closed through Wednesday and they hope to reopen Thursday. A full assessment of their campus/buildings/property/network will be taking place today through the weekend. They are not requesting any funding assistance at this time.

- Schools in Broward County, Florida are currently closed until further notice. The Project Officer is waiting to hear back from the grantee on the status of the community based organizations. They will not return to the office until Wednesday 9/13 and will provide updates then.

Family and Youth Services Bureau/Division of Family Violence Prevention and Services:

- The Florida Domestic Violence (DV) Hotline is established. Several locations are without power. Initial damage assessments continue and more information will be provided upon receipt.

- In Georgia, coastal safe homes were evacuated. A few shelters in southern and middle Georgia had to evacuate to community shelters due to power outages. There have been no requests for assistance thus far.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

- In the Virgin Islands, the main shelter on St. Croix is operating but has no electricity. Additional information is forthcoming.

- Staff are being rostered to deploy to DV shelters after the storm to work in shelters across the state in anticipation of a surge in clients.

- 1 DV Shelter in South Carolina has evacuated its population (6) inland.

Family and Youth Service Bureau/Runaway and Homeless Youth:

- Currently, there are no Runaway Homeless Youth (RHY) grantees in the U.S. Virgin Islands, but there is one RHY provider in Puerto Rico that operates two emergency shelters. The grantee suffered no damage to their two facilities.

Office of Child Support Enforcement:

Region 2 impacts:

- Virgin Islands status: St. Thomas, closed until further notice. St. Croix, open.

- Puerto Rico status: Central &Regional Offices – OPEN. Some Local Offices are not open.

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Office of Community Services/Social Services Block Grant:
Nothing to report.

Office of Community Services/Co
mmunity Services Block Grant: Nothing to report.

Office of Community Services/Division of Energy Assistance/Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program:

- The State's disaster management plan and the Governor's Executive Order 17-235 will activate the release to spend weather/shortage related funds to the LIHEAP providers.

Office of Family Asssitance/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families: Nothing to report.

Office of Refugee Resettlement/Unaccompanied Alien Children:

- There are no shelters currently housing UAC in Florida.

- ORR is collaborating with the US Department of Labor and with ORR's warp-around services contractor to conduct post-storm damage assessments on DOL's former Job Corps site in
Homestead, Florida, which is ORR's influx contingency site. The site is in warm status and does not currently shelter UAC or contain active, funded beds.

-

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

All ORR staff in Florida have reported and are safe/secure.

- ORR continues to accept referrals from DHS within the 72 hour timeframe required by law. ORR does not anticipate delays in designated placements due to the storm.

- There are no shortfalls at this time, and no requests for interagency assistance.

Office of Refugee Resettlement/Emergency Repatriation:

- ACF, in partnership with the Government of Puerto Rico, continues to provide information regarding repatriation services to evacuees arriving in San Juan from Saint Martin and
the British Virgin Islands. As of 9:00 pm ET, 12Sep17, there has been 1,897 repatriates received. ORR reviews eligibility for loan assistance services from American citizens and dependents. A relatively small percentage of repatriates contacted by ORR request loan assistance. In addition, ORR and Puerto Rican authorities are providing additional information and assistance to repatriates who do not request loan assistance services.

Office of Trafficking in Persons:

- Georgia- Catholic Charites of Atlanta was closed on 9/12.

- Georgia- Trafficking Victim Assistance Program (TVAP) grantee closed at this time and staff are working remotely.

-

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

No updates from Florida subgrantees; continuing to monitor.

- No requests for assistance at this time.

Thanks in advance!

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Davis, Gregory (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=47b15d866d8040ed839cdfd5c2b7cb89-Davis, Greg>"
Sent Date:	2017/09/14 08:37:57
Delivered Date:	2017/09/14 08:37:58

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
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Subject:	Re: Hurricane Irma: Requests for updated information
Date:	2017/09/14 08:38:27
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Although since we have responded we can add that to tomorrow's instead.

Jonathan White

Commander, US Public Health Service

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Jonathan.White@acf.hhs.gov

(202) (b)(6)

On: 14 September 2017 08:37, "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>wrote:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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(202) (b)(6)

From: "ACF hswatchofficer" <hswatchofficer@acf.hhs.gov>

Subject: Hurricane Irma: Requests for updated information

Date: 14 September 2017 08:28

To: "ACF hswatchofficer" <hswatchofficer@acf.hhs.gov>, "Jones, Gwendolyn (ACF)" <gwendolyn.jones@acf.hhs.gov>, "Mccarrell, Cory (ACF)" <Cory.Mccarrell@acf.hhs.gov>, "Tinsley, Jewellynne (ACF)" <Jewellynne.Tinsley@ACF.hhs.gov>, "Akwuole, Kenneth (ACF)" <Kenneth.Akwuole@ACF.hhs.gov>, "Alexander, Josezetta (ACF" <Josezetta.Alexander@acf.hhs.gov>, "Allender, Mark (ACF)" <Mark.Allender@acf.hhs.gov>, "Ball Jabbour, Emily (ACF)" <Emily.Ball@ACF.hhs.gov>, "Beltran, Marco (ACF)" <Marco.Beltran@ACF.hhs.gov>, "Brown, Janis (ACF)" <Janis.Brown@ACF.hhs.gov>, "Christopher, Lauren (ACF)" <lauren.christopher@acf.hhs.gov>, "Cohen, Abby (ACF)" <Abby.Cohen@acf.hhs.gov>, "Daniels, Jeff (ACF)" <Jeffrey.Daniels@acf.hhs.gov>, "Davis, Gregory (ACF)" <Gregory.Davis@acf.hhs.gov>, "Drake, Sheila (ACF)" <Sheila.Drake@ACF.hhs.gov>, "Feeney, Kimberly (ACF)" <Kimberly.Feeney@acf.hhs.gov>, "Hardy, Tony (ACF)" <tony.hardy@acf.hhs.gov>,

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"Harris, Sherri (ACF)" <Sherri.Harris@acf.hhs.gov>, "Hassett, Seth (ACF)" <Seth.Hassett@ACF.hhs.gov>, "Holloway, Christopher (ACF)" <Christopher.Holloway@acf.hhs.gov>, "Johnson, Betty (ACF)" <Betty.Johnson@acf.hhs.gov>, "Jones, David (ACF)" <David.Jones@acf.hhs.gov>, "Kantsiper, Rebecca (ACF)" <Rebecca.Kantsiper@acf.hhs.gov>, "Keenan-Guerra, Flavia (ACF)" <Flavia.Keenan-Guerra@acf.hhs.gov>, "Kelley, Marylouise (ACF)" <Marylouise.Kelley@ACF.hhs.gov>, "Kelvington, Areon (ACF)" <Areon.Kelvington@acf.hhs.gov>, "Koutstaal, Stanley (ACF)" <stanley.koutstaal@acf.hhs.gov>, "Kurkjy, Brian (ACF) (CTR)" <Brian.Kurkjy@acf.hhs.gov>, "Lucas, Sarah (ACF) (CTR)" <Sarah.Lucas@acf.hhs.gov>, "Maloney, Maxine (ACF)" <Maxine.Maloney@acf.hhs.gov>, "Owens, Mr. Javan (ACF)" <Javan.Owens@acf.hhs.gov>, "Palmer, Victoria (ACF)" <Victoria.Palmer@acf.hhs.gov>, "Pratt, Roydon (ACF)" <Roydon.Pratt@acf.hhs.gov>, "Rahman, Mr. Akm (ACF)" <Akm.Rahman@acf.hhs.gov>, "Rowley, Theresa (ACF)" <Theresa.Rowley@acf.hhs.gov>, "Russell, Elizabeth (ACF)" <Elizabeth.Russell@acf.hhs.gov>, "Savage, Donnell (ACF)" <donnell.savage@acf.hhs.gov>, "Sheehan, Jamie (ACF)" <Jamie.Sheehan@ACF.hhs.gov>, "Sosne, Kenneth (ACF)" <Kenneth.Sosne@acf.hhs.gov>, "Spates, Amy (ACF)" <amy.spates@acf.hhs.gov>, "Sualog, Jallyn (ACF)" <Jallyn.Sualog@ACF.hhs.gov>, "Tota, Kenneth (ACF)" <kenneth.tota@acf.hhs.gov>, "Vucic, Nicholas (ACF)" <Nicholas.Vucic@acf.hhs.gov>, "Wallace Jr., Keith (ACF)" <Keith.Wallace@acf.hhs.gov>, "Weeden, Daphne (ACF)" <daphne.weeden@acf.hhs.gov>, "Wheatley PhD., Ellen (ACF)" <Ellen.Wheatley@acf.hhs.gov>, "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>, "White, Laura (ACF)" <Laura.White@acf.hhs.gov>, "White, LeBretia (ACF)" <LeBretia.White@ACF.hhs.gov>, "Wolfe, Kenneth (ACF)" <kenneth.wolfe@acf.hhs.gov>, "Zaborsky, Claudia (ACF) (CTR)" <Claudia.Zaborsky@acf.hhs.gov>

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Programmatic Impacts

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Nothing to report.

Administration on Children, Youth and Families/Children's Bureau:
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Office of Child Care:

Region 2

-

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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Thanks in advance!

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"Davis, Gregory (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=47b15d866d8040ed839cdfd5c2b7cb89-Davis, Greg>"
Sent Date:	2017/09/14 08:38:25
Delivered Date:	2017/09/14 08:38:27

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Jonathan.White@acf.hhs.gov
(202) (b)(6)

On: 12 September 2017 18:27, "Collins, Ryan (PSC/FMP/AMS)" <Ryan.Collins@psc.hhs.gov>wrote:

Thank you Isaac!

Ryan Collins
Team Lead/Contracting Officer, Acquisition Management Services
Program Support Center
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
7700 Wisconsin Avenue, Room 8311A
Bethesda, MD 20857

Office: (301) 492-4685
Mobile: (202) 826-4796

cid:image007.png@01D179F6.AC3C6550 | website | comments

PSC email signature footer

From: Bellamy, Isaac (PSC/FMP/AMS)
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 5:45 PM
To: Collins, Ryan (PSC/FMP/AMS); Irizarry, Tania (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF)
Cc: Pirrone, Joseph (PSC/FMP/AMS); Joy, Patrick (PSC/FMP/AMS); Acevedo, Sathya (ACF); Gnipp, Gregg (ACF); Timmerman, Camille (PSC/FMP/AMS); Edwards, Michellee (PSC/FMP/AMS); Hooban, Tala (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: RE: Status update: 09/01/2017; RE: (Five) New ORR temporary shelter IDIQ base contracts -- awards requested (by ORR) by 07 Aug 2017; RE: cadre for new award (ACF/ORR)

Three of the five awards are attached.

The COR appointment memos are forthcoming…

Isaac
Office: (301) 492-4644

From: Collins, Ryan (PSC/FMP/AMS)
Sent: Friday, September 01, 2017 11:07 AM
To: Irizarry, Tania (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF)
Cc: Pirrone, Joseph (PSC/FMP/AMS); Joy, Patrick (PSC/FMP/AMS); Acevedo, Sathya (ACF); Gnipp, Gregg (ACF); Timmerman, Camille (PSC/FMP/AMS); Edwards, Michellee (PSC/FMP/AMS); Hooban, Tala (ACF); White, Jonathan (ACF); Bellamy, Isaac (PSC/FMP/AMS)
Subject: Status update: 09/01/2017; RE: (Five) New ORR temporary shelter IDIQ base contracts -- awards requested (by ORR) by 07 Aug 2017; RE: cadre for new award (ACF/ORR)
Importance: High

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From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"White, Jonathan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e9b5fe526f1d4ba0a6cc8ddee8ec4d87-Jonathan Wh>"
Subject:	Fwd: REMINDER: Action Required--Due Tues/Sept.19: Federal Manager's Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA)
Date:	2017/09/18 15:02:56
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Jonathan White

Commander, US Public Health Service

Deputy Director for Children's Programs

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Jonathan.White@acf.hhs.gov

(202) (b)(6)

From: "Papanicolas, Koula (ACF) (CTR)" <Koula.Papanicolas@acf.hhs.gov>

Subject: REMINDER: Action Required--Due Tues/Sept.19: Federal Manager's Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Date: 18 September 2017 10:40

To: "White, Jonathan (ACF)" <Jonathan.White@ACF.hhs.gov>, "Sualog, Jallyn (ACF)" <Jallyn.Sualog@ACF.hhs.gov>

Cc: "Tota, Kenneth (ACF)" <kenneth.tota@acf.hhs.gov>, "Simmons, Joann (ACF)" <joann.simmons@acf.hhs.gov>

Good morning

This is a reminder that the deadline for submitting your section of the Federal Manager's Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA) Report is tomorrow, Tuesday, September 19.

Thanks

Koula Papanicolas

Program Analyst

Division of Budget and Data Analysis

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Department of Health and Human Services

(202-401-0927)

Koula.Papanicolas@acf.hhs.gov

From: Papanicolas, Koula (ACF) (CTR)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 11:56 AM

To: White, Jonathan (ACF); Sualog, Jallyn (ACF)

Cc: Tota, Kenneth (ACF); Simmons, Joann (ACF)

Subject: Action Required--Due Tues/Sept.19: Federal Manager's Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA)

Importance: High

Good morning
Jonathan and Jallyn,

Each year, the Acting Assistant Secretary provides assurance to the Secretary that ACF is in compliance with the requirements of the Federal Manager's Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA). Your certification that management controls in your program and administrative areas are adequately described and evaluated, is required for the Acting Assistant Secretary to provide this assurance.

I am attaching a copy of your Division's FY2016 submission as well as the Report's Introductory pages. Please make sure your Division is correctly listed on the introductory pages and that your update accurately reflects your division's activities in FY2017. Given that the UAC Program has gone through a restructuring since the FY 16 submission, please consider re-organizing the UAC section to reflect the current structure. In order for Budget to meet the FY17 FMFIA Report deadline we ask that you submit your update to me no later than Tuesday, September 19.

Thank you in advance for your input and please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions.

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Koula Papanicolas

Program Analyst

Division of Budget and Data Analysis

Office of Refugee Resettlement

Administration for Children and Families

Department of Health and Human Services

(202-401-0927)

Koula.Papanicolas@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"White, Jonathan (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e9b5fe526f1d4ba0a6cc8ddee8ec4d87-Jonathan Wh>"
Sent Date:	2017/09/18 15:02:55
Delivered Date:	2017/09/18 15:02:56

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
To:	"White, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Subject:	RE: Release Request: MFB
Date:	2017/09/18 15:46:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Sending now.

From: White, Laura (ACF)
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2017 11:10 AM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: FW: Release Request: MFB

This one is still with you.

From: White, Laura (ACF)
Sent: Thursday, September 07, 2017 2:43 PM
To: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Subject: Release Request: MFB

Jonathan- I talked to Amanda. The minor has a local court case because of her SIJ. If we release the local court case will stay open to ensure the safety and well-being of the minor. I have some reservations because of the mom's history but I do believe that local court case mitigates my concerns (but I still have concerns).

Scott,

(b)(5)

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(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

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(b)(5)

From: White, Jonathan (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, September 06, 2017 9:13 PM
To: White, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Re: Release Request: MFB

Which Amanda? I'll reach out to let her know you'll be in touch if you let me know which one.

Jonathan White
Commander, US Public Health Service
Deputy Director for Children's Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
Jonathan.White@acf.hhs.gov
(202) (b)(6)

On: 06 September 2017 21:01, "White, Laura (ACF)" <Laura.White@acf.hhs.gov>wrote:
Jonathan- This case was previously denied and MG kicked it back to us.

I am a little confused on this case. The court report was from June but it says there is another hearing in August. The memo notes that the court recommended the minor to be released to her mother but I can't find that in the documentation. I would also like to understand how the minor is a temporary ward of a local court but in the legal custody ORR. I am assuming this is normal but have never come across this.

Can I reach out to Amanda to ask a few questions about the case? Or can you send her an email with a cc to me lettering her know OD has questions and I will be reaching out?

Draft for Scott

Scott,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

Sender:	White, Jonathan (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B5FE526F1D4BA0A6CC8DDEE8EC4D87-JONATHAN WH>
Recipient:	"White, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Sent Date:	2017/09/18 15:46:27
Delivered Date:	2017/09/18 15:46:00

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES Office of the Secretary

Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20201

Request No. 2018-00042-C-OS
***Equity Forward v. HHS*, Civil No. 18-0241 (D.D.C.)**

September 28, 2018

Mary Alice Carter
Equity Forward

Dear Ms. Carter:

This letter is a second interim response to your December 11, 2017, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request submitted to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Administration for Children and Families.

Specifically, you requested access to and copies of certain correspondence involving the following officials and employees within the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families:

- Scott Lloyd
- Maggie Wynne
- Jonathan White
- Curi Kim
- Judith Haron
- Anna Marie Bena
- Scott Logan
- Tricia Swartz (Associate Deputy, ORR)
- Jallyn Sualog (Director of Children Services)
- James De La Cruz (Houston Field Supervisor)
- Dr. David Teuscher (Region 6 Director)

Specifically, we request access to and copies of all correspondence sent by, sent to, or carbon-copying ("CC") any of these individuals during the months of March, May, September or October 2017, which includes any of the following keywords or phrases:

- "pregnancy"
- "pregnant"
- "ORR director"
- "abortion"
- "ru-486"
- "CPC"
- "ultrasound"
- "rape"
- "nonconsensual"
- "Gestational"
- "judicial bypass"
- "life affirming"
- "unborn child"

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- "spiritual counseling"
- "options counseling"
- "WTF"
- "Terminating"
- "terminate"
- "termination"
- "Pregnancy notification"
- "Pregnancy notivations"
- "Scott is"
- "Scott said"
- "from Scott"

Your request was forwarded to this office to conduct a search for records from custodians Maggie Wynne, Judith Haron and Dr. David Teuscher.

For this second interim response, the HHS Office of the Secretary has processed 801 pages of potentially responsive records captured in the agency's search of Maggie Wynne's records. After a careful review of these pages, I have determined to release 319 pages to you in their entirety, and I am further releasing 147 pages in part, with portions redacted, pursuant to Exemptions (b)(5), (b)(6) of the FOIA (5 U.S.C. §§ 552(b)(5) and (b)(6)). I have also determined to withhold 84 pages in their entirety, pursuant to Exemption (b)(5) of the FOIA. Additionally, I determined that one (1) page was non-responsive to your request and that 122 pages were duplicative of pages referenced above. Finally, I have determined that 62 pages should be sent for consultation to other government agencies to review their equities and return to this office for final response to you.

Lastly, I have determined to refer two (2) pages to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), five (5) pages to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), three (3) pages to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and 56 pages to the Administration for Children and Families for those offices to respond directly to you. Contact information for those offices is provided below:

Chief Privacy Officer/Chief FOIA Officer
The Privacy Office
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane SW
STOP-0655
Washington, D.C. 20528-0655

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Freedom of Information Officer
1600 Clifton Road, N.E., Building 57, Room MS D-54
Atlanta, Georgia 30333
Email: FOIARequests@cdc.gov
Phone: 770-488-6277

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Health Resources and Services Administration
Freedom of Information Officer
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 13-N82
Rockville, Maryland 20857
Phone: 301-443-2865
E-mail Address: FOIA@HRSA.GOV

Administration for Children and Families
FOIA Office
330 C Street, SW, 4th Floor
Washington, DC 20201
Phone Number: 1-888-747-1861
Email Address: FOIA@acf.hhs.gov

FOIA exemption (b)(5) protects inter-agency or intra-agency memoranda or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency. This exemption protects documents that would be covered by any privilege an agency could assert in a civil proceeding. These privileges include, among others, the deliberative process privilege, the attorney-client privilege, and the attorney work-product privilege.

FOIA exemption (b)(6) permits a Federal agency to withhold information and records about individuals in "personnel and medical files and similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." The definition of "similar files" has historically been broadly interpreted to include a wide variety of files, and the United States Supreme Court has held that Congress intended the term "similar files" to be interpreted broadly, rather than narrowly. I have analyzed these records and find they meet the threshold requirement of this exemption. Additionally, I have reviewed and weighed the public interest in disclosure of this information against the privacy interest in nondisclosure, and found that the privacy interest outweighs the public's interest in disclosure.

We will continue to review the remaining records as efficiently and expeditiously as possible, consistent with our available resources and the Order of the Court. Should you have questions or concerns regarding the Department's response and\or the processing of your request, any such issues should be communicated to your legal counsel and Department of Justice Attorney representing the Department in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Michael S. Marquis
Director
Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts Division

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2017 7:32 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: For response by COB on Tuesday, October 31: Additional Unified Agenda Passback Comments/Question
Attachments: HHS ACF Agenda entries - Passback_OHS response 10-30-17 AS.docx

(b)(5)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2017 7:09 PM
To: Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: For response by COB on Tuesday, October 31: Additional Unified Agenda Passback Comments/Question

(b)(5)

Maggie

Deliberative and pre-decisional communication

From: Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2017 7:01 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)
Subject: FW: For response by COB on Tuesday, October 31: Additional Unified Agenda Passback Comments/Question

(b)(5)

From: Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2017 2:07 PM
To: Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: FW: For response by COB on Tuesday, October 31: Additional Unified Agenda Passback Comments/Question

(b)(5)

From: Swenson-O'Brien, Alicia (HHS/OS)
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2017 12:13 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Shelton, Carrie A (HHS/IOS); Shipley, Samuel (HHS/IOS)
Subject: For response by COB on Tuesday, October 31: Additional Unified Agenda Passback Comments/Question

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Can you please review this ACF unified agenda passback and let us know if you have any concerns by COB today? (b)(5)

(b)(5) Thank you!

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Page 003 of 550

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

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Page 004 of 550

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Swenson-O'Brien, Alicia (HHS/OS)
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2017 12:13 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Shelton, Carrie A (HHS/IOS); Shipley, Samuel (HHS/IOS)
Subject: For response by COB on Tuesday, October 31: Additional Unified Agenda Passback Comments/Question
Attachments: HHS ACF Agenda entries - Passback_OHS response 10-30-17.docx

Can you please review this ACF unified agenda passback and let us know if you have any concerns by COB today? OMB had a few comments/questions and ACF responses are noted. Thank you!

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Aramanda, Alec (OS/ASL)
Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2017 5:25 PM
To: Palmer, Ashley (OS/ASFR); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Felder, Emily (CMS/OL); DiBlasio, Carla (CMS/OA); Norton, Jane (OS/IEA); Trueman, Laura (HHS/IEA); McGowan, Robert (Kyle) (HHS/IEA); Graham, John (HHS/ASPE); O'Brien, John (HHS/ASPE)
Cc: Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Kemper, Laura (HHS/ASL); Morse, Sara (HHS/ASL)
Subject: FW: Extenders Discussion Draft
Attachments: FINAL Extender Discussion Draft Section By Section Summary 10.26.17.pdf; FINAL SFC Bipartisan Extenders Discussion Draft 10.26.17.pdf

(b)(5)

From: Kuskowski, Jennifer (Finance) [mailto:Jennifer_Kuskowski@finance.senate.gov]
Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2017 3:56 PM
To: Kuskowski, Jennifer (Finance)
Subject: FW: Extenders Discussion Draft

(b)(5)

Sincerely,
Jen

Health Policy Director
Senate Finance Committee
Majority Staff

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Page 007 of 550

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Burnszynski, Jennifer (OS/ASPE)
Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2017 2:12 PM
Subject: What's New in Human Services Policy Research

Hello,

As a valued partner in promoting the well-being of America's children, families, individuals, and communities, I wanted to let you know about current and future projects our team is working on at ASPE's Office of Human Services Policy.

Warmly,

Jennifer Burnszynski
Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary

HUMAN SERVICES POLICY UPDATE

Recent publications from the Human Services Policy team at the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the Department of Health and Human Services.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Exploring Cross-Domain Instability in Families with Children
Pamela Winston, Lincoln Groves, and Linda Mellgren (consultant) | Read it here

This brief examines different types of instability among children and their families, using nationally representative data on nearly 15,000 children to look at employment, income, health care coverage, moves, and changes in family and household composition. It found significant differences in the prevalence of instability for children by household education level:

- Instability was not confined to those in lower education households. Children across the household education spectrum experienced relatively high rates of instability during the study.
- A majority of children lived in households that experienced economic instability, with rates differing by household education.
- Children in less-educated households experienced instability more often than those in more-educated households, but trends did not strictly track with education.
- Those in households with "some college" were more similar to those in the two lowest-education groups ("less than high school" and "high school only") than those in the highest ("college plus").
- Children in the "some college" group were disproportionately represented at the highest levels in an index of cross-domain instability.

Partner: Administration for Children and Families' Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation

Multi-Site Family Study on Incarceration, Parenting and Partnering: Program Impacts Technical Report
RTI International | Erica Meade (Project Officer) | Read it here

This report presents findings on the impact of couples-based family strengthening services in four prison-based programs from the Multi-Site Family Study on Incarceration, Parenting and Partnering (MFS-IP) and discusses the

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implications for policy, programs, and future research. This evaluation attempted to isolate the impacts of relatively low-dosage couples programming. Key findings are:

- One program had sustained positive effects on multiple partnership and parenting relationship outcomes.
- The weak and non-significant findings in three of the four programs suggest that more robust and comprehensive interventions may be necessary to address the complex needs of low-income, justice-involved families.

Partner: Administration for Children and Families' Office of Family Assistance

Recent National Poverty Research Center Publications
Don Oellerich, Susan Hauan, and Lincoln Groves (Project Officers) | Learn more here

The Office of Human Services Policy's cooperative agreement with the University of Wisconsin – Madison supports a National Poverty Center Research Program at the Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP), which provides researchers and policymakers with working papers, research briefs, podcasts, and webinars on a wide range of topics affecting low-income populations in the United States. Recent IRP products include:

- A podcast on Child Obesity in the United States by Tashara Leak (past monthly podcasts available here);
- A webinar on Paid Family Leave for Low-Income Women with Marci Ybarra (past webinars available here); and
- A series of policy briefs on The Intergenerational Transmission of Income Inequality.

Partners: As part of the U.S. Collaborative of Poverty Centers (CPC), IRP works closely with eight other poverty research centers located at Columbia University, Howard University, University of California – Irvine, University of Michigan, Stanford University, University of California – Davis, University of Kentucky, and University of Washington.

COMING UP Next Month & Beyond

- Head Start Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness: Trends, Characteristics, and Program Services
- Predictive Analytics in Child Welfare
- Factsheet: Estimates of Child Care Eligibility and Receipt for Fiscal Year 2013

ABOUT HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

The Office of Human Services Policy (HSP) conducts policy research, analysis, evaluation, and coordination on various issues across the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), including but not limited to, poverty and measurement, vulnerable populations, early childhood education and child welfare, family strengthening, economic support for families, and youth development.

The mission of HSP is to provide HHS leadership with research-based policy solutions that promote the well-being of America's most vulnerable populations.

Please contact Amanda Benton at Amanda.Benton@hhs.gov if you would like to be added or removed from this list.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From:	Willoughby, Michelle (HHS/OGC)
Sent:	Tuesday, October 24, 2017 4:04 PM
To:	Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); McGuffee, Tyler Ann (HHS/ASL); Morse, Sara (HHS/ASL); Whitley, Edward (HHS/ASL); Kemper, Laura (HHS/ASL); Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Atkinson, Leslie (HRSA); Sealy, Camille (HRSA); ASPEClearances (OS/ASPE); Altman, Brian (SAMHSA); Lampasone, Kara (SAMHSA); Rice, Peggie (HHS/ASFR); Slothouber, Doug (SAMHSA); Adams, Claudia (HHS/OS); Brockett, Sharon (HHS/OCR); Householder, Donna (HHS/OS); Lawson, Heather (HHS/OCR); Morgan, Sherri (OS/OCR); Davis, Ms. Cynthia (ACF); Logan, Scott (ACF); Sulton, Jae (ACF); Duncan, Constance (HHS/ASFR); Smith-Simpson, Jacqlyn (HHS/ASFR); Craig, Nina (IHS/HQ); Hodson, Corbrett (IHS/HQ); Tracy, June (IHS/HQ); Mason, James (HHS/IEA)
Cc:	Friedman, Richard (HHS/OGC); Malliou, Ekaterini (OS/IOS); Davis, Jeffrey (HHS/OGC); Blackwell, Edith (HHS/OGC); Johnson, Linda (OS/OGC); Bird, Catherine (OS/OGC); Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC); Stimson, Brian (HHS/OGC); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); Huff, Bonita (HHS/OGC); Schuham, Aaron (HHS/OGC); Wiggins, Audrey (HHS/OGC); Barry, Daniel J (HHS/OGC); OS GCGL, EMAIL (HHS/OS); Haron, Judith (HHS/OGC); Jeffries, Elizabeth (HHS/OGC); Terry, Minnie (HHS/OGC); Benor, David E.(HHS/OGC); Naimon, David (HHS/OGC); OGC PH and S BRANCH CONTROLS; Johnson-Webb, Mechelle D (IHS/HQ); Slacter, Ann R (IHS/HQ); Vanderwagen, Luke (IHS/HQ); OIGClearances@oig.hhs.gov
Subject:	Reply by 5PM, 11/1:OMB RFVs:HR 3446(Restoring Board Immunity Act of 2017or the "RBI Act")
Attachments:	HR 3446.docx

TO:

L/H	L/HS
HRSA	ACF
ASPE	ASFR
SAMHSA	IHS
OCR	IEA
IOS/OS	

FROM: Office of the General Counsel/Legislation Division

SUBJECT: OMB Request for Views on HR 3446 -- Restoring Board Immunity Act of 2017 or the "RBI Act"

(NOTE: Attached please find bill text for H.R. 3446, the Restoring Board Immunity (RBI) Act of 2017. The bill would allow a State occupational licensing board (or a member of the board) to claim immunity under subsection (b) of the Sherman Act if they are (1) actively supervised by

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the State, as defined by the statute, or (2) if the State enacts legislation to provide for judicial review of occupational licensing laws, as defined by the statute, and a policy of using less restrictive alternatives to occupational licensing. In 2015, the Supreme Court in North Carolina Board of Dental Examiners v. FTC found that licensing boards composed of market participants could be subject to liability under antitrust laws. H.R. 3446 was introduced in the House on July 27, 2017, and was referred to the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law.)

The Office of Management and Budget has asked for the Department's views on this bill.

In order that we may respond promptly to this request, please give your comments as soon as possible but no later than **5:00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1** to both (1) **RICHARD FRIEDMAN** of this Division and (2) cc: our general e-mailbox (email.gcl@hhs.gov) (Microsoft Outlook users, select: OS GCL, EMAIL from the Global Address List).

To ensure that the Department's comments are given full consideration, please observe the following guidelines in providing your office's comments:

- Focus on substance -- we generally refrain from making editorial/stylistic comments on other agencies' documents absent errors that would be embarrassing.

- Supply specific recommended changes in the document, in track-changes format where possible; avoid general observations about the document's topic.

- Supply reasons and explanations for all recommended changes, if the reasons are not obvious.

If you have any questions, call the GCL staff attorney named above, at 202-690-7766, or our Legislative Reference Service, at 202-690-7750.

Attachments

cc: OIG
GC/IO
GC/CR
GC/GLD
GC/CFA
GC/PH
IOS/IOS

Michelle Lawrence Willoughby

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Office of the General Counsel/Legislation Division
Legislative Reference Service
202.690.7750 fax 202.690.7309
Michelle.Willoughby@hhs.gov

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: POLITICO Pro <politicoemail@politicopro.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 24, 2017 3:32 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: POLITICO Pro Breaking News: Federal appeals court clears way for undocumented teen to get abortion

A federal appeals court has cleared the way for a 17-year-old undocumented immigrant held in detention in Texas to receive an abortion.

The full bench of the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned an earlier ruling from a three-judge panel of that court that gave the Trump administration more time to try to defuse the controversy by finding an adult who could take in the pregnant teen, who is currently in a federally funded shelter.

The D.C. Circuit's new ruling split the judges along partisan lines, 6-3, with the court's Republican appointees denouncing the decision.

To change your alert settings, please go to https://www.politicopro.com/settings

POLITICOPRO

This email was sent to margaret.wynne@hhs.gov by: POLITICO, LLC 1000 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA, 22209, USA

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Grigsby, Garrett (HHS/OS/OGA)
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2017 5:33 PM
To: Schmeissner, Peter (HHS/OGA); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Healy, Jenifer (HHS/OS/OGA); Alexander, Thomas (OS/OGA); Lamourelle, Gabrielle (HHS/OS/OGA); Wolfe, Mitchell (HHS/OS/OGA)
Subject: Re: OCR comments on UN Resolution on Youth

Peter - thanks for this. Pls be sure to forward this to State/IO. thx!

On: 24 October 2017 00:25, "Schmeissner, Peter (HHS/OGA)" <Peter.Schmeissner@hhs.gov> wrote:

Comments sent to State/IO.

We have the lead on clearing WHO-related items, but State/IO is lead for many/most other UN documents.

On: 23 October 2017 14:02, "Grigsby, Garrett (HHS/OS/OGA)" <Garrett.Grigsby@hhs.gov> wrote:

Is a UN resolution something we ordinarily work on? Obviously it's multilateral, but it seems like we're so much focused on WHO, etc. Is State/IO the lead on this or us?

(b)(5)

Many thanks!

Begin Forwarded Message:
From: "Bell, March (HHS/OCR)" <March.Bell@hhs.gov>
Subject: OCR comments on UN Resolution on Youth
Date: 23 October 2017 19:53
To: "Grigsby, Garrett (HHS/OS/OGA)" <Garrett.Grigsby@hhs.gov>, "Burris, Hannah (HHS/OGA)" <Hannah.Burris@hhs.gov>
Cc: "Brown, Louis (HHS/OCR)" <Louis.Brown@hhs.gov>

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

March Bell
Chief of Staff
Office for Civil Rights
Health and Human Services
Phone (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, October 20, 2017 1:51 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: OASH-ACF Partnership
Attachments: draft HHS Announces Innovative Research.docx; DRAFTOASHACFPartnership10.172017.docx

(b)(5)

From: Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, October 20, 2017 1:32 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)
Subject: OASH-ACF Partnership

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Norton, Jane (OS/IEA)
Sent: Thursday, October 19, 2017 8:03 AM
To: Yoest, Charmaine (OS/ASPA); Wagner, Steven (ACF); Trueman, Laura (HHS/IEA); Shannon Royce; Pilato, Anna (ACF); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: Fwd: LifeSiteNews.com - Wednesday Oct 18 2017

Begin Forwarded Message:
From: "Michael Norton" (b)(6)
Subject: Fwd: LifeSiteNews.com - Wednesday Oct 18 2017
Date: 19 October 2017 07:17
To: "Norton, Jane (OS/IEA)" <Jane.Norton@hhs.gov>

Michael J. Norton, J.D., M.Div.
(b)(6)

From: LifeSiteNews <lsn@lifesitenews.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2017 7:33:23 PM
To: Friend Norton
Subject: LifeSiteNews.com - Wednesday Oct 18 2017

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LIFE SITE Life, Family & Culture News

View all today's articles on one page

A Message from the Editor

Dear Readers,

We can't emphasize enough the **extreme importance** of today's LifeSite stories

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

such as here and here and here and more.

Use the "Email Friend" link at the bottom of every story or click on the Print Article icon and distribute copies to friends, parishioners, members of your congregation, or organizations that you belong to.

Please try your best to read most of the articles and then pass them on to as many others as you can.

Republish them in Church and other non-profit organization publications *(with proper credit to LifeSite)*. We give you that permission, especially for today's stories.

Most of the world is not at all aware of the critical information that we present to you in these reports.

They need to know.

Somehow, we have to reach millions with this information – **for the good of all – to protect life**, **family**, **faith and freedom**.

Steve Jalsevac

Co-Founder and President
LifeSiteNews

FEATURED

Wed Oct 18, 2017 - 5:09 pm EST

BREAKING: Judge orders Trump gov't to allow illegal immigrant teen to abort her baby immediately

By Claire Chretien

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

HHS-OS EF Lit 18-0241-000835

EXT-18-241-E-000018

Wed Oct 18, 2017 - 4:28 pm EST

Pro-abort billionaire George Soros gives $18 billion to make his foundation second richest in U.S.

By Claire Chretien

Editor's Picks

LifeSite is hiring! - Developer, Marketer, Business Manager

By LifeSiteNews.com

Liberal French politician selected to lead pro-LGBT UN agency

By Jeanne Smits, Paris correspondent

IKEA is an empty place. Here's one way Catholics can make it meaningful

By Clemens Cavallin

Will any pro-life politician take a stand against the Canadian abortion lobby?

By John Paul Meenan

Top News

U.S. foreign aid is a 'weapon for population control': pro-life leader
Catholic agencies also support programs that offer hidden financial assistance for contraception.

By Lisa Bourne

Pope Francis opposes population control in speech praising UN climate agreement
The pontiff continues to send mixed messages with his support for climate change initiatives.

By Lisa Bourne

Dancing With the Stars contestant was in a 'vegetative state' for 4 years as a child
Victoria Arlen and her parents never gave up hope that she would recover.

By Fr. Mark Hodges

'Trunk abortionist' admits hauling aborted babies, stolen drugs in car
Michael Arthur Roth was committing dangerous abortions out of the back of his car.

By Claire Chretien

Climate change is 'the biggest scientific fraud ever perpetrated': scientist
'The truth is, nobody really knows what's going to happen to the climate in the future.'

By Fr. Mark Hodges

Opinion

Will any pro-life politician take a stand against the Canadian abortion lobby?
It's baffling that only one MPP voted against the Ontario bill to restrict pro-life witness outside abortion centers.

By John Paul Meenan

IKEA is an empty place. Here's one way Catholics can make it meaningful
A Marian shrine is needed in this monument to consumerism.

By Clemens Cavallin

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Lloyd, Matt (OS/ASPA)
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2017 4:27 PM
To: Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC); Yoest, Charmaine (OS/ASPA); Marriott, Brian (ACF); Wagner, Steven (ACF); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Oakley, Caitlin B. (OS/ASPA)
Cc: Wolfe, Kenneth (ACF); Pilato, Anna (ACF)
Subject: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2017 2:14 PM
To: Yoest, Charmaine (OS/ASPA); Marriott, Brian (ACF); Lloyd, Matt (OS/ASPA); Wagner, Steven (ACF); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Oakley, Caitlin B. (OS/ASPA)
Cc: Wolfe, Kenneth (ACF); Pilato, Anna (ACF)
Subject: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Confidential pre-decisional deliberative process and attorney client privilege

---

Matt Bowman
Deputy General Counsel
HHS OGC
(b)(6)
matthew.bowman@hhs.gov

From: Yoest, Charmaine (OS/ASPA)
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2017 1:33 PM
To: Marriott, Brian (ACF); Lloyd, Matt (OS/ASPA); Wagner, Steven (ACF); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC); Oakley, Caitlin B. (OS/ASPA)
Cc: Wolfe, Kenneth (ACF); Pilato, Anna (ACF)
Subject: (b)(5)

Pre-Decisional and Deliberative

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

Thanks.

From: Marriott, Brian (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2017 1:17 PM
To: Lloyd, Matt (OS/ASPA); Wagner, Steven (ACF); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC); Yoest, Charmaine (OS/ASPA); Oakley, Caitlin B. (OS/ASPA)
Cc: Wolfe, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: Lloyd, Matt (OS/ASPA)
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2017 12:38 PM
To: Marriott, Brian (ACF); Wagner, Steven (ACF); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC); Yoest, Charmaine (OS/ASPA); Oakley, Caitlin B. (OS/ASPA)
Cc: Wolfe, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: Marriott, Brian (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2017 12:35 PM
To: Wagner, Steven (ACF); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC); Yoest, Charmaine (OS/ASPA); Oakley, Caitlin B. (OS/ASPA); Lloyd, Matt (OS/ASPA)
Cc: Wolfe, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

Brian T. Marriott
Senior Director, Communications and Media Relations
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Switzer Building
330 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20201
202.401.5705 (O)
(b)(6) **(M)**
Brian.Marriott@acf.hhs.gov

(All correspondence, notes and language are Pre-Authorization and Pre-Decisional in nature)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Kelley, Curtis (HHS/ASFR)
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2017 3:07 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: Slides
Attachments: Harvard GPL Workforce Projects October 2017.pdf

Slides are in the appointment but also attached.

Curtis Kelley
Branch Chief
Health and Family Support
Office of Budget
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources
Department of Health and Human Services
202-690-8730

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Lloyd, Matt (OS/ASPA)
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2017 2:16 PM
To: Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC); Yoest, Charmaine (OS/ASPA); Marriott, Brian (ACF); Wagner, Steven (ACF); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Oakley, Caitlin B. (OS/ASPA)
Cc: Wolfe, Kenneth (ACF); Pilato, Anna (ACF)
Subject: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2017 2:14 PM
To: Yoest, Charmaine (OS/ASPA); Marriott, Brian (ACF); Lloyd, Matt (OS/ASPA); Wagner, Steven (ACF); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Oakley, Caitlin B. (OS/ASPA)
Cc: Wolfe, Kenneth (ACF); Pilato, Anna (ACF)
Subject: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Confidential pre-decisional deliberative process and attorney client privilege

---

Matt Bowman
Deputy General Counsel
HHS OGC
(b)(6)
matthew.bowman@hhs.gov

From: Yoest, Charmaine (OS/ASPA)
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2017 1:33 PM
To: Marriott, Brian (ACF); Lloyd, Matt (OS/ASPA); Wagner, Steven (ACF); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC); Oakley, Caitlin B. (OS/ASPA)
Cc: Wolfe, Kenneth (ACF); Pilato, Anna (ACF)
Subject: (b)(5)

Pre-Decisional and Deliberative

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

Thanks.

From: Marriott, Brian (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2017 1:17 PM
To: Lloyd, Matt (OS/ASPA); Wagner, Steven (ACF); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC); Yoest, Charmaine (OS/ASPA); Oakley, Caitlin B. (OS/ASPA)
Cc: Wolfe, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: Lloyd, Matt (OS/ASPA)
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2017 12:38 PM
To: Marriott, Brian (ACF); Wagner, Steven (ACF); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC); Yoest, Charmaine (OS/ASPA); Oakley, Caitlin B. (OS/ASPA)
Cc: Wolfe, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: Marriott, Brian (ACF)
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2017 12:35 PM
To: Wagner, Steven (ACF); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC); Yoest, Charmaine (OS/ASPA); Oakley, Caitlin B. (OS/ASPA); Lloyd, Matt (OS/ASPA)
Cc: Wolfe, Kenneth (ACF)
Subject: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

Brian T. Marriott
Senior Director, Communications and Media Relations
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
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Brian.Marriott@acf.hhs.gov

(All correspondence, notes and language are Pre-Authorization and Pre-Decisional in nature)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Severino, Roger (HHS/OCR)
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 10:03 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: Lawsuits
Attachments: Washington v Trump (WD Wash No 17-1510).pdf; California v HHS (ND Cal No 17-5783).pdf

Here are a couple suits. DO you have that reg cite?

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Lloyd, Scott (ACF)
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2017 8:05 PM
To: Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: (b)(5)
Attachments: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2017 7:38 PM
To: Lloyd, Scott (ACF); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: (b)(5)

Attorney client communication

(b)(5)

Confidential pre-decisional deliberative process and attorney client privilege

---

Matt Bowman
Deputy General Counsel
HHS OGC
(b)(6)
matthew.bowman@hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Burnszynski, Jennifer (OS/ASPE)
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 4:48 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Destro, Brenda (HHS/ASPE)
Subject: ASPE Learning Exchange: The Role of Men in Disadvantaged and Complex Families
Attachments: Berger_Fathers_ASPE2017_FINAL.pdf

Hello Maggie, Sarah-Lloyd, and Andrew,

The slide deck from today's ASPE-Institute for Poverty Research Learning Exchange: *The Role of Men in Disadvantaged and Complex Families* is attached. We're very happy to answer any questions or provide follow up.

As part of our National Center for Poverty Research cooperative agreement, we plan to hold these Learning Exchanges roughly quarterly.

- They provide an opportunity for HHS leadership and staff, as well as other federal partners, to learn from poverty researchers across the country about cutting-edge findings from applied research that have clear relevance for HHS programs and policies.
- During the Learning Exchange, poverty center affiliates will discuss research on a specific topic and engage in a dialogue with federal leaders and staff about implications for policy and practice.
- The goals are to increase the ability of research findings to inform government policy and programs in a timely manner.
- They are based on a model used by the WI Dept of Children and Families and the University of Wisconsin.

We are always grateful for any feedback or suggestions for topics!

Thanks,
Jennifer

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Wednesday, October 04, 2017 10:26 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Graham, John (HHS/ASPE); Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS); Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS); Brady, Will (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Caliguiri, Laura (HHS/IOS); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: RE: Discretionary A-19s for transmission to OMB COMMENTS DUE NOON TOMORROW Wednesday, October 4
Attachments: Priority FY2019 Discretionary JRG MAW ps.docx; HHS FY19 Discretionary Legislative Proposals JRG REDLINE ps.docx

(b)(5) I have not had time to review any of the other A-19s.

Paula

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, October 03, 2017 7:29 PM
To: Graham, John (HHS/ASPE); Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS); Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS); Brady, Will (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Caliguiri, Laura (HHS/IOS); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: RE: Discretionary A-19s for transmission to OMB COMMENTS DUE NOON TOMORROW Wednesday, October 4

John,

(b)(5)

Maggie

Deliberative and pre-decisional communication

From: Graham, John (HHS/ASPE)
Sent: Tuesday, October 03, 2017 4:08 PM
To: Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS); Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS); Brady, Will (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Caliguiri, Laura (HHS/IOS); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: RE: Discretionary A-19s for transmission to OMB COMMENTS DUE NOON TOMORROW Wednesday, October 4

I regret I forgot to attach the list of priority A-19s, which OMB also expects. These were first described in the information memo to the Secretary of August 19. I have noted the page numbers in the package I sent earlier today.

From: Graham, John (HHS/ASPE)
Sent: Tuesday, October 03, 2017 11:45 AM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS); Amanda Street (amanda.street@hhs.gov); Brady, Will (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Caliguiri, Laura (HHS/IOS); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR) (Jen.Moughalian@hhs.gov)
Subject: Discretionary A-19s for transmission to OMB COMMENTS DUE NOON TOMORROW Wednesday, October 4

(b)(5)

Historically, this package has been transmitted to Mr. Vaeth at OMB over e-mail by the ASPE, with a short introductory e-mail, but not a formal memo, and that is what I propose to do tomorrow afternoon. Please let me know if you have any comments or concerns.

John R. Graham
Acting Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Office: (202) 690-7858
Direct: (b)(6)
Mobile:

Hubert Humphrey Building
Room 415-F
200 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20201

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From: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR)
Sent: Monday, October 02, 2017 7:33 PM
To: Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS); Graham, John (HHS/ASPE); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Shipley, Samuel (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: Discretionary A-19s

That is great news, thanks Ann. OMB was asking about a few of these in budget hearings last week.

Jen Moughalian
US Department of Health and Human Services
202-690-6061 (Office)
(b)(6) (Cell)

Deliberative and pre-decisional communication

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, October 02, 2017 7:21 PM
To: Graham, John (HHS/ASPE); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Shipley, Samuel (HHS/IOS)
Subject: Re: Discretionary A-19s

Yes

On: 02 October 2017 18:16, "Graham, John (HHS/ASPE)" <John.Graham@hhs.gov> wrote:
Thank you for meeting this evening. Do I understand correctly that the discretionary A-19 decision memo of September 1 (attached for your recall) is approved by the Secretary as per the recommendations in it? And that we can transmit to OMB?

John R. Graham
Acting Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Office: (202) 690-7858
Direct: (b)(6)
Mobile:

Hubert Humphrey Building
Room 415-F
200 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20201

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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of the Freedom of Information Act

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Page 036 of 550

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Page 037 of 550

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Page 038 of 550

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Burnszynski, Jennifer (OS/ASPE)
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 3:24 PM
Cc: OS - ASPE HSP
Subject: What's New in Human Services Policy Research

Hello,

As a valued partner in promoting the well-being of America's children, families, individuals, and communities, I wanted to let you know about current and future projects our team is working on at ASPE's Office of Human Services Policy.

Warmly,

Jennifer Burnszynski
Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary

HUMAN SERVICES POLICY UPDATE

Recent publications from the Human Services Policy team at the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the Department of Health and Human Services.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Pretesting a Human Trafficking Screening Tool in the Child Welfare and Runaway and Homeless Youth Systems
Urban Institute | David Nielsen and Amanda Benton (Project Officers) | Read it here

This report summarizes a study to develop and pretest a Human Trafficking Screening Tool (HTST) with 600 youth involved in the runaway and homeless youth or child welfare systems. Findings include:

- Practitioners found the 19-item HTST to be easy to administer and reported that youth responded truthfully. Response rates were similar whether the tool was self- or practitioner-administered.
- Responses were related to known trafficking risk factors and outcomes, including running away from home, being kicked out of one's home, abusing prescription or over-the-counter drugs, trading sex for something of value on their own (i.e. without the presence of a third party exploiter), being arrested, and seeking help.
- According to administering practitioners' beliefs and observations, for approximately 6 in 10 youth, the HTST correctly predicted youth to be trafficking victims, as well as correctly predicting 8 in 10 times when youth were not victims.
- The short, six-item form of HTST performed equally well as the full version on all measures of validity, but took less than a minute to administer.
- Additional testing with youth under age 18 and child welfare-involved youth, as well as further validation work with a nationally representative sample, is recommended.

Partners: Administration for Children and Families' Children's Bureau, Family and Youth Services Bureau, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, and Office of Trafficking in Persons

Multi-Site Family Study on Incarceration, Parenting, and Partnering: Earnings and Child Support Participation Among Reentering Fathers
RTI International | Erica Meade (Project Officer) | Read it here

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

This brief presents findings on pre- and post-incarceration wages and child support participation among men who were part of the Multi-Site Family Study on Incarceration, Parenting, and Partnering (MFS-IP). The analysis matched MFS-IP survey data with state administrative data to learn more about earnings and child support payments among justice-involved men. Key findings are:

- Most of the men and their partners were involved with the child support system, and the majority had at least one child support case for one or more of their children.
- Child support arrears often increased substantially during incarceration.
- Pre- and post-incarceration earnings were not sufficient to avoid poverty.

Partner: Administration for Children and Families' Office of Family Assistance

Briefs on Prolonged Youth Homelessness
Amanda Benton, Laura Chadwick, Kirby Chow, and Alex Coccia| Research by ICF Macro | Read them here

These three briefs discuss characteristics and experiences of young people who are homeless for prolonged periods of time, including the intersection with serious mental illness, and provide information on promising interventions for this population. Key findings include:

- Youth that experience lengthy episodes of homelessness have multiple risk factors, including involvement in the child welfare and criminal justice systems; histories of child maltreatment; substance use and mental health challenges; and higher rates of dropping out of school, unemployment, and informal work.
- Mental health disorders such as psychosis, for which symptoms often first appear during adolescence and early adulthood, are associated with increased risk for homelessness.
- Supportive housing for youth, social enterprise interventions, functional family therapy, and early interventions for mental health such as Coordinated Specialty Care programs hold promise for youth experiencing prolonged homelessness.

Recent National Poverty Research Center Publications
Don Oellerich, Susan Hauan, and Lincoln Groves (Project Officers) | Learn more here

HSP's cooperative agreement with the University of Wisconsin – Madison supports a National Poverty Center Research Program at the Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP), which provides researchers and policymakers with working papers, research briefs, podcasts, and webinars on a wide range of topics affecting low-income populations in the United States. Recent IRP products include:

- Monthly podcasts, including one on Extreme Poverty after Welfare Reform by Scott Winship;
- Ongoing webinars, including on Using Neighborhood Socioeconomic Data to Improve Health Outcomes with Amy Kind;
- Five essays on the social determinants of health;
- Policy briefs on Financial Causes and Consequences of Child Maltreatment and on Childhood Obesity.

Partners: As part of the U.S. Collaborative of Poverty Centers (CPC), IRP works closely with eight other poverty research centers located at Columbia University, Howard University, University of California – Irvine, University of Michigan, Stanford University, University of California – Davis, University of Kentucky, and University of Washington.

COMING UP Next Month & Beyond

- Predictive Analytics in Child Welfare: An Introduction for Administrators and Policy Makers (and Companion Web-Based Decision Tree Tool)
- Predictive Analytics in Child Welfare: An Assessment of Current Efforts, Challenges and Opportunities
- Psychotropic Medication Use among Children Who Are Subjects of Child Protective Services Investigations: Does Court Oversight Matter?
- Patterns of Foster Care Placement and Family Reunification following Child Maltreatment Investigations

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

HHS-OS EF Lit 18-0241-000900 EXT-18-241-E-000083

- Parental Incarceration and Children in Nonparental Care

ABOUT HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

The Office of Human Services Policy (HSP) conducts policy research, analysis, evaluation, and coordination on various issues across the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), including but not limited to, poverty and measurement, vulnerable populations, early childhood education and child welfare, family strengthening, economic support for families, and youth development.

The mission of HSP is to provide HHS leadership with research-based policy solutions that promote the well-being of America's most vulnerable populations.

Please contact Amanda Benton at Amanda.Benton@hhs.gov if you would like to be added or removed from this list.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Brown, Joshua H. (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 11:27 AM
To: Logan, Scott (ACF); ASPEClearances (OS/ASPE); Kinnison, Kelly (OS/ASPE); Smith-Simpson, Jacqlyn (HHS/ASFR); Burbank, Nick (HHS/ASFR); Curtis, Jillian (HHS/ASFR); ocolclearances@fda.hhs.gov; Lockeed, Matthew (FDA/OC); Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL); Zborowsky, Ashley (FDA/OC); Fda Ogc Fdd control (FDA); LaCheen, Cary (OS/OGC); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Kemper, Laura (HHS/ASL); Kehoe, Brian (HHS/ASL); Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL)
Cc: Stimson, Brian (HHS/OGC); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC)
Subject: (b)(5)

Attachments:

(b)(5)

Joshua H. Brown
Legislation Division
HHS Office of General Counsel
(b)(6)
Joshua.Brown@hhs.gov

From: Willoughby, Michelle (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2017 1:27 PM
To: Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); McGuffee, Tyler Ann (HHS/ASL); Morse, Sara (HHS/ASL); Whitley, Edward (HHS/ASL); Kemper, Laura (HHS/ASL); Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Davis, Ms. Cynthia (ACF); Logan, Scott (ACF); Sulton, Jae (ACF); ASAIO Staff; Barcus, Lea (PSC/OD); Earles, Vertrice (HHS/ASA) (CTR); Duncan, Constance (HHS/ASFR); Smith-Simpson, Jacqlyn (HHS/ASFR); ASPEClearances (OS/ASPE); ASPR Legislation (OS/ASPR); Vandegrift, Serina (OS/ASPR/COO); Klingbeil, Martin (CDC/OD/CDCWO); Schattner, Aimee (CDC/OD/CDCWO); Haron, Judith (HHS/OGC); Jeffries, Elizabeth (HHS/OGC); Terry, Minnie (HHS/OGC); Atkinson, Leslie (HRSA); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Sealy, Camille (HRSA); Mason, James (HHS/IEA); East, Janet (HHS/OASH); Stallion, Vivian (HHS/OS); Adams, Claudia (HHS/OS); Brockett, Sharon (HHS/OCR); Householder, Donna (HHS/OS); Lawson, Heather (HHS/OCR); Morgan, Sherri (OS/OCR); Altman, Brian (SAMHSA); Lampasone, Kara (SAMHSA); Rice, Peggie (HHS/ASFR); Slothouber, Doug (SAMHSA); Craig, Nina (IHS/HQ); Hodson, Corbrett (IHS/HQ); Tracy, June (IHS/HQ); Global Health (HHS/OGA)
Cc: Malliou, Ekaterini (OS/IOS); Davis, Jeffrey (HHS/OGC); Brown, Joshua H. (HHS/OGC); Hertzog, Christian (HHS/OGC); Friedman, Richard (HHS/OGC); Sherman, Susan (HHS/OGC); Ray Gorrie, Jennifer (HHS/OGC); Blackwell, Edith (HHS/OGC); Johnson, Linda (OS/OGC); Bird, Catherine (OS/OGC); Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC); Stimson, Brian (HHS/OGC); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); Johnson-Webb, Mechelle D (IHS/HQ); Slacter, Ann R (IHS/HQ); Vanderwagen, Luke (IHS/HQ); Huff, Bonita (HHS/OGC); Schuham, Aaron (HHS/OGC); Barry, Daniel J (HHS/OGC); OS GCGL, EMAIL

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(HHS/OS); Benor, David E.(HHS/OGC); Naimon, David (HHS/OGC); OGC PH and S BRANCH CONTROLS; Kocher, Paula L. (CDC/OCOO/OGC); OGC CDC Branch Controls (CDC); OIGClearances@oig.hhs.gov; Hodgkins, Juliet (OIG/OCIG)
Subject: Reply by 1PM,9/28:OMB RFVs:S 1757(Building America's Trust Act)

TO:

L/H	L/HS
ACF	HRSA
ASA	IEA
ASFR	OASH
ASPE	OCR
ASPR	OGA
CDC	SAMHSA
GC/CFA	IHS
IOS/OS	OIG

FROM: Office of the General Counsel/Legislation Division

SUBJECT: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Attachments

cc: OIG
GC/IO
GC/CR
GC/GLD
GC/PH
IOS/OS
GCL (Friedman/Hertzog)

Michelle Lawrence Willoughby
Office of the General Counsel/Legislation Division
Legislative Reference Service
202.690.7750 fax 202.690.7309
Michelle.Willoughby@hhs.gov

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: OS HHSPress (HHS/ASPA)
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:43 PM
To: OS - ASPA - Clearance; OS - ASPA - Public Health Clearance; OS - ASPA - Health Care Clearance; OS - ASPA - Human Services Clearance
Cc: Russell, Lola S. (CDC/OD/OADC); Bonds, Michelle E. (CDC/OD/OADC); Burden, Bernadette (CDC/OD/OADC); Harben, Kathy (CDC/OD/OADC); Kelly, Bertram (CDC/OD/OADC)
Subject: CLEARANCE_1008: CDC "Hepatitis C infections increase as the nation's opioid epidemic worsens"
Attachments: CDC HCV Infections and Opiods Press Release.docx; Acute HCV and IDU_National Analysis_AJPH-Final 5-29-17.docx; Appendix Table 1_NNDSS by State.5.29.17.pdf; Appendix Table 2_TEDS State admissions 5.29.17.pdf; Table 1.docx; Table 2_2004-2014 TEDS.5.29.17.pdf

Importance: High

Agency/Office: CDC

Subject (or headline): *Hepatitis C infections increase as the nation's opioid epidemic worsens*

Material: Draft news release

Deadline for comments: Before 11 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 26

Planned release date: Friday, Sept. 29

Driver: Study will be published in the American Journal of Public Health

Note: Study and tables added for context

Best,

Mike Robinson
Strategic Planning, ASPA

202-690-6885 –desk
(b)(6) -mobile

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: OS HHSPress (HHS/ASPA)
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:27 AM
To: OS - ASPA - Clearance; OS - ASPA - Public Health Clearance; OS - ASPA - Health Care Clearance; OS - ASPA - Human Services Clearance
Cc: Hoskins, Sharon (K.D.) (CDC/OD/OADC); Buckner, Amesheia (CDC/OD/OADC); Bonds, Michelle E. (CDC/OD/OADC); Burden, Bernadette (CDC/OD/OADC); Harben, Kathy (CDC/OD/OADC); Kelly, Bertram (CDC/OD/OADC)
Subject: CLEARANCE_1004: CDC "Vital Signs: Overweight and Obesity linked to 40% of New Cancer Cases"
Attachments: 17_279591-A-Sokler_VS_OCT_Obesity_Cancer_V10.pdf; PRESS RELEASE Vital Signs Cancer Obesity_9.21.17.docx

Agency/Office: CDC

Subject (or headline): *Vital Signs: Overweight and Obesity linked to 40% of New Cancer Cases*

Material: Draft news release, fact sheet

Deadline for comments: Before 1 p.m. Monday, Sept. 25

Planned release date: Tuesday, Oct. 3

Driver: October 2017 Vital Signs

Note: A blog may follow, using this clearance number

Best,

Mike Robinson
Strategic Planning, ASPA

202-690-6885 –desk
(b)(6) -mobile

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2017 3:07 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS)
Subject: Approval Emails
Attachments: (b)(5)

Maggie,

(b)(5)

SL

Deliberative and pre-decisional communication

Sarah-Lloyd Stevenson
Policy Advisor
Immediate Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(b)(6)
(202) 260-6255
Sarah-Lloyd.Stevenson@hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 12:58 PM
To: (b)(6) (OS/IOS)
Cc: Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS)
Subject: Fall 2017 Reg. Plan Q & A: Unaccompanied Alien Children

Sir,

(b)(5)

Thanks!

Sarah-Lloyd

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Deliberative and pre-decisional communication

Sarah-Lloyd Stevenson
Policy Advisor
Immediate Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 260-6255
Sarah-Lloyd.Stevenson@hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Rob Valente <robvalente@dvpolicy.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2017 3:45 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Adair, Geraldine (OS/IOS); Rene Renick; Anne Crews; Anne Menard; Katie Ray Jones
Subject: Follow up to our meeting
Attachments: 2016-Impact-Report-digital.pdf; DVEvidence-ExaminingtheEvidence-2016.pdf; DVEvidence-Services-ToC-2016.pdf; DVSN-infographic-June2015.pdf; Mary Kay Handout 2017.pdf; NNEDV 2016 Census Report .pdf

Maggie:

Thank you so much for meeting with us on the 17th. We so appreciated your taking the time to hear about the various programs funded through the Family Violence Prevention and Services office. As you could tell, we are very passionate about this work and are very grateful that HHS provides the support that makes this work possible.

We had provided you with some handouts during our visit. I am attaching electronic versions of those documents, in case you need to forward them or provide access to them for others in HHS.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to let you know how very pleased we were to see the stable funding levels for the FVPSA programs in the President's Budget. It is very encouraging to know that the Department and the Administration continue to support services and resources that will improve the safety of survivors of domestic and dating violence.

Please let us know if there is any way we can be of help to you or anyone else in the Department on the issues of domestic and dating violence. We are happy to provide additional information or connect you with other domestic violence or dating violence programs.

Thank you again!

Rob

Rob (Roberta) Valente
Chief Officer for Government Affairs
National Domestic Violence Hotline
rvalente@ndvh.org
240-354-4842
www.thehotline.org | www.loveisrespect.org

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL)
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2017 12:40 PM
To: Tracy, June (IHS/HQ)
Cc: Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: TA request
Attachments: ROM17265.pdf

Importance: High

Hi June,

(b)(5)

Thank you,
Courtney

Courtney Lawrence
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Legislation
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 619-1206 (Direct)
Courtney.Lawrence@hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Zebley, Kyle (HHS/OS/OGA)
Sent: Sunday, May 21, 2017 5:18 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: Fw: 16.3
Attachments: 16.3 Global Strategy for Womens Childrens and Adolescents Health (2).docx; A70_37-en.pdf

Maggie,

(b)(5)

I hope you have a wonderful evening!

Kyle

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 10:06 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Balenger, Juanita (HHS/IOS)
Subject: ACL - 30-Day Public Comment Request for the Older Americans Act Title VI Evaluation Data Collection
Attachments: Memo ACL OAA Title VI FRN Request to HHS Exec Sec 05.18.2017.docx; OAA Title VI Evaluation 30 Day Notice 05.18.17.docx; Title VI Eval Collection Attachments 05.18.17.zip; Title VI Supporting Statement Part AB Indian Nutrition 05.18.17.docx; Title VI - P1_Worksheet 05.18.17.docx; Title VI - P2_Worksheet Tribal Caregivers - Survey - 05.18.17.docx; Title VI - P2_Worksheet Tribal Caregivers - Focus Group - 05.18.17.docx; Title VI - P2_Worksheet Tribal Elders - Interview - 05.18.17.docx; Title VI - P2 _Worksheet Tribal Elders -Focus Group - 05.18.17.docx; Title VI - P2_Worksheet Program Staff - Focus Group - 05.18.17.docx; Title VI - P2_Worksheet Program Staff - Interview - 05.18.17.docx; Title VI - P2_Worksheet Other Program Staff - Focus Group - 05.18.17.docx; Title VI - P2_Worksheet Other Program Staff - Interview - 05.18.17.docx

- Item: 30-Day Public Comment Request for the Older Americans Act Title VI Evaluation Data Collection
  Category: Routine
  Action Needed By: May 25, 2017
  Summary: ACL requests consideration for publishing a 30-day Federal Register Notice for the public review and comment of the Older Americans Act Title VI Evaluation Data Collection. ACL previously published a 60-Day notice in the Federal Register regarding this data collection and received no comments in response. ACL recommends publication of the 30-Day Federal Register Notice seeking further review and comment by the public. A background memo regarding this collection was provided to you in February 2016 prior to the publication of the 60-day notice. See attached an updated background memo, along with the 30-day draft notice, draft supporting statement to OMB, and collection forms and worksheets pertaining to this notice and collection.
  Justification: Meet the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Matthew R. Grove
Senior Policy Coordinator/Services Policy Team Lead
Immediate Office of the Secretary-Executive Secretariat
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave SW - Room 627H
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: (202) 205-8154 Fax: (202) 205-2135
Matthew.Grove@hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Hugo Dwyer <hdwyer@vor.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2017 12:16 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: McGowan, Robert (Kyle) (HHS/IEA); Berger, Dan P. (ACL/CMB)
Subject: Re: VOR/HHS Meeting
Attachments: VOR Letter to HHS & CMS.pdf

Hi again Maggie,
I just wanted to send you this document that our president, Caroline Lahrmann, sent out in response to Secretary Price's letter to governors a few weeks ago. This should serve as an introduction to VOR and to the issues that concern us regarding our meeting.
Hugo

Hugo Dwyer
Executive Director, VOR
72 Carmine Street Rear Duplex
New York, NY 10014

hdwyer@vor.net
646-387-2267

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> On May 15, 2017, at 6:44 AM, Hugo Dwyer <hdwyer@vor.net> wrote:
>
> Good morning,
> Our participants will be Caroline Lahrmann, Peter Kinzler, Joan Kelley, and me.
> We look forward to speaking with you,
> Hugo
>
> Hugo Dwyer
> Executive Director, VOR
> 72 Carmine Street Rear Duplex
> New York, NY 10014
>
> hdwyer@vor.net
> 646-387-2267
>
> You can help VOR by making a secure, online contribution by visiting http://www.vor.net/get-involved/donate-to-vor
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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

On May 12, 2017, at 2:37 PM, Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS) <Margaret.Wynne@hhs.gov> wrote:

Meeting Participants:
Maggie Wynne
Kyle McGowan
Dan Berger
Hugo Dwyer, Executive Director of VOR, and Group

Location: HHS, 200 Independence Ave., SW, WDC, Conf Rm 607G. Please bring current photo I.D. for front desk security. Thanks.

POC: Geraldine Adair, 202-260-6149

<Mail Attachment.ics>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Kinnison, Kelly (OS/ASPE)
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 1:23 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Graham, John (HHS/ASPE); Burnszynski, Jennifer (OS/ASPE)
Subject: RE: Deep Poverty Conference
Attachments: Deep Poverty in the United States Agenda.docx; Deep Poverty Convening - Participant List.xlsx

Attached please find the most up to date agenda and participant list for the Deep Poverty meeting. We were able to extend invitations to all those suggested by the Policy Team. We have invited ACF staff, but held off on inviting ACF and Departmental leadership as folks were coming on board. We are excited to welcome ACF leadership and happy to send a calendar invitation to anyone you identify.

Please let me know if anything else would be helpful.

Kelly

From: Graham, John (HHS/ASPE)
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 11:31 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Burnszynski, Jennifer (OS/ASPE); Kinnison, Kelly (OS/ASPE)
Subject: RE: Deep Poverty Conference

Thank you. The conference on Deep Poverty in the U.S. will be held at HHH on June 27-28. Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (in conjunction with University of Kentucky) and Urban Institute convene.

I have a hard copy of the agenda and invitees. Jennifer Burnszynski or Kelly Kinnison (both c.c.'d) can send you an attachment.

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 10:28 AM
To: Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Graham, John (HHS/ASPE)
Subject: RE: Deep Poverty Conference

Hi Nina,

I don't remember getting information on this earlier, but am very interested in the subject matter.

It is likely that ACF OPRE is already involved, but I want to share with new team members over there.

John, could you or your staff send me information about the meeting?

Thank you,
Maggie

From: Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 8:18 AM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Graham, John (HHS/ASPE)
Subject: Deep Poverty Conference

Did we find someone from ACF to attend the ASPE meeting?
Thanks
Nina

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wright, Natasha (OS/IOS)
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 3:07 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: EXPEDITED: ACF comments on State Department - OPSC Hard Q&As
Attachments: 2016-07-01 Young Center OPSC Shadow Report.pdf; 2016-07-01 ECPAT OPSC Shadow Report.pdf; $(COMBINED LOCATION OF COMMENTS) ORR and OTIP - OPSC Hard QA.doc.docx; $(COMBINED COMMENTS) ORR and OTIP - OPSC Hard QA.DOC; 2017-03-14 OPSC written replies.pdf; 2016-07-01 ECPAT OPSC Alternative Report.pdf

Importance: High

Hi Maggie,

ACF is requesting that you sign off on the two Word documents (highlighted below) before they send their final response to the Department of State. I am told that the deadline was yesterday, and I just received the documents this afternoon while I was in meeting. I asked if they can request an extension since the U.S. report is being presented on May 16, and I will follow-up with you as soon as I hear back. Otherwise, do you think that this is something you could clear potentially by COB today?

Attached are:

1. The draft Hard Q&A for OPSC (Combined Comments from ORR and OTIP)
2. Combined Location of Comments from ORR and OTIP
3. The 2016 U.S. Periodic Report (Alternative)
4. The 2017 U.S. written replies to the OPSC List of Issues
5. The ECPAT 2016 shadow report
6. The Young Center 2016 shadow report

Justification for Expedited Review: The U.S. Mission in Geneva filed our written replies to the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the OPSC on March 14. The as-filed versions are attached for your records and will be posted at http://www.state.gov/j/drl/reports/treaties/index.htm in the coming days.

The U.S. is presenting a report to the Committee, which takes place in Geneva on May 16 (OPSC for three hours in the morning). The presentation is the third and final step in the reporting cycle, and entails a brief opening statement by the U.S. delegation followed by a Q&A session in which Committee members ask the delegation oral questions about U.S. implementation of the Protocols, and the delegation provides oral answers. Along with the report itself and the written replies, these Hard Q&As will be what U.S. delegation members use to prepare themselves for the questions Committee members may ask during the presentation.

Thanks,

Natasha

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wright, Natasha (OS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2017 11:33 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: (ACF) 60- Day FRN: National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System
Attachments: $ - FRN1.docx .docx; $ - Guidelines_App C Child File Record Layout 3-24-17.docx .docx; WORKING -CLEAN - FR1N Decision Memo 0970-0424.docx .docx .docx

Good Evening Maggie,

Page 1, Item 2: Please find attached a memo, FRN, and Appendix C for the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System. ACF is requesting a revision of the currently approved collection due to new data collection requirements of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015.

Thanks,
Natasha

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wright, Natasha (OS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2017 11:25 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: (ACF) 60-Day FRN: Head Start Program Information Report
Attachments: $ - 2016-2017 Advance Copy PIR Form August 2016.doc .doc; $ - Center Locations.pdf .pdf; $ - Contacts.pdf .pdf; $ - FR1 - Head Start Program Information Report.doc .doc; $ - Monthly Enrollment.pdf .pdf; $ - Reportable Conditions.pdf .pdf; $ - CLEAN - Decision Memo Head Start Program Information Report - ES edits.docx .docx .docx

Good Evening Maggie,

Page 1, Item 1: Please see attached for a memo, FRN, and supplemental materials for the Head Start Program Report. ACF requests to submit these documents to OMB for review and approval of their proposed information collection activities. Their request to renew their authority to collect this information does not contain any changes from their previous request.

Thanks,
Natasha

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Tignor, Beth (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2017 4:14 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: FW: CLEARANCE_0273 (EXPEDITED): IHS Rollout - Rosebud Hospital in South Dakota surveyed by CMS
Attachments: DRAFT Rollout Plan-CMS survey Rosebud 032817 v5.docx

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From: OS HHSPress (HHS/ASPA)
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2017 4:14 PM
To: OS - ASPA - Clearance; OS - ASPA - Human Services Clearance
Cc: OS HHSPress (HHS/ASPA); Barnett, Joshua (IHS/HQ)
Subject: CLEARANCE_0273 (EXPEDITED): IHS Rollout - Rosebud Hospital in South Dakota surveyed by CMS

Agency/Office: IHS

Subject: Rosebud CMS survey

Materials:

- Rollout plan with tribal and hill notifications, reactive statement, and QA

Deadline for comments: 1pm, Friday, March 31

Planned release date: March 30 or 31

Driving event: IHS Rosebud Hospital in South Dakota surveyed by CMS

Carla L. Daniels
Public Affairs Specialist
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
OS/ASPA
Office: 202-690-4595
Cell: (b)(6)
www.hhs.gov/news

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL)
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 9:24 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS)
Subject: FW: Grasslely 3/23/oversight letter and Senate HSGAC Qs re: UC in MD
Attachments: 2017-03-23 CEG to HHS (Sanchez Milian and Montano UACs).pdf

Maggie,

(b)(5)

From: Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL)
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 7:51 PM
To: Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL)
Subject: Grasslely 3/23/oversight letter and Senate HSGAC Qs re: UC in MD

Sarah and Kris,

For your awareness: Grassley oversight letter attached and follow up questions from HSGAC below. I've sent both to ACF to begin responses:

Follow up questions from Senate HSGAC:

1) Provide all HHS documentation involving Henry Sanchez-Milian and Jose Montano.
2) On what date was Henry Sanchez-Milian and Jose Montano referred from Border Patrol to HHS?
3) On what date and what location were Henry Sanchez-Milian and Jose Montano placed in ORR shelters? How many days did Henry Sanchez-Milian and Jose Montano reside in ORR shelters? How were they transferred to ORR shelters?
4) Did HHS coordinate with DOJ regarding Henry Sanchez-Milian's Notice to Appear? Please explain in detail.
5) Did HHS interview Henry Sanchez-Milian and Jose Montano regarding any affiliation with gangs or other organized crime?
6) On what date were the sponsors selected for Henry Sanchez-Milian and Jose Montano? Please explain the criteria to become a sponsor.
7) Who was the sponsor(s) for Henry Sanchez-Milian and Jose Montano?
8) Please explain what background checks occurred on the sponsors.
9) Does HHS collect fingerprints or other identifying information of UACs? If so, is this information accessible for federal, state, and local law enforcement?

Thank you.

Barbara

Barbara Pisaro Clark
Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(202) 690-7627
(202) 260-7193 (direct)
Barbara.clark@hhs.gov

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Page 107 of 550

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

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Page 109 of 550

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From:	Wright, Natasha (OS/IOS)
Sent:	Friday, March 24, 2017 12:45 AM
To:	Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject:	(ACF) Annual RTC for the FY 2015 Assets for Independence Program & transmittal letters
Attachments:	$WORKING CLEAN - FY 2015 RTC Transmittal Letters.docx; $ WORKING - 2015 AFI Report to Congress.docx; $ - Final Clean - FY 2015 RTC Memo.docx .docx

Hi Maggie,

Per the 3/24 Week Ahead report on Page 6, Item 1, please see attached for ACF's memo, Report to Congress, and transmittal letters for the Assets for Independence Program.

Thanks,
Natasha

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From:	Wright, Natasha (OS/IOS)
Sent:	Thursday, March 23, 2017 11:51 PM
To:	Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject:	(ACF) FRN for Submission for OMB Review: HPOG program- Third Follow-up Data Collection
Attachments:	$ - HPOG Followup OMB 72 Month Followup Survey TOC_031517.docx .docx; $ - 30 Day FRN_HPOG 3rd Follow Up.doc .doc; $ - HPOG Followup OMB 72 Mo Follow-Up Survey_03152017.docx .docx; $ - WORKING CLEAN - Decision Memo_HPOG 30 Day FRN_March 2017.docx .docx .docx

Hi Maggie,

Per the 3/24 Week Ahead report on Page 4, Item 1, please see attached for ACF's memo, FRN, and 2 versions of the March 2017 iteration of the survey for the Health Profession Opportunity Grant.

Thanks,
Natasha

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Klimczak, Kate (HHS/ASFR)
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 2:03 PM
To: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Horn, Wade (HHS/IOS) (CTR); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Cochran, Norris (HHS/ASFR); Coughlin, Janis (HHS/ASFR); Pollock, Rachel (HHS/ASFR); Klimczak, Kate (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: REMINDER: For review: Secretary Price hearing prep papers and draft testimony - Due TODAY at 3pm
Attachments: House LHHS Hearing Prep Papers3.21.17.docx; 20170321 House LHHS FY18 TEP Written Testimony _ For Policy Team Review.....docx

REMINDER: Please send any edits to me by 3pm. Thank you.

From: Klimczak, Kate (HHS/ASFR)
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 10:53 AM
To: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Horn, Wade (HHS/IOS) (CTR); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Cochran, Norris (HHS/ASFR); Coughlin, Janis (HHS/ASFR); Pollock, Rachel (HHS/ASFR); Klimczak, Kate (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: For review: Secretary Price hearing prep papers and draft testimony - Due TODAY at 3pm
Importance: High

Good morning—

As you know, Secretary Price is scheduled to testify before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor-HHS on Wednesday, March 29 at 10:00am. The topic for this hearing is the Department's FY 2018 Budget request. We have two hearing related documents for your review:

1. Written testimony—attached please find draft written testimony. The written testimony is submitted for the record and more formal in nature. Once final, we will work with Patrick Brennan to adapt an oral version. **Please review and send any comments to Kate Klimczak by 3pm today**. ASFR will incorporate any edits and provide a draft copy for the Secretary's review this evening. Once the Secretary has reviewed, ASFR will clear through OMB.

2. Briefing papers—attached please find draft hearing prep papers on themes from the Budget Blueprint and issues of interest to specific LHHS members. Since the Secretary will be limited to discussing only the information released in the Blueprint, we have decided to focus only on those themes in his prep. **Please review and send any comments to Kate Klimczak by 3pm today**. ASFR will incorporate any comments and prepare a final briefing book for the Secretary this evening.

Please note: shortly I will be sending out calendar invitations for hearing prep sessions with the Secretary later this week and early next week.

Thank you! Please let us know if you have any questions.

Kate Klimczak
Appropriations Liaison

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ASFR | Office of Budget
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Kate.Klimczak@hhs.gov | 202-690-6293

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wright, Natasha (OS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 12:12 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: 2-17 ACF Week Ahead Report

Thank, Maggie. I've sent ACF the inquiry. –Natasha

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 8:31 AM
To: Wright, Natasha (OS/IOS)
Subject: RE: 2-17 ACF Week Ahead Report

Hi Natasha,

(b)(5)

Thanks,
Maggie

From: Wright, Natasha (OS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 5:04 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: 2-17 ACF Week Ahead Report

Hi Maggie, please see attached for the Program Instruction for the first item as requested. –thanks, Natasha

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From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 7:44 AM
To: Wright, Natasha (OS/IOS)
Subject: RE: 2-17 ACF Week Ahead Report

Good morning, Natasha,

(b)(5)

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Thank you,
Maggie

- Item: 2017 Children's Justice Act Program Instruction
  Category: Routine
  Action Needed By: February 22, 2017
  Summary: The Children's Justice Act (CJA) Program Instruction is released annually in order to provide CJA grantees with instructions for submitting their annual reports and applications to the Children's Bureau. This issuance is legislatively required by Section 107 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act and provides instructions on what to submit for approval of funding.

- Item: Implementation Grants to Develop a Model Intervention for Youth/Young Adults with Child Welfare Involvement at Risk of Homelessness: Phase II
  Category: Routine
  Action Needed By: February 22, 2017
  Summary: This is the second of two Federal Register Notices (FRN) for a proposed information collection: Implementation Grants to Develop a Model Intervention for Youth/Young Adults with Child Welfare Involvement at Risk of Homelessness: Phase II.

- Item: Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) Promising Youth Programs (PYP)
  Category: Routine
  Action Needed By: February 22, 2017
  Summary: PREP grantees provide education to adolescents on both abstinence and contraception for the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, as well as education on additional topics to prepare youth for adulthood. The PYP project supports PREP programming in two ways. First, it supports grantees as they collaborate with independent evaluators to conduct evaluations of their programs. Second, it is working to develop curricula to address PREP-related needs for underserved youth. The proposed data collection will support these goals.
  Justification: This 30-day notice is the second step in ACF's Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation's request for approval to collect data for the PREP PYP project. Following the 30-day comment period, the Office of Management and Budget's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs is expected to provide comments or approval on the proposed data collection within 30 days.

- Item: Federal Case Registry (FCR) Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) 60-Day Notice (FR1)
  Category: Routine
  Action Needed By: February 22, 2017
  Summary: The FCR PRA 60-Day Notice (FR1) provides an overview of the proposed information collection (IC) and solicits comments from the public for a 60-day period concerning the information collection.

- Item: Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) Publication – Refugee Health Promotion – Discretionary Award
  Category: Routine
  Action Needed By: February 22, 2017
  Summary: ACF requests authorization to publish the Refugee Health Promotion (RHP) – HHS-2017-ACF-ORR-RX-1222 FOA for the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)

- Item: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Policy Academy for Innovative Employment Strategies Forecast Publication – Discretionary Award
  Category: Routine
  Action Needed By: February 24, 2017
  Summary: This document requests approval to publish a forecast for a proposed TANF Policy Academy for Innovative Employment Strategies (Policy Academy) funding opportunity announcement (FOA). (A forecast provides public notice of a forthcoming FOA and is a required first step of the FOA process.) The Policy Academy

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would be conducted by the Office of Family Assistance (OFA), within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF).

Justification: The proposed Policy Academy is a successor to OFA's 2015 Systems to Family Stability Policy Academy.

- Item: Federal Register Notification for the Award of One Single-Source Program Expansion Supplement Grant within the Office of Refugee Resettlement's (ORR) Unaccompanied Children's (UC) Program
  Category: Routine
  Action Needed By: February 24, 2017
  Summary: The Office of Refugee Resettlement's (ORR) Unaccompanied Children's (UC) Program within the ACF, HHS, is seeking approval to post the Federal Register Notice (FRN) to the public via the https://www.federalregister.gov/ website. This FRN notifies the public of the award of a Program Expansion Supplement Grant within ORR's UC Program

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From: Wright, Natasha (OS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 5:28 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: 2-17 ACF Week Ahead Report

Hi Maggie,

Just wanted to share ACF's upcoming items for your review. Please let me know if you need additional information to make approval decisions. Have a nice weekend!

Thanks,
Natasha

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 4:41 PM
To: Wright, Natasha (OS/IOS)
Subject: RE: 2-17 ACF Week Ahead Report - Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) Promising Youth Programs (PYP)

Natasha,

(b)(5)

Thanks,
Maggie

(b)(5)

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(b)(5)

From: Wright, Natasha (OS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 4:55 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: 2-17 ACF Week Ahead Report
Importance: High

Hi Maggie,

Per your request for the following item, please see attached.

(b)(5)

Thanks,
Natasha

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wright, Natasha (OS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 11:42 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Robinson, Wilma (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: FRN for Proposed Information Collection: The Early Head Start Family and Child Experiences Survey 2018
Attachments: Center Director Survey_Baby FACES 2017.docx; Child Roster Form from EHS staff_Baby FACES 2017.docx; Classroom Home Visitor sampling form from EHS staff_Baby FACES 2017.doc; Parent Child Report_Baby FACES 2017.docx; Parent Consent Form_Baby FACES 2017.doc; Parent Survey_Baby FACES 2017.docx; Program Director Survey_Baby FACES 2017.docx; Staff Child Report Home Visitor_Baby FACES.DOCX; Staff Child Report Teacher_Baby FACES 2017.docx; Staff Survey Home Visitor_Baby FACES 2017.docx; Staff Survey Teacher_Baby FACES 2017.docx
Importance: High

Hi Maggie,

Please see attached for materials related to the revised instrument.

Thanks,
Natasha

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 8:58 AM
To: Wright, Natasha (OS/IOS)
Cc: Robinson, Wilma (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: FRN for Proposed Information Collection: The Early Head Start Family and Child Experiences Survey 2018

Hi Natasha,

Thank you for sending the Word version of the memo.

(b)(5)

Thank you,
Maggie

From: Wright, Natasha (OS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 3:25 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Robinson, Wilma (HHS/IOS)
Subject: FRN for Proposed Information Collection: The Early Head Start Family and Child Experiences Survey 2018
Importance: High

Good Afternoon Maggie,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Please see attached for an ACF Federal Register Notice and Comment Request entitled, The Early Head Start Family and Child Experiences Survey 2018. I am attaching the Word version of the memo because there is a link to background information regarding the instruments used in the earlier survey and reports based on it.

I agree with ACF's designation that this a routine item, without policy concerns.

Thanks,
Natasha

Natasha M. Wright, M.A., M.P.H., PMF Class of 2013
Policy Coordinator
Immediate Office of the Secretary|Executive Secretariat
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
202.205.5446| natasha.wright2@hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Moore, Hannah (OS/IOS)
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 9:48 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Horska, Katerina (HHS/IOS)
Subject: For your review by 3/3: CDC Response to Rep. Chaffetz letter on Zika education contract (Oversight letter)
Attachments: Chaffetz for CDC Sig.docx; 2017-01-26 JEC to Schuchat-CDC - Sid Educating Zika due 2-9.pdf

Hi Maggie,

Could you please take a look at the attached draft response to Rep. Chaffetz and provide edits by Friday? Tyler Ann is checking with folks on when CDC, ASL and the rest of the Department will have the green light to send oversight letters to the Hill, so I don't have an exact delivery date at this point. Will keep you posted.

Thanks!
Hannah

Hannah Moore
Office of the Executive Secretariat
US Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave, SW, Room 623H | Washington, DC 20201
202.690.5961 | hannah.moore@hhs.gov

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Trueman, Laura (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 6:32 PM
To: Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Neale, Brian (HHS/IOS); Verma, Seema (CMS/OA); Pate, Randy (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Aramanda, Alec (OS/ASL); Stirrup, Heidi (HHS/IOS); McGowan, Robert (Kyle) (HHS/IEA); Johnston, Darcie (HHS/IOS); Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS); Murphy, Ryan (OS/ASPA); Lloyd, Matt (OS/ASPA); Smith, Amanda (OS/ASPA); Brennan, Patrick (OS/ASPA); Tignor, Beth (HHS/IOS); Oakley, Caitlin B. (OS/ASPA); Kouzoukas, Demetrios (CMS/CM); Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA); Clark, Timothy (HHS/IOS); DiBlasio, Carla (HHS/IOS); Meszaros, Marie (HHS/IOS); Kalavritinos, Jack (HHS/IOS); Abram, Anna (HHS/IOS)
Subject: 3-10 to 3-14 Stakeholder & Hill Reactions

Stakeholder Reactions on AHCA (Update covers Friday 3-10 through Tuesday, 3-14)

Content Categories: Stakeholders
Hill
Social Media

Stakeholders

Christopher Jacobs, the Federalist – "Instead of passing legislation that some may vote for, but few truly support, House leadership would be wiser instead to focus on enacting a bill that members can both vote for and support. Repealing Obamacare, including the costly regulations emanating from Washington, would lower premiums, encouraging individuals to purchase coverage, and begin the process of restoring state sovereignty over health care and health insurance, an outcome for which conservatives could be proud."
3/14/2017

Juanita Duggan, National Federation of Independent Business – "Small business optimism has soared since November because small business owners anticipate a change in policies. Driving that optimism is the expectation that Congress will repeal Obamacare, which has been devastating to small businesses. The American Health Care Act would repeal the most punishing elements of Obamacare, including the massive tax increases and mandates that have increased costs, limited choices, and smothered job creation."
3/14/2017

Jason Pye, FreedomWorks – "None of this is to say that FreedomWorks agrees with the CBO's assessments, but the score and related impact will be used to hammer the AHCA, for which House Republican leaders are already having a difficult time getting conservative support because the bill doesn't go far enough to repeal ObamaCare and effectively repeals one entitlement to create another."
3/13/2017

> **Jason Pye –** "This is ObamaCare-lite. It creates a new entitlement through the refundable tax credits. It allows insurance companies to assess a 30 percent penalty on those who don't keep continuous coverage for 63 days, which is an individual mandate by another name."
> **3/7/2017**

Doug Holz-Eakin, American Action Forum – "People are always criticizing the CBO. They are a nonpartisan entity that exists in a partisan environment. They do high-quality work. Are they right all the time? No, but it's certainly a serious effort."

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3/13/2017

Doug Holz-Eakin - "The AHCA places trust in the decisions of individuals and families by making greater use of health savings accounts ... and respecting their ability to follow incentives to be continuously insured."

03/12/2017

Doug Holz-Eakin – "I think their basic overriding philosophy is to let the states decide a lot of things, which is sensible."

3/7/2017

Jim DeMint, Heritage Foundation – [In an interview with CBN News, Heritage Foundation President Jim DeMint says the whole thing was a rush job driven by fear.] "I think Republicans were afraid if they repealed it and didn't have an immediate fix in place."

3/13/2017

Jim DeMint— "The bill that the House and the Senate passed in 2015 should be passed again so that the debate immediately shifts from repeal to how do we improve our healthcare system. I don't believe the current bill could pass the House or the Senate."

3/9/2017

John Kasich, Governor, Ohio – "Look, the bill needs [to be] fixed. The current system doesn't work. That's why it's possible to get Democrats involved … it's not like we love Obamacare. It means don't throw the baby out with the bath water. Don't kill Medicaid expansion, and you've got to fix the exchange, but you have to have the ability to subsidize people at lower income levels."

3/12/2017

Michael Needham, Heritage Action — This bill keeps the architecture of Obamacare in place and that's why it needs to be improved and it needs to be improved a lot if we're going to make it great."

3/12/2017

"Many Americans seeking health insurance on the individual market will notice no significant difference between the Affordable Care Act (i.e., Obamacare) and the American Health Care Act…That is bad politics and, more importantly, bad policy."

3/7/2017

"The House Republican proposal released last night not only accepts the flawed progressive premises of Obamacare but expands upon them."

3/7/2017

Avik Roy, The Foundation for Research and Equal Opportunity – "Strictly speaking, the AHCA is nothing close to Obamacare Lite. The bill would repeal the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion and entirely defund its health insurance exchanges."

3/12/2017

Avik Roy — "Chairman Brady is right that the means testing on the high-earner end is progress compared with previous drafts. But there remain two problems with the way the tax credits are structured."

3/7/2017

Matt Bevin, Governor, Kentucky – "Obamacare is a disaster. It needs to be repealed. It needs to be replaced!"

3/11/2017

Bevin – "We're a state that has expanded Medicaid and despite all the wishful thinking to the contrary, it hasn't worked well," Bevin said. "It's coming at a price that is unaffordable, not only to Kentucky, but to the federal government, which has most heavily subsidized it to this point."

3/11/2017

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Joseph Antos & James Capretta, American Enterprise Institute – "While the emphasis on moving quickly is not surprising, there is also a significant risk that unnecessary haste could lead to major mistakes in the legislation that would generate strong political backlash."
3/10/2017

Joe Antos, American Enterprise Institute – "Paying for all this is going to be a big issue."
3/7/2017

Tim Phillips, Americans for Prosperity - "It is past time to act and to act decisively."
03/10/2017

HOUSE

Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) – "We made a promise to repeal and replace Obamacare with conservative solutions and reforms. That is exactly what this bill does, and that's why we're here."
3/7/2017
"I don't really think it is chaos. . . We spent a year working on the plan . . . If we put everything in the bill we possibly want, we'd have a filibuster that can't pass in the Senate . . . This was a tax on capital income that was bad for economic growth to finance Obamacare. We're undoing Obamacare so we're not going to keep that tax in place,"
3/8/2017
"We're going through the growing pains of being an opposition party with Barack Obama to actually being a governing party with a republican president, Donald Trump."
"I've been telling our members, just get ready. This is always what happens with CBO," Ryan said. "We always know you're never going to win a coverage beauty contest when it's free-market versus government mandates. If the government says 'thou shall buy our health insurance,' the government estimates are going to say people will comply and it will happen. And when you replace that with we're going to have a free market and you buy what you want to buy, they're going to say not nearly as many people are going to do that."
"Think of legislation as one train track with a bunch of trains on the track. If you don't get these trains through the system, it slows everything else down," he said. "I do agree that this is momentum-killing. If we don't do this and reduce or get rid of the trillion dollar tax increases in Obamacare, that just puts tax reform a trillion dollars further out of our reach. So there's a lot that rides on this, not to mention just the schedule. We love Neil Gorsuch. We think he's a great judge. We want to stay on schedule and get him in there as well. There's a lot that rides on this with respect to the sequence of things."
3/10/2017
"When you're a governing party getting consensus among your wide, big tent party… everybody doesn't get what they want. . . Look, this is what the legislative process looks like. When you are going through a deliberative legislative process, not ramming and jamming things but going through all the committees… people are going to try and negotiate."
3/12/2017
"I can't answer that question. It's up to people . . People are going to do what they want to do with their lives because we believe in individual freedom in this country. . . The one thing I'm certain will happen is CBO will say, 'Well, gosh. Not as many people will get coverage . . .You know why? Because this isn't a government mandate ... there's no way you can compete with on paper a government mandate with coverage."
3/12/2017
"I am excited about this analysis . . . We are saying the government is not going to force people to buy something they don't want to buy. If we end the Obamacare mandate that says you must buy this plan, then guess what? People aren't going to buy it."
3/13/2017

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX) – "Today House Republicans are answering President Trump's call to action with legislation to repeal this failing law and help ensure workers and families in Texas and across the country have access to health care that's tailored to their needs—not health care that's dictated by Washington.
seven years, Washington has been failing to deliver results. Families can't afford their premiums, patients can't visit the doctor they like, and fewer insurers are offering coverage options every day. With President Trump, House Republicans are taking a stand.
"Our legislation transfers power from Washington back to the American people. We dismantle Obamacare's damaging taxes and mandates so states can deliver quality, affordable options based on what their patient populations need, and workers and families can have the freedom and flexibility to make their own health care choices.
"I'm proud to be moving this important legislation forward with my colleagues and look forward to delivering on our promises to the American people."
3/6/2017
"We will continue to listen, we will continue to make improvements where we can, but there is no question that this is the bill that will come to the president's desk."
3/10/2017
"Today, the CBO confirmed that the American Health Care Act will help lower costs, increase choices, and expand access to health care for millions of individuals and families. Our fiscally responsible reforms will lower premiums over the long term and deliver much-need relief from Obamacare's crushing taxes and mandates. CBO also confirmed our legislation protects taxpayers, decreasing the ballooning deficit by more than $330 billion and curbing growing health care costs.
"It's not surprising that the CBO coverage estimates released today are different than Obamacare's coverage estimates. The American Health Care Act is a dramatic departure from Obamacare, which forced Americans to buy expensive, one-size-fits-all health insurance. Our legislation gives individuals and families the freedom to access health care options that are tailored to their needs—not Washington's.
"As Americans continue to look at the reforms we're proposing, it's important to remember the American Health Care Act is just the beginning of our three-step process to improve our health care system. We will continue to work with President Trump and his Administration to return control of health care back to the American people and restore the free market."
3/13/2017
"If you're tired of higher taxes, higher government spending, more mandates, and government directing your health care—interfering between you and your doctor and that relationship—it's time to act. If you want to see more state and personal control of health care, this is the bill to do it."
3/14/2017

Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR) – "At town halls and meetings I've held throughout my district, Oregonians have asked for the same things when it comes to their care: greater choice, lower cost, and flexibility to choose the plan that best suits their needs. Our plan provides Oregonians with just that. It maintains important protections for consumers -- including for those with pre-existing conditions and for young adults on their parents' plans -- and it doesn't pull the rug out from anyone currently on Medicaid . . . I'm proud that the plan we've put forth today reflects eight years' worth of conversations with families, patients, and doctors. Simply put, we have a Better Way to deliver solutions that put patients -- not bureaucrats -- first, and we are moving forward united in our efforts to rescue the American people from the mess Obamacare has created. Today is the first step in helping families across this country obtain truly affordable health care, and we're eager to get this rescue mission started."
3/6/2017
If you go back to what CBO predicted would be covered on the exchanges today [under the ACA] they're only off by only a two-to-one ratio."
3/8/2017
"The American Health Care Act is the first step in our plan to bring down costs and restore the relationship between patients and their doctors. This report confirms that we are keeping our promise to begin tackling

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skyrocketing health care premiums and providing families with more choices by repairing insurance markets that were destroyed by Obamacare. Additionally, our legislation would reduce the deficit and, for the first time, put Medicaid on a sustainable path, strengthening the program and focusing it on those it was intended to help, our nation's most vulnerable.

"The Congressional Budget Office has not yet analyzed our entire proposal to repeal and replace Obamacare, and today's score reflects only a portion of the actions we will take to roll back red tape, free markets, and empower consumers. Unlike Obamacare, we will not mandate Americans buy insurance plans they don't want and can't afford. Instead, we are working to create a system that gives all Americans access to affordable care and the ability to make the decisions that are right for their families."
3/13/2017

Rep. Pat Tiberi (R-OH) – "The American Health Care Act is our plan to repeal Obamacare and replace it with a 21st century system that gives people better access to quality and affordable health care. It contains specific reforms to provide relief from Obamacare's taxes and mandates, and gives patients the tools they need to be in charge of their own care, like increased access to health savings accounts and tax credits to help individuals and families purchase the care they need. "Our legislation contains the ideas and priorities we outlined 8 months ago. We are moving forward with our deliberate and transparent approach to bring real health care solutions to the American people. Our next step is the markup on Wednesday in the Ways and Means Committee. I invite everyone to read our plan on ReadtheBill.GOP."
3/6/2017

Rep. Michael Burgess (R-TX) – I never thought this would be a slam dunk. This was always going to be an arduous uphill struggle.But I'm grateful to have the White House, to have the president talking favorably about the product they will be working on this morning. But make no mistake about it. This is a reconciliation bill. This is, by definition, an intensely partisan process.
It is important to take this as the first step. I do believe it is an important and good first step, but this is in no way was this ever going to be a light lift.
3/8/2017
"If you ask someone to give up something, there will be resentment . . . If that claims my congressional career, so be it. It will be worth it to me to have effected this change."
3/11/2017

Rep. Fred Upton (R-OH) – "This has not been easy, but as I've listened to folks on all sides of this debate one thing is clear: Obamacare has not delivered on countless promises. Clearly, the current system is not working for many. It's time to fix our healthcare system in a responsible way.
To ensure no one has the rug pulled out from under them, our legislation provides a stable transition period for those currently enrolled in Obamacare and for states like Michigan that expanded Medicaid.
We deny insurance companies the ability to discriminate against those with pre-existing conditions and allow young adults to stay on their parent's insurance until age 26. We also expand health savings accounts, and encourage small employers to band together to provide health insurance to their employees. All while eliminating the individual and employer mandate penalties and harmful Obamacare taxes such as the medical device tax.
I also believe the American people deserve an open and transparent debate on these issues, and look forward to beginning this week. I will continue to work with local leaders, patients, healthcare providers, our governors, and all others wanting to be constructive as we move forward in this process."
3/7/2017

Rep. Joe Barton (R-TX) – "They're not against my side, they're studying it."
3/10/2017

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

"I [withdrew my amendment] because I was asked to, and as a former chairman of that committee I thought it was the right thing to do, once your bill is put together, unless it's an absolutely no-brainer addition, most chairman want to keep the bill like it is. And the bill we passed yesterday is a good bill."
3/12/2017

Rep. Steve Scalise (R-LA) – *"We've seen the dramatically skyrocketing costs. You're seeing double-digit increases every year in most part of the country in health premiums for families. Many families are seeing deductibles that rise about the $10,000 range, which means people don't have access to healthcare. People don't have the ability to choose their own doctor.*
"This bill finally starts the process of not only repealing Obamacare, but also replacing it with reforms that put patients back in charge of their healthcare decisions, that lower costs for families. Let them actually choose the decisions between them and their doctor, which are so personal."
3/7/2016

Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) – "The House just introduced The American Health Care Act. This is our plan to repeal Obamacare and replace it with a 21st century health care system that works for everyone. We are ensuring a smooth transition, and we're doing this right – through the step-by-step, committee process. Through regular order – open hearings, open debates — we're giving people transparency and the opportunity for input. Our legislation is about restoring people's control over their health care. This bill ensures people with pre-existing conditions have access to care; allows young adults to stay on their parents' plan until they are 26; helps Americans access affordable, quality health care through monthly tax credits; modernizes Medicaid and strengthens it for our most vulnerable; empowers individuals and families to save and spend their health care dollars the way they want and need; and, dismantles the Obamacare taxes and mandates. By offering more choices, we can help create a 21st Century health care system that provides affordable care, access, and choice. You can read the text of the bill at readthebill.gop."
3/7/2016
[The score is "an indicator [that] we take very seriously. The CBO's report is not all bad . . . we take issue with some of their projections."
3/14/2017

Rep. Larry Bucshon (R-IN) – Well, this is going to be done through reconciliation here initially, and reconciliation has a specific process that only allows you to do things. . . .then we're going to see some action hopefully through the Department of Health and Human Services and Dr. Price. And then we're going to have to work further on legislative fixes to the Affordable Care Act, and we're going to get -- have to get some bipartisans for to do that.
3/7/2017

Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) – "I do like what I see," Chaffetz also said that "Americans have choices" when it comes to their health care and that "maybe rather than getting that new iPhone that they just love and they want to go spend hundreds of dollars on that, maybe they should invest in their own health care."
3/7/2017

Rep. Peter Roskam (R-IL) – "Following through on our commitment to responsibly repeal and replace Obamacare, my colleagues and I are pleased to introduce the American Health Care Act. We're presenting a plan to increase access to affordable, patient-focused health care for all.
"In stark contrast to Obamacare, the American Health Care Act empowers individuals and families by equipping them with the resources to make the best health care decisions for themselves. We're getting rid of Obamacare's draconian taxes and mandates. We're providing monthly tax credits for low- and middle-income individuals and families. We're expanding access to health savings accounts. We're prohibiting insurers from

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

denying coverage or charging more money to patients with pre-existing conditions. We're retaining the ability for young adults to remain on their parents' plans until they turn 26.
"However well-intentioned, Obamacare failed the American people. Illinois families are paying more money for fewer and fewer benefits. Insurance premiums have increased by an average of over 21%. Last year, the Land of Lincoln co-op became the 16th in the country to collapse, leaving 49,000 Illinoisans without any healthcare coverage at all and taxpayers on for hook for over $160 million.
"We're committed to an open and transparent process as we debate this legislation. Unlike Obamacare, we don't need to pass it to find out what's in it. I encourage everyone to read the bill for themselves at readthebill.gop"
3/7/2017

Rep. Kristi Noem (R-SD) – "In the years since Obamacare was first passed, South Dakotans have called for its repeal and replacement. In the meantime, they've seen premiums skyrocket, deductibles soar, and choices become limited. In gutting the Independent Payment Advisory Board and delaying some of the most burdensome elements, we were able to offer a degree of relief, but Obamacare is fundamentally beyond repair. Tonight, we are taking the most significant steps to date in the repeal and replacement of Obamacare. There is still plenty of public debate that must happen and I look forward to hearing South Dakotans' feedback, but this is a critical step toward healthcare that is more affordable and accessible to all."
3/7/2017

Rep. Tom Rice (R-SC) – "If the insurance company paid less taxes, maybe they could charge less premiums,"
3/8/2017
"We're trying to do a blanket repeal of all the taxes . . . By taxing investment, you get less investment."
3/8/2017

Rep. Jacki Walorski (R-IN) – "Obamacare is collapsing under its own weight, driving up health care costs, and limiting options for individuals and families. We made a promise to the American people to repeal this broken law and replace it with a stable transition to a better system that lowers costs, increases choices, and protects patients. That is exactly what the American Health Care Act will do.
"The American Health Care Act provides families and small businesses relief from Obamacare's burdensome taxes and mandates. It protects patients with pre-existing conditions and ensures Americans have access to quality, affordable health care. And it gives states flexibility to tailor solutions to the needs of their own citizens.
"With this bill – which I encourage Hoosiers to read online – Congress and the Trump administration are working together to rescue our health care system and put patients first."
3/7/2017

Rep. John Shimkus (R-IL) – "This is the relief my constituents have demanded. . . While the vast majority of my constituents will be glad to see this costly, broken law go away, some are concerned about losing their current coverage, I want these folks to know that vital patient protections will be preserved under the AHCA."
3/7/2017

Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) – "In recent weeks, I held three town hall meetings and a roundtable discussion about health care in my district. Hundreds of constituents attended, and altogether I spent more than ten hours listening to folks. The best ideas come from the people, and I feel it is my duty as a representative to hear my constituents' input.
"The American Health Care Act reflects what I've heard from patients, families, doctors, and many others over the past eight years. Our bill will lower costs, increase choices, and give patients greater control of their health care. It strengthens Medicaid, and helps middle-income Americans gain access to affordable coverage.
"It also protects those with pre-existing conditions, and allows young adults to stay on their parent's insurance until age 26.

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"Most importantly, this legislation is moving through Congress in an open and transparent manner. "I invite the people of Florida's 12th District to read and share the American Health Care Act at 'ReadTheBill.GOP'. Thank you I yield back."
3/7/2017

Rep. Susan Brooks (R-IN) - "Obamacare is broken. The individual market is collapsing under its own weight, and more insurers are refusing to participate in state exchanges leaving people without options and facing difficult decisions about the kind of healthcare coverage they can afford for themselves and their families," Brooks said. "Certainly, some Americans benefited from the law, but far more Americans have been failed by it and are demanding relief. Wednesday's markup will begin the process of repealing this failed policy and rebuilding a healthcare system that is more accessible and affordable for Hoosiers. Our plan protects healthcare coverage for people who have a pre-existing conditions and allows young adults under the age of 26 to remain on their parents' insurance plans. This bill, which is available online tonight for the American people to read, is a good first step to restore stability in our healthcare marketplace and to once again put people back in charge of their healthcare decisions."
3/6/2017

Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC) – "Obamacare was written in a back room and signed into law without a single Republican vote or say from the American people. Government shouldn't work that way and neither should health care. Today we took another important step in the right direction to rebuild our health care system in an open, thoughtful and transparent way – soliciting input from both sides of the aisle, from doctors and patients, from insurance companies and businesses, and most importantly, from the American people. The government-knows-best health care system we have now is too bureaucratic, too expensive, and too restrictive. I will continue to work to repeal Obamacare and advance long-term, patient-centered solutions that deliver better results for the American people."
3/7/2017

Rep. Phil Roe (R-TN) - "This bill isn't just a promise kept, it's good policy that will give every American who wants health coverage the ability to purchase it. We know Obamacare has failed, especially in East Tennessee where one-third of the counties in the First District will have no options for coverage under the Affordable Care Act come 2018. Unlike Obamacare, the American Health Care Act is being presented to the American people for their input and being debated in a transparent way. In fact, you can read the bill in full at readthebill.gop. "For the last seven years I've worked tirelessly to draft and put forward patient-centered health care reforms. I introduced a comprehensive package of reforms, and I'm pleased many of the provisions in my bill have been included in the American Health Care Act. I look forward to debating this legislation and enacting commonsense health care reform that will turn the page on Obamacare and give patients the coverage options they deserve."
3/7/2017

Rep. Charles Dent (R-PA) - "I am continuing to thoroughly review and evaluate the released version of the American Health Care Act, paying special attention to its impact on Pennsylvanians. I am pleased that the bill fully repeals the jobs-destroying medical device tax, addresses over-reaching government mandates, and includes some elements of replacement. I remain concerned, however, about the impact of the Medicaid changes on vulnerable populations, as well as the overall effect of the bill on access to affordable care. I look forward to input from the nation's governors, the report from the Congressional Budget Office, the result of the Committees' processes, and feedback from my constituents as this bill continues through the legislative process over the next couple of weeks."
3/7/2017
"This is a difficult vote … There's always been concern from our members. I watched the Obamacare debate back in 2010, and I saw that their more centrist members were put in a difficult predicament. I suspect the flip happens this time."

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3/8/2017

Rep. John Faso (R-NY) – [Referring to stripping Planned Parenthood of it's funding in the AHCS] "gigantic political trap" that "arm[s] our enemies."
3/8/2017

Rep. Chris Collins (R-NY) – "I'm confident it will pass. Everyone understands the posturing before a vote. But how could any Republican go home and say they voted against repeal and replace?"
3/8/2017
"The problem with that is you've got a lot of our members in the more blue states that accepted the expansion, it puts a lot more pressure on the states for costs."
4/14/2017
"Nobody likes the bill. I don't like it either. That's why I think it's so good. The far left doesn't like it. The far right doesn't like it. The middle doesn't like it. It's called compromise. I think that's what makes it a good compromise."
3/14/2017

Rep. Dan Donovan (R-NY) – "Let's help the people who are harmed by the Affordable Care Act but at the same time not harm the people who are helped by it"
3/8/2017

Rep. Ryan Costello (R-PA) – "I think anytime you're dealing with something that touches upon the human being's family and their health needs it can create political vulnerabilities."
3/8/2017

Rep. Kenny Marchant (R-TX) – "I really do believe that we need to take action tonight so that we are rescuing folks who have been burdened and hurt. . . It [Obamacare] has hurt more folks than it has helped."
3/9/2017

Rep. David Schweikert (R-AZ) – "If you look at our bill, we're systematically trying to remove those taxes that've been woven into peoples' premiums."
3/9/2017

Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT) - "I would hope we can all agree this is not how health care is supposed to be. . . That is unacceptable and we can and must do better."
3/9/2017

Rep. Patrick McHenry (R-NC) – "The president said very clearly to the deputy whip team, this is the bill he wants on his desk and he wants to get this done quickly so we can move on to tax reform, I think we're going to see the marker he puts down for how he intends to use his power going forward."
3/7/2017

Rep. Steve Stivers (R-OH) – "Republicans have consistently won on the promise of real healthcare reform and the American Health Care Act keeps those promises to the American people," NRCC Chairman Steve Stivers said in a statement. "Democrats have suffered significant losses in recent election cycles, yet they still refuse to listen to the demands of their constituents. Obamacare is failing and Republicans are determined to replace it - Democrats can either join us or feel the repercussions again in 2018."
3/7/2017

Rep. Mark Walker (R-NC) – "We are carefully reviewing this legislation looking in three main areas of shared conservative concern: protection of the unborn, elimination of Obamacare's Medicaid expansion and

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ensuring the tax credits are fiscally responsible . . . We have called for the RSC Steering Committee to meet tomorrow evening to discuss the bill and our action steps moving forward."
3/6/2017
[We have] "concern [with] adding all these people in [Medicaid] but then in 2020 trying to back it off again. . . If we can get some movement in those areas, I think the RSC steering committee as a whole is close to being able to move forward."
3/9/2017
"The Congressional Budget Office's score does little to alleviate our conservative concerns for this Obamacare replacement bill. First, the legislation's refundable tax credits cost more than half of Obamacare's. Second, the hundreds of billions of dollars in estimated Medicaid savings are built on the shaky assumption that a future Congress will actually maintain the bill's enrollment freeze in Obamacare's Medicaid expansion."
3/14/2017

Rep. Justin Amash (R-MI) – Obamacare 2.0
3/6/2017
"Congress is a separate branch. We should have an open process. We should allow all of the members to amend legislation within reason . . . Have an open debate, and the product should reflect the will of the American people."
3/10/2017

Rep. Raul Labrador (R-ID) - "I don't think there's any tinkering that will get us to 218."
3/7/2017
"If we don't repeal Obamacare, then what was our fight about for the last six years? … If our party was only opposing it because it was proposed by Obama and Democrats, the base is going to leave the party."
3/7/2017

Rep. Tom MacArthur (R-NJ) – "The current date is better and I don't like the idea of making it shorter" [regarding Medicaid expansion].
3/10/2017

Rep. Mo Brooks (R-AL) – "I'm undecided. I am still trying to examine it and trying to figure out if there are more pros or more cons, and where it is on balance. Some key issues to me, how does it affect the solvency of the federal government. As you know, we're headed to a debilitating insolvency and bankruptcy (ph) as we soon blow through the $20 trillion debt mark."
3/7/2017

Rep. Dave Brat (R-VA) – "President Trump ran on a repeal of Obamacare and I hope people are looking out for his reputation ... and that they produce a bill which fulfills his promise and maintains his integrity."
3/7/2017
"Now [they] are saying we're going to do repeal and replace but the bill does nothing of the sort," he said. "[Speaker] Paul Ryan has always said the entire rationale for this bill is to bend the cost curve down, and so far I have seen no evidence that this bill will bring the cost curve down."
3/7/2017
It doesn't matter who comes to us and asks us to go along with this devastating program…The answer will be no."
3/7/2017
"You cannot vote on the architecture of the whole thing first without knowing what pieces are going to happen later in the regulatory reform, which are the major cost drivers."
3/10/2017
I'm leaning no."
3/10/2017

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

“Trump ran on this competition across state lines, bringing the price down, and so, that is the huge piece that, I think, if we can get that in the bill, then I think we can make some progress and I think get a lot of people to yes,”
3/14/2017

Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH) - "I don't see any significant changes here" between Obamacare and the House GOP bill to replace it. "It's significantly the same thing to me so it sort of doesn't change my position, but we'll talk to our guys tomorrow night. ... My guess is this bill looks a lot like the last one, and we didn't like the last one.”
3/6/2017
“I don't think it could pass today. I mean, we had our meeting last night with the House Freedom Caucus and the opposition in there was strong to this legislation.
So this needs to be changed in a dramatic way for it to have a chance to pass, in my judgment. But the simplest thing to do is what unites Republicans, pass the clean repeal.”
3/8/2017
“It’s Obamacare in a different format.”
3/6/2017
“Seems to me the ‘binary choice,’ if there is one here, is to say… ‘Either work with us or you don’t end up getting the votes. . . Not one single [conservative-backed] amendment was allowed to be offered. That’s not how the process is supposed to work. . . This idea that they had the bill hidden away, introduced it five days ago and now you have to take it or leave it? That’s not how American democracy works . . . We’d like a chance to amend it, change it and make it consistent with the message we told the voters we’d accomplish.”
3/12/2017

Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) and Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC) – Penned a joint op-ed at FoxNews.com calling on congressional leadership to pass a clean repeal of Obamacare right away and ensure a fair, open replacement process so all voices are heard.
3/7/2017

Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC) – “Do I expect all of the issues that many of the Freedom Caucus members would like to have will be in a final bill that passes? The answer is no, and so it’s about a good-faith negotiation and I think all of our members are willing to do that.”
“If that’s the best that they can do then perhaps they have a different whip count than I do.” [Regarding leadership’s reluctance to accept changes]
3/10/2017
“Here’s the thing, if we had bucket three, and we were sure that all the things in bucket three would happen...we wouldn’t be having a discussion . . . “We are really trying to make sure we work within the confines of what we have now and make it better. And that was my commitment to the president -- that I would work extremely hard to negotiate in good faith to make sure this bill is better and actually drives down health care costs and insurance premiums,””
3/10/2017
“We’ve got to lower health care premiums… and this current plan doesn’t effectively lower health care premiums . . . If we don’t do that, then we just have Obamacare by another name.”
3/12/2017

Reps. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) and Diane Black (R-TN) – Op-Ed in National Review: Conservative Repeal and Replace is Here
3/8/2017

Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) – “Yes, there’s going to be questions on both sides of the aisle. . . But sometimes when you have pushback on one side and the other side from a political spectrum, you might have found the sweet spot.”

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3/10/2017
[Directed towards House Freedom Caucus's preference for a repeal only bill] "would double your premiums and you would collapse the market. . . Then you're going to sit here and wait and hope you get 60 votes? I do not believe that's the best option."
3/10/2017
There's not everything that we would like to have in the very first phase to be in the bill,"
3/10/2017

Rep. Jim Renacci (R-OH) – "This is about a tax that is a job-killing tax, that has shown to be a job-killing tax, that has closed 10,000 tanning salons, that's what we've got to stay focused on."
3/8/2017

Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC) – "I understand the issue of reconciliation, which I think some of our colleagues do not understand, that is, we have to comport with the Senate rules on what we can get passed in this first bill."
3/10/2017

Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA) – "I think we can do better, I think we can do better in a number of areas of concern. . . I think it's important we do a little bit more, look at it . . . In general, though, we're doing something about a program that's failing that didn't achieve what it said it was going to achieve."
3/13/2017
"not prepared" to vote for the GOP plan in its current form.
3/13/2017

Rep. Diane Black (R-TN) - "Obamacare was a law built on government control and federal mandates. The American Health Care Act is a bill built on choice and freedom in health care decisions. Our goal has always been to provide access to health insurance for everyone who wants it and to reduce health care costs for all Americans. Our bill does exactly that. Dismantling the individual mandate gives Americans the freedom to make choices for themselves, even if that choice is to not have health care coverage. We believe and are committed to the idea that the American people are best suited to make decisions about their own lives. "The CBO report shows that our bill lowers premiums by 10 percent by 2026, while increasing choice and creating a vibrant marketplace for consumers. The bill reduces the deficit by $337 billion and lowers taxes by $883 billion for Americans and small business owners. The American Health Care Act expands choice and freedom while reducing costs and saving taxpayer dollars. We look forward to acting on it in the House Budget Committee this week."
3/13/2017
"It may be that, when we get those scores back, that we do have to tweak some things one way or the other . . . It will be done through another process once it gets into the rules."
3/13/2017

Rep. Amodei (R-NV) – "Quite frankly it looks right now that Nancy Pelosi was much more efficient"[on health care bill process]
3/13/2017

Rep. Mark Sanford (R-SC) – "I think we are having very meaningful conversations that will lead to action . . . My sense is there is a willingness to incorporate."
3/14/2017

Rep. Bob Wittman (R-VA) – "After reviewing this legislation and receiving the Congressional Budget Office score today, it is clear that this bill is not consistent with the repeal and replace principles for which I stand. I do not think this bill will do what is necessary for the short and long-term best interests of Virginians and therefore, I must oppose it."

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

3/13/2017

SENATE

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) – "Last night, the committees of jurisdiction in the House released a proposal to repeal Obamacare and begin the process of replacing of it with common-sense reforms to preserve access and lower cost. The plan builds upon the 2015 repeal bill, which was vetoed by President Obama. I'm happy to hear the committees will begin consideration this week. I encourage every member to review it because I hope to call it up when we receive it from the House.
"It's clear to just about everyone that Obamacare is failing. Costs are soaring. Choices are diminishing. Insurance markets are teetering. It would be easy to just sit back and watch this partisan law collapse under its own weight. Pass the buck to the next guy. That seems to be the Democrats' strategy. But Republicans think the middle class deserves better.
"In election after election, Americans have called for relief. In election after election, Americans have called for an end to this partisan law. We promised we'd do both of those things. We are.
"The legislation the House introduced last night represents the next step along that path. It's the result of a long conversation with many voices, and it's supported by the one person who can actually sign a bill into law — the President of the United States. I want to recognize everyone for their contributions and hard work. Given last night's announcement, I especially want to commend our colleagues in the House.
"The policy conversation that led to what we saw last night continues now. The policy process moves forward today. We've come a long way. We've got a lot further to go. But we're making significant progress. Working arm-in-arm with the House and the new administration, we're going to keep our promise to the American people.
"Because Obamacare is a direct attack on the middle class. We all know it. We all get the letters and the phone calls. We hear the heart-break and the frustration nearly every day. Consider this letter from one of my constituents in Goshen, who wrote about the Obamacare plans available to his family:
"'I am extremely displeased with the limited choices available. While 16 plans are listed for me at the Healthcare.gov website, they all are inferior to my current 2016 plan,' he wrote. 'Neither our primary care physician nor my rheumatologist is in network of any offered 2017 plan.'
"'The cost,' he continued, 'is another problem. The 2017 plan that I will probably choose will have a 20% higher premium than my 2016 plan with a lower level of benefits…'
"Paying more for less. That's Obamacare for you right there. Look, in so many different ways, we've seen the evidence for years now that Obamacare simply isn't working. This isn't a law that can be fixed. This isn't a law that can be saved. It has to be repealed and replaced. We promised the American people we would. We're keeping our promise."
3/7/2017
"The Medicaid provision that Chairman Walden put in was worked out by, I'm told, by 10 governors — five who expanded and five who didn't. I think they've reached a reasonable compromise. I don't know that every governor is going to embrace it, but we think most of them will."
3/9/2017

Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) – "Now we have an opportunity to do better for the people we represent, who are counting on us to deliver, to repeal Obamacare and replace it with options that work, and I believe the plan released last night is a major step in the right direction.'
'We need to move health care decisions out of Washington and send them back to the states and back to patients and families and their doctors.'
'As soon as we can do that and deliver on that major promise to the American people, the sooner we do that, a whole lot of American families across the country will feel relief."
3/7/2017

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

"There's people that have raised a lot of different issues that can be addressed in the House markup. If not by then, by the time we get to the floor. As you know, there's a vote-a-rama. So, there's a lot of great ideas, some tweaks, and I think that's just a part of the process."
3/8/2017
"The House is going to continue to work on the bill to try and build support for it. But until they do, there's not much for the Senate to do. It's premature to talk about that."
3/14/2017

Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) – "I don't know. I haven't really chatted with other people. It's a first draft. We have to all be concerned about getting it right . . . It's a first step in a process. I hope we can get things right."
3/7/2017
"Naturally, I'm concerned." [Asked about the 24 million increase in the number of Americans CBO says may be uninsured in 2026]
3/13/2016

Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) – "One especially encouraging aspect of the House bill is that it would help 40,000 Knoxville-area residents who are expected to have no insurance plans available on the exchange next year by allowing them to use their Affordable Care Act subsidy outside of the exchange. The bill also allows subsidies to be used to purchase lower cost health plans than allowed under current law, which would provide relief to Tennesseans facing increased premiums on the Obamacare exchanges across the state. The House begins the committee process on the bill this week, but this bill clearly would provide Americans with a broader choice of plans, rein in the out-of-control Medicaid entitlement spending, and give states flexibility to provide Americans with access to low-cost insurance."
3/7/2017
"I'm doing all that I can to make the House bill as good as it can be. We've been working for the last six weeks with the House committees and a bicameral staff. That's the most effective way for me to improve the bill right now."
3/14/2017

Sen. John Thune (R-SD) – I think there's got to be an opportunity for the Senate to be heard on this … There are lots of ways you can fix and amend the bill . . . Then it would have to go back to the House obviously, but I wouldn't rule that out. I just think you've got to have an opportunity for members of the Senate to have their input into it."
3/9/2017
"There are things we can do to tailor the tax credit in a way that makes it more attractive to people and more helpful to people on the lower end, and with a phase-out that is a little less steep than what the House has,"
3/14/2017

Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC) – "The House plan is a good first step toward providing relief from the broken promises, costly mandates, and government bureaucracy created by Obamacare. I look forward to working with my colleagues to fulfill our promise to the American people to repeal and replace Obamacare with solutions that make health insurance more affordable and that give families more control over their own health care."
3/7/2017

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) - "I've always been concerned that the public needs to absorb this. We're not going to be judged by when we did it but how we did it," Graham told reporters. He said going too quickly "is a risk we're going to take if we don't slow down here a little bit. . . I'm not worried about the recess. I'm worried about doing it right. I've seen one process that produced Obamacare, where you vote on it on Christmas Eve. I don't feel a need for speed."
3/7/2017

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO) - "What I don't like is it may not be a plan that gets a majority of votes and lets us move on, because I think we can't stay where we are with the plan we've got now," the Missouri Republican told KMBZ radio in Kansas City. "I think the nucleus of the plan is clearly there, and the president says it's negotiable and so do House members, so I'll be interested to be part of that negotiation as we work toward a majority in the House and Senate that puts a bill on the president's desk."
3/7/2017
"The money-saving numbers are pretty strong. And a lot of the opposition seemed to come from people who thought there wasn't enough reform in terms of spending . . . In terms of coverage, we need to get a better sense of what Health and Human Services can do."
3/13/2017

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AL) – "I don't think that the Planned Parenthood defund should be in the ACA bill that we're dealing with. I just don't think so,"
3/7/2017

Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AL) – "Everybody has concerns about that," (regarding changes to Medicaid expansion).
3/7/2017

Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT) – "This is not the Obamacare repeal bill we've been waiting for. It is a missed opportunity and a step in the wrong direction."
"We promised the American people we would drain the swamp and end business as usual in Washington. This bill does not do that. We don't know how many people would use this new tax credit, we don't know how much it will cost, and we don't know if this bill will make health care more affordable for Americans."
"This is exactly the type of back-room dealing and rushed process that we criticized Democrats for and it is not what we promised the American people."
"Let's fulfill our Obamacare repeal promise immediately and then take our time and do reform right. Let's pass the 2015 repeal bill that Republicans in both houses of Congress voted for and sent to the White House just 15 months ago. Once Obamacare has been properly sent to the dustbin of history then we can begin a deliberative, open, and honest process to reform our nation's health care system."
3/7/2017

Sen. James Lankford (R-OK) – "It's a tremendous change in tax policy, especially for small businesses that are just choking out. It's a first step."
3/7/2017
There are an awful lot of questions, if we don't get things right, we should not move" the bill.
3/13/2017

Sen. David Perdue (R-GA) – "The Senate's getting input right now, regardless of what you hear some senators say. . . I'm really kind of distressed about that: Self interest vs. national interest. ... This is a national interest crisis."
3/7/2017

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) – "The current draft in the House is a draft about which I have significant concerns. As drafted, I do not believe this bill would pass the United States Senate."
"Yesterday President Trump tweeted that this bill was now open for negotiation, and I think that is exactly right. There are vigorous debates that are now ongoing within the House of Representatives, within the Senate, between the House and the Senate, and with the administration about what are contours of this legislation."
3/8/2017
"I have been encouraging leaders in both houses that we should not approach this with both hands tied behind our back," According to the 1974 law that set up reconciliation, he insisted, "it is the presiding officer — the vice president of the United States — who rules what's permissible under reconciliation and what is not."

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

3/9/2017

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) – "[there is] no way the bill now is what [will be] passed in the House."
3/7/2017

Sens. Rob Portman (R-OH), Cory Gardner (R-CO), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) – "We will not support a plan that does not include stability for Medicaid expansion populations or flexibility for states."
3/6/17

Sen. Rob Portman (R-PA) – "I appreciated the opportunity to address my concerns about our Medicaid expansion population in Ohio. As I have said before, I support making structural improvements to the Medicaid program, but we must provide stability and certainty for individuals and families in Medicaid expansion programs and real flexibility for states," Portman said. "I will continue to work with the administration and my colleagues to address these concerns."
3/9/2017
"I'm concerned about the Medicaid population. That's the biggest part of the coverage for Ohio,"
3/13/2017

Sen. Corey Gardner (R-CO) – "We've got work to do here."
3/14/2017

Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) – "I've just heard that's bubbling up. That causes me great concern, and I will be talking with my fellow senators who are more deeply affected by this of course, in the expansion states . . . I have grave concerns about that."
3/9/2017

Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) – "Republicans across the country are unified on repeal, not on replace,"
3/8/2017
"Right now I think there's a charm offensive going on. Everybody is being nice to everybody because they want us to vote for this, but we're not going to vote for it."
3/12/2017
I don't think they'll have any changes or any compromise until they lose a vote. This really wasn't a negotiating session."
3/14/2017

Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) – "Yes, I do not think it will be well received in the Senate. But I do want to emphasize that it's still a work in progress. The House Committees are going to be working their will on the bill. It has to go before the full House before it comes to us. And it's been a work in progress, as Secretary Price has said. And the bill that was released this week is far better than the bill that we were briefed on the week before. So, who knows, maybe it'll eventually get better, and thus will be better received in the Senate."
3/8/2017

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR) – "We're going to live with health care reform we pass forever or until it's changed in the far-distant future. So I don't think we need to introduce legislation on Monday and have one change to amend it on Wednesday."
3/8/2017
"I'm afraid that if they vote for this bill, they're going to put the House majority at risk next year."
3/13/2017
[The CBO score] "provides useful information. . . the CBO director is not Moses. He's not walking down from the mountaintop with stone tablets. And we should evaluate that useful information with a critical eye."

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

3/14/2017
"I suspect that the House leadership will have to do so, because I suspect they don't have anything close to a majority of their members who are willing to vote for this bill now. I know many of them, and they come from all stripes," Cotton told radio host Hugh Hewitt. "They're not just hard line conservatives. Many of them are centrists, or many of them are just being practical-minded about this bill the way I am."
3/14/2017

Sen. Dean Heller (R-NV) – "I've heard a lot of people say that every American has a right to an automobile . . . Do I believe that all Americans should have access to health care? Absolutely I do. . . Not everything in the Affordable Care Act is bad. . . As we move forward and take a look at some of these changes and what's occurring, I think we ought to embrace what's good in the Affordable Care Act. . . They're talking about 2020, now they're talking about making the changes in 2018 . . . That's not enough time for Nevada to adjust. We need time to adjust. I want to move that thing up four or five years. . . My argument with the Republicans is if we're going to make the changes, don't repeal the Affordable Care Act so you can keep all the taxes. I think that's unfair and I don't think that's a responsible way to move forward . . . It's been eight years, eight years since I've heard a treasury secretary talk about economic growth. . . They never talked about economic growth. You know what? We didn't have economic growth for the last eight years."
3/12/13

Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) - "Can't sugarcoat it. Doesn't look good . . . The CBO score was, shall we say, an eye-popper."
3/14/2017

Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND) – "There's some adjustments we could make that would make a significant difference in the CBO score. . . We can clearly do that within the framework we have."
3/13/2017
"We're working very hard to make sure we have a Medicaid product that the governors can get behind,"
3/14/2017

Social Media

Monday, March 13, 2017

- **Grover Norquist @GroverNorquist**
  Read the list of Obamacare taxes-- 8 hit tens of millions in middle class. It was written in English.
- **Grover Norquist @GroverNorquist**
  If you don't like USAs Trillion dollar tax cut in the repeal of Obamacare.... simply calculate your tax cut and send a check to Washington.
- **Grover Norquist @GroverNorquist**
  The Obamacare Repeal bill abolishes Obamacare's medicine cabinet tax
- **Phil Kerpen @kerpen**
  CBO's AHCA score: $883 billion tax cut $1.2 trillion spending cut $337 billion in deficit reduction https://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/115th-congress-2017-2018/costestimate/americanhealthcareact.pdf …
- **Phil Kerpen @kerpen**
  CAP is heavily funded by the health insurance industry, but today is a good day to bash them so YOLO.
- **AFP @AFPhq**
  Hundreds of our activists showed up at the nation's capitol this week to remind Congress "#YouPromised"
- **[RT] IWV @IWV**

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

White House spent $77M in 2016 alone to promote #ObamaCare http://www.marketwatch.com/story/white-house-spent-77-million-in-2016-alone-to-promote-obamacare-2017-03-13 … via @MarketWatch #aca #healthcare #HealthCareReform

- **[RT] Chad Pergram @ChadPergram**
  House Republicans expected to meet Thursday morning at 9:30 with Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price
- **Heather R. Higgins @TheHRH**
  Check out "The ObamaCare Exchanges" http://healthreformquestions.com/quiz7.php
- **Sally Pipes @sallypipes**
  GOP House leaders vow input on #ObamaCare replacement but know changes could topple effort via @FoxNews http://buff.ly/2nfPhWn
- **Michael F. Cannon @mfcannon**
  Yuval Levin: the #AHCA "can't really achieve most of the key aims of the conservative reforms it is modeled on." https://t.co/fQkN2IrRoy
- **Natl Taxpayers Union @NTU**
  Study Reviews CBO's Uneven History on Health Care Budget Estimates by @NTUF https://goo.gl/8LbyaB #CBO
- **AFP @AFPhq**
  In last week's podcast, we talked about Obamacare 2.0. Check it out: https://t.co/IaUk3a6izw
- **AFP @AFPhq**
  Congress has an opportunity to pass targeted reforms to address the underlying problems in our #healthcare system. https://t.co/YJXV1z05oW
- **[RT] House Budget GOP @housebudgetGOP**
  What they're saying about the American Health Care Act via @WaysandMeans → http://buff.ly/2nvOrRr @taxreformer @USChamber @NTU @RyanLEllis
- **CFG + CFG Action @club4growth**
  The GOP should fully repeal the failed law and begin a genuine effort to deliver on longstanding campaign promises http://bit.ly/2mBdO7u

Sunday, March 12, 2017

- **Right to Life @nrlc**
  PP'S Richards argued against defunding the abortion business, saying it is a "war on women's health care http://bit.ly/2nqlKVQ #defundPP
- **[RT] FREOPP @FREOPP**
  .@Avik, today on @FaceTheNation, explains why GOP effort to lower Obamacare premiums is hampered by Senate rules: https://t.co/BUxClwB5fi
- **Lanhee J. Chen @lanheechen**
  .@USCBO estimates of AHCA may not be particularly accurate (See: http://joshblackman.com/blog/2017/03/12/the-accuracy-of-the-cbos-obamacare-forecasts/ …) but they'll still influence debate going fwd
- **Sally Pipes @sallypipes**
  My latest in @FortuneMagazine: Republicans' health care bill is the first step to end #obamacare http://buff.ly/2ndRluO
- **Sally Pipes @sallypipes**
  ICYMI: House Republican Plan Only The First Step Toward Repealing And Replacing Obamacare https://t.co/82RbCvwsCn
- **Sally Pipes @sallypipes**
  Why a single-payer healthcare system in California is infeasible http://buff.ly/2mJcZJm via @latimes
- **Sally Pipes @sallypipes**

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

GOP Leaders Say Republicans Won't Get 2nd Chance on Health Care http://buff.ly/2ndEAQC via @morningconsult @jontreid

- **[RT] Jay Cost @JayCostTWS**
  My take on RyanCare. http://pllqt.it/Xaidxp [IMAGE]
- **[RT] Face The Nation @FaceTheNation**
  .@Avik says Sen Rand Paul is for Obamacare Lite when it comes to seniors.
- **[RT] Face The Nation @FaceTheNation**
  Republican policy advisor @Avik Roy explains "the one big restraint Republicans have" in passing new healthcare bill [VIDEO]

Saturday, March 11, 2017

- **Paul Ryan @SpeakerRyan**
  We are doing what we said we would do: #RepealAndReplace. [VIDEO]
- **AFP @AFPhq**
  The GOP shouldn't settle for another massive healthcare bill that no one will ever read nor understand. https://t.co/QlFaSRiYKj
- **AFP @AFPhq**
  Millions of Americans have been negatively impacted by Obamacare. Here are some of their stories. https://t.co/CKkWlSeGgz
- **CFG + CFG Action @club4growth**
  The GOP should fully repeal the failed law and begin a genuine effort to deliver on longstanding campaign promises http://bit.ly/2mBdO7u
- **[RT] dan holler @danholler**
  what's happening at townhalls this weekend? Americans sporting @Heritage_Action's #RepealObamacare stickers, that's what! #strong
- **[RT] Peter Orszag @porszag**
  From @Avik: The Medicaid cliff, the AHCA, and work incentives -- https://t.co/BGt31FYDEf
- **Heather R. Higgins @TheHRH**
  Looking for the elusive Repeal & Replace [IMAGE]
- **James I. Wallner @jiwallner**
  Why didn't congressional leaders first try the argument that a vote against the 2015 repeal bill would be a vote to preserve ObamaCare?
- **Avik Roy @Avik**
  How @SpeakerRyan's Obamacare Replacement Could Trap Millions In Poverty—And How To Fix It: http://www.forbes.com/sites/theapothecary/2017/03/11/how-paul-ryans-obamacare-replacement-would-trap-millions-in-poverty-and-how-to-fix-it/#6947ad524168 … @forbesopinion
- **James I. Wallner @jiwallner**
  Current focus on conservatives in ObamaCare debate overlooks fact that some Rs refuse to vote for a repeal bill that they supported in 2015.
- **James I. Wallner @jiwallner**
  The "right-wing litmus test blocking the way" referenced here is simply a 7-year-old GOP campaign promise. https://t.co/XdUik2G8L5
- **Sally Pipes @sallypipes**
  ICYMI: Trump will not be "receptive" to a "wholesale replacement" of Republicans' current proposed healthcare bill http://buff.ly/2maxcoA
- **Sally Pipes @sallypipes**
  It was an honor to speak about healthcare at the @Steamboat_Inst with @drhalatlanta and @HadleyHeath. Watch here: http://buff.ly/2m8ZmPY
- **Sally Pipes @sallypipes**

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I'll be on Freedom and Prosperity Radio this weekend to talk about the GOP effort to repeal and replace #Obamacare: http://buff.ly/2n7RKlt

- **[RT] Randy Tobler @RandyToblerMD**
  @mfcannon Great segment on what's wrong with #ObamacareLite and a better way forward with #RepealAndReplace @971FMTalk
- **AM Joy w/Joy Reid @amjoyshow**
  .@AVIK on fixing #Obamacare: Need more means-tested approach to credits, plus incentives for younger & healthier people sign up #AMJoy
- **Post Opinions @PostOpinions**
  GOP hard-liners' Obamacare incoherence http://wapo.st/2mpwHta by @Avik
- **Michael F. Cannon @mfcannon**
  Rs will appropriate #ACA funds Ds never had votes to get, but only if they can turn #ObamaCare into a R law first?
- **Grover Norquist @GroverNorquist**
  Congressmen who delay repealing obamacare and moving to (and passing) tax reform will cost taxpayers Hundreds of billions
- **CFG + CFG Action @club4growth**
  ICYMI GOP unveils #Obamacare replacement amid sharp party divide http://politi.co/2lT1tqN @politico
- **Right to Life @nrlc**
  Trump administration's push to repeal and replace Obamacare will help pro-life cause. http://bit.ly/2lNKCdI #prolife

March 10, 2017
Tweets

- **AFP @AFPhq**
  Here are a few stories from Americans that were negatively impacted by #Obamacare. http://bit.ly/2mJpCEx #YouPromised
- **AFP @AFPhq**
  Our activists showed up at the nation's capitol this week to remind Congress of the need to repeal #Obamacare: [LINK]
- **AFP @AFPhq**
  It's quite simple, really. Congress promised. We're going to hold them accountable. #Repeal #YouPromised
- **AFP @AFPhq**
  Lost access to trusted doctors. Plans canceled. Premiums skyrocketing. Repeal it, Congress. #YouPromised
- **CFG + CFG Action @club4growth**
  Repeal #Obamacare & respect the people & the states. Let free markets actually work. Good read from @chiproytx
- **CFG + CFG Action @club4growth**
  "Mandating every American to buy government-approved health insurance was never the right solution" @POTUS
- **CFG + CFG Action @club4growth**
  It's time to repeal and replace #Obamacare with free-market health care! http://bit.ly/2lD3W9I @DavidMMcintosh
- **Heather R. Higgins @TheHRH**
  New Rasmussen poll: Most Important? 62%: Reducing cost of CARE / 34% : Everyone should have HC insurance [LINK]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

- **Heather R. Higgins @TheHRH**
  Conservatives find a Paul Ryan workaround on health care: Donald Trump http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/conservatives-health-care-trump_us_58c1dbe7e4b054a0ea695699?ncid=engmodushpmg00000004 … via @HuffPostPol
- **Heritage on the Hill @HeritageOTH**
  WATCH: @JimDeMint talks to @MelissaQuinn97 about his meeting with @POTUS, the House #Obamacare bill and more. http://bit.ly/2muF9aF

- **James I. Wallner @jiwallner**
  Take-it-or-leave-it posture of those supporting Obamacare replace bill undermines Congress's ability to work. Bad process = bad outcomes.
- **James I. Wallner @jiwallner**
  Passing AHCA gives Ds more leverage to oppose effort to repeal insurance mandates. Ds will focus instead on bidding up value of tax credits.
- **James I. Wallner @jiwallner**
  "Republicans plan to move more quickly and less deliberatively than Democrats did in drafting" ObamaCare.
- **James I. Wallner @jiwallner**
  Some important insights here from @bindersab on current state of play in the debate to repeal and replace Obamacare.
- **Michael F. Cannon @mfcannon**
  We'll be lucky if a tax increase is all #AHCA gives us. It volunteers @GOP to take the blame for #ACA. @SenSanders could not ask for more.
- **Michael F. Cannon @mfcannon**
  #AHCA wins, repeal dies. Rs blamed for #ObamaCare. Divided Rs, energized Ds, R losses in '18/'20. Tax-hike pressure. Entrée to #SinglePayer.
- **Michael F. Cannon @mfcannon**
  The #AHCA expands #ObamaCare (CSR subsidies), yet its authors are saying, trust us, we're repealing it? @SpeakerRyan
- **Phil Kerpen @kerpen**
  Great meeting @VP and @realDonaldTrump today with other conservative leaders. They are committed to improving the health care reform bill.
- **Phil Kerpen @kerpen**
  Congress should ask http://healthandeconomy.org/ for a coverage score of AHCA and deem it official. Much more accurate than CBO.
- **Sally Pipes @sallypipes**
  Trump says privately second healthcare bill ready as early as next week http://buff.ly/2mb2QC7 @DCExaminer @gabriellahope_ @sarahcwestwood
- **Sally Pipes @sallypipes**
  A state single-payer healthcare system? Nice idea, but it's just California dreaming http://buff.ly/2mpbMXk via @latimes
- **Sally Pipes @sallypipes**
  Let's make a (conservative) deal, writes @KimStrassel http://buff.ly/2mJ6ma5 via @WSJOpinion [LINK]
- **Sally Pipes @sallypipes**
  EXCLUSIVE: White House Rules Out 'Wholesale Replacement' Of Healthcare Bill http://buff.ly/2mJ6K8x via @dailycaller @peterjhasson

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Bulletin Intelligence <HHS@BulletinIntelligence.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 7:36 AM
To: HHS@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: HHS News Briefing for Tuesday, March 14, 2017
Attachments: HHSNewsBriefing170314.doc

HHS NEWS BRIEFING

This document and searchable archives are available at hhs.bulletinintelligence.com.

TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2017 7:30 AM EDT

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LEADING THE NEWS:
+ CBO Estimates 24M Consumers Would Lose Coverage Under GOP's ACA Replacement Bill.

THE SECRETARY IN THE NEWS:
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+ Trump Administration Supports More Flexibility With State Waivers Under ACA.
+ HHS Sec. Price Asks Governors To Apply For State Innovation Waivers.

ZIKA VIRUS NEWS:
+ CDC Officials Warn Men In Three Florida Counties To Not Donate Sperm Due To Zika Concerns.
+ New York Officials More Confident About Fighting Zika This Year.

HHS IN THE NEWS:
+ Senate Confirms Verma As CMS Administrator.
+ Critics Suggest Right-To-Try Laws Undermine FDA Approval Process.
+ Ex-FDA Biotechnology Director: Right-To-Try Legislation Needs Fine-Tuning.
+ FDA Considers Establishing Office Of Patient Affairs.
+ Trump's FDA Pick Gottlieb Seen As Friend To Pharma.
+ FDA Does Not Force Companies To Release Retailer Lists During Recall.
+ Senator Proposes Bill To Force FDA To Enforce Dairy Labeling Regulations.
+ New Report Suggests Biotech Developments Could Overwhelm Regulatory System.
+ Researchers Seeking To Explore Whether Teens Are Using Drugs Less Because They Are Spending More Time With Phones, Computers.
+ NIAID Director Fauci Discusses HIV Prevention.
+ Utah Set To Reduce Legal Blood-Alcohol Content To 0.05%.
+ Charles River Laboratories Agrees To $1.8 Million Settlement For NIH Overbilling.

HEALTH REFORM:
+ Trump Accuses Media Of Making ACA "Look So Good."
+ Republicans Moving Quickly To Repeal And Replace ACA.
+ White House Analysis Found 26 Million People Would Lose Coverage Under AHCA.
+ House Committee Could Derail AHCA On Thursday.
+ CBO Data Providing Democrats With New Ammunition Against GOP.
+ Media Adopt "Trumpcare" As Moniker For AHCA.
+ Conservative Groups Opposed To AHCA Directing Criticism At Ryan, Not Trump.
+ IRS Data Show Constituents Of Many GOP Lawmakers Who Oppose ACA Are Benefiting From The Law's Subsidies.
+ Sen. Cotton Critical Of Ryan's Three-Phase Approach To ACA Repeal.
+ Rep. Issa Will Not Vote For AHCA In Its Current Form.
+ Sen. Heller Says GOP's ACA Replacement Plan Must Allow Medicaid Expansion States More Time.

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+ Republican ACA Replacement May Cut Up To $1 Billion In CDC Funding.
+ Analysis: CBO Overestimated How Many Would Gain Coverage Through ACA Exchanges But Was Right About Reduction In Number Of Uninsured.
+ Humana's Exit From ACA Exchange In Tennessee Could Leave Thousands Of Residents Without Insurance.
+ Some Republicans Push Back Against AARP After Criticism Of House Republicans' Healthcare Bill.
+ AARP Says House Republicans' Healthcare Bill Would Harm Seniors Who Are Struggling Financially.
+ Two Ohio Groups Warn US House Republicans' Healthcare Bill Would Force State To Make Cuts To Medicaid.
+ Rep. Kennedy "Battling" Potential Repeal Of ACA.
+ Americans Who Live In Small Towns Or Rural Areas Were Likely To Gain And Lose From ACA.
+ House Republicans' Healthcare Bill Lacks Provisions That Would Eliminate Barriers To Insurers Selling Plans Across State Lines.
+ Heritage Action For America Says Republicans Who Oppose Healthcare Bill "Will Never Regret It."
+ House Republicans' Healthcare Bill Would Help Many Middle-Class Texans While Offering Less Aid To Poorer And Older Texans.
+ McConnell: Health Reform Requires "Creative Thinking."
+ Minnesota House Approves Program To Stabilize Insurance Market.
+ Minnesota Would Lose $80 Million In Public Funding Under GOP Health Plan.
+ Boston Mayor Opposes GOP Health Bill.
+ Trump Justice Department Opposes Anthem-Cigna Merger Appeal.
+ CBO Analysis: Republican Health Plan Would Save Government $337 Billion By Cutting Medicaid, Insurance Subsidies.
+ GOP Health Plan Could Cost Connecticut Up To $539 Million In 2020.
+ Sen. Mike Lee Skeptical House Health Bill Complies With Senate Rules.
+ Atul Gawande Interviewed About GOP Healthcare Plan.
+ California Senate Democrats Blast GOP Health Plan.
+ Trump's Critiques Of ACA Are Overstated.
+ Montana Governor, Senators Express Criticism Of Republican Healthcare Plan.
+ Washington Gov. Inslee Says GOP Health Plan "Confirms Our Worst Fears."
+ New Mexico Insurance Regulators To Study Impacts Of ACA Repeal.
+ Arkansas Governor Says CBO Analysis Underscores Concerns With GOP Health Bill.
+ Massachusetts Gov. Baker Wants To Keep Uninsured Rate Low.
+ Virginia GOP Rep. Wittman Says He Opposes GOP Healthcare Plan.
+ House Budget Committee Postpones Markup Of GOP Healthcare Bill To Thursday.
+ Virginia Hospital Group Takes Issue With Parts Of GOP Health Plan.
+ Michigan Republicans Quiet On CBO Analysis Of GOP Healthcare Bill.
+ Perez: CBO Score Shows Trump Is Failing To Provide "Insurance For Everyone."
+ Oklahoma Rep. Fortenberry Defends ACA Repeal At Hostile Town Hall.
+ Heritage Action CEO Warns GOP Plan Could Lead To Single-Payer System.
+ Commentary Considers ACA.

HEALTHCARE NEWS:
+ Investigation Reveals Challenges In Effort To Defund Planned Parenthood In Texas.
+ Harvard Study Suggests Hospital-Based Insurance May Lead To Higher Customer Satisfaction.
+ Op-Ed Urges Texas To Amend Healthcare Policy To Cover More Women.

HUMAN SERVICES NEWS:
+ Tennessee Files Federal Lawsuit Concerning Refugee Resettlement Policies.

FOOD & IMPORT SAFETY:
+ Widow Sues Vulto Creamery Over Husband's Death From Listeria-Tainted Cheese.

NUTRITION & OBESITY:
+ Consumer Goods Companies Cut Sugar, Salt Content.

MEDICARE:
+ Providers Concerned About Losing Medicare Contracts, Patients Due To New Requirement For Hospitals To Notify Medicare Patients Of Observation Status.

MEDICAID & CHIP:
+ Two Mayors Oppose House Republicans' Healthcare Bill.

HEALTH & MEDICAL NEWS:

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+ Trump Administration Has Filled Only One Of 46 Key Science And Technology Positions, WPost Analysis Finds.
+ Study: High-Spending Medicare Doctors Could Spend Less Without Harming Patients.
+ As Jury Prepares To Deliberate NECC Trial, Judge Expresses Doubts About Charges.
+ Opinion: Importing Canadian Drugs Would Expose Americans To Poorly Regulated Products, Hurt Innovation.
+ Access To Vaccines Index Ranks Drug Makers On Research, Pricing, Supply.
+ New York City Announces $38M Initiative To Combat Opioid Epidemic.
+ AstraZeneca's Emerging Innovations Unit Seeks To Repurpose Rejected Drugs.
+ Medtronic Receives FDA Approval For Improved Heart Monitor.
+ FDA Approves Drug For Type Of Advanced Breast Cancer.
+ Wyden To Introduce Bill Requiring Greater Transparency In Negotiations Between PBMs, Drug Companies.
+ Most Military Physicians Received Little Training in Transgender Care, Small Study Indicates.
+ Young People Who Use Synthetic Cannabinoids May Be More Likely To Use Other Drugs Or Alcohol, Behave Violently, Study Suggests.
+ More Than 400,000 US Deaths From Cardiovascular Causes In 2015 Were Associated With Unhealthy Diets, Study Suggests.
+ Fish Oil Supplements May Be Beneficial For People Who Have Suffered A Heart Attack Or Heart Failure, Heart Group Says.
+ Interview With Eminent Palliative Physician Highlights Attitudes Toward Death In Healthcare.
+ Study Suggests Americans Experience More Care Coordination Gaps Than Patients In Other Countries.
+ Nevada Legislature Reviews Bill Granting Physician-Assisted Suicide For Terminally Ill Patients.
+ Synthetic Implant Uses Contact Lens Material To Act As A Cushion For Joints Affected By Arthritis.

GLOBAL HEALTH:
+ Canadians With Cystic Fibrosis Survive Approximately 10 Years Longer Than Americans With The Condition, Study Indicates.
+ Nepalese Authorities Confirm H5N8 Bird Flu Killed 3,650 Chickens In Koshi Region.

NATIONAL NEWS:
+ Media Analyses: White House Walking Back Trump's Wiretapping Allegations.
+ Trump Expected To Announce Reopening Of Fuel Economy Rule Review At Michigan Event.
+ Scientists Criticize Pruitt's Questioning Of Human Role In Climate Change.
+ White House Defends Dismissals Of US Attorneys As Standard Practice.
+ Spicer: Trump Would Like Reporters' Help In Choosing Charity For His Salary.
+ NRA Launches National Ad Buy On Gorsuch Nomination.
+ Labor Department No Longer Publicizing Fines Against Companies.
+ In October, Ryan Told House Republicans He Would Never Defend Trump.
+ Fed Expected To Forecast Faster Interest Rate Hikes.
+ Atlanta Fed Names First African-American Regional Reserve Bank President.
+ US Stocks Little Changed On Monday.
+ DeVos Expresses Support For "Great Public Schools," But Skepticism Remains.
+ NY Attorney General: At Exxon, Tillerson Used Email Alias For Climate Messages.
+ Politico Analysis: DC Snow Storm Offers Pitfalls, Opportunities For Trump.
+ Veterans Group Calls On First Lady To Condemn Military Nude Photo Scandal.
+ First Lady Will Not Attend White House St. Patrick's Day Event.
+ NASCAR CEO "Saw A Business Connection With A Segment Of Trump Voters."
+ NYTimes Magazine: "Indivisible" Document Helped Solidify Democrats' Opposition To Trump.
+ Baldwin Email Links Potential Challenger Clarke To Trump.
+ No Seats Expected To Flip Parties In Five Special Elections.
+ CA49: Issa's Internal Poll Indicates Trump Was A Drag On His Numbers.
+ Villaraigosa's Anti-Trump Super PAC Benefited His Own Nascent Bid.
+ NRSC Raised $5.1M Last Month.
+ Cuban Labels Trump "Zoolander President," Doesn't Close Door On 2020 Run.
+ Report: "Dozens" Of 17-Year-Olds Voted Illegally In Wisconsin's Presidential Primary.
+ Costumer Confronts, Blasts Spicer At DC Apple Store.
+ Snoop Dogg Pulls Gun On "Trump Clown" In Music Video.
+ Ashley Judd "Very Sad," "Scared" After Fan At Basketball Game Tells Her He Is Pro-Trump.
+ AP Analysis: Tech Workers, Traditional Activists Form "Improbable" Alliance In Bay Area.
+ WPost's Weigel Bewildered By GOP Attacks On Murphy For Likening Trump To Nazis.
+ Federal Judge Orders Release, Pending Trial, Of White House Fence-Jumper.
+ NYTimes' Baquet On Trump: "He Wants Our Favor."
+ Cillizza Leaving WPost To Join CNN.

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+ Spencer's Nonprofit Loses Its Tax-Exempt Status.
+ Federal Police Probe Costs Chicago $4.5 Million.
+ Ferguson Prosecutor Releases Unedited Footage Of Michael Brown At Market.
+ Army Corps Completes $1.1 Million Dakota Access Protest Camp Cleanup.
+ Puerto Rico, Oversight Board Reach Agreement On Debt Crisis Plan.
+ Rhode Island Governor Using Tax Incentives To Boost Long-Slumping Economy.
+ De Blasio Announces Five-Year Plan To Address Fatal Opiate Overdoses.
+ Pearl Harbor's Oldest Veteran Turns 105.
+ Thiessen: Hill Republicans Should Draw From Walker's 2011 Lessons.
+ Milbank: Trump Is Clinton's Unexpected Ally In Email Probe.
+ Brooks Criticizes Purism On Both Sides Of LGBT Debate.
+ Researcher Warns Nuclear Missiles Vulnerable To Cyberattack.

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:
+ New York Times.
+ Washington Post.
+ Wall Street Journal.

THE BIG PICTURE:
+ Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

LAST LAUGHS:
+ Late Night Political Humor.

Leading the News:

CBO ESTIMATES 24M CONSUMERS WOULD LOSE COVERAGE UNDER GOP'S ACA REPLACEMENT BILL. This morning, there is heavy television, print and online coverage of figures released by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office on Monday, indicating that if House GOP leaders' American Health Care Act becomes law, millions of consumers would lose coverage. The media characterized the results as a negative for the Republican party, given that they will likely lead to increased opposition from centrists and Democrats.

In its lead story, the CBS Evening News (3/13, lead story, 2:45, Mason, 11.17M) said "President Trump has promised to replace Obamacare with an insurance plan that would cover everybody with higher-quality care at lower cost, but a report today from the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office says millions who gained coverage under Obamacare will lose it next year under the Republican plan the President supports."

ABC World News Tonight (3/13, story 4, 3:15, 14.63M) reported the CBO found that "under the replacement plan, there would be 14 million more uninsured people next year than under Obamacare, and 24 million a decade from now."

NBC Nightly News (3/13, story 4, 2:25, Holt, 16.61M) reported the CBO is projecting that millions of people would lose healthcare coverage under the Republicans' plan, "and that the cost of individual premiums would go up substantially, at least in the short-term."

On its front page, the New York Times (3/13, A1, Kaplan, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that on Monday, the Congressional Budget Office said House Republicans' plan to replace the Affordable Care Act would result in some 24 million Americans losing coverage within 10 years. The article says the GOP had been "bracing" for what was most likely going to be a negative estimate of the impact of the American Health Care Act, which "was already facing widespread criticism from providers of health care, some conservatives, and a united Democratic Party." This means the CBO's figures will probably "only make it more difficult for Republicans to explain why their legislation would bring positive change to the country's health care system."

The Washington Post (3/13, A1, Viebeck, Goldstein, Snell, 11.43M) reports on its front page that the AHCA "would lower the number of Americans with health insurance by 24 million by 2026, while reducing the federal deficit by $337 billion over 10 years," according to the CBO. The Post says this estimate highlights the "dramatic loss in health insurance coverage" which would occur if the AHCA becomes law, "potentially contradicting President Trump's vow that the plan would provide 'insurance for everybody.'" The piece adds that this "could threaten support from moderate Republican lawmakers."

USA Today (3/13, Kelly, 5.28M) reports the CBO said about 14 million consumers would lose coverage in 2018, and that number would rise to 24 million by 2026. The group stated, "Some of those people would choose not to have insurance

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because they chose to be covered by insurance under current law only to avoid paying the penalties, and some people would forgo insurance in response to higher premiums." The CBO also said its analysis revealed a total of 52 million Americans would be uninsured in 2026 if the AHCA were enacted, compared to 28 million under the ACA.

On its website, CNN (3/13, Lee, Luhby, 29.79M) reports that this highly-anticipated "score immediately puts the writers and supporters of the GOP Obamacare bill on the defensive." In addition, it is "certain to complicate the party's already troubled efforts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act."

CNBC (3/13, Mangan, 2.17M) reports on its website that a significant portion of the losses in 2018 "would result from the bill's proposed repeal of Obamacare's individual mandate." Yet, loss of coverage "between 2018 and 2026 'would stem in large part from changes in Medicaid enrollment," the CBO said.

The Los Angeles Times (3/13, Bierman, 4.52M) reports the Trump Administration "said it 'strenuously' disagreed with" the CBO's findings. HHS Secretary Tom Price said, "It's just not believable."

Politico (3/13, Pradhan, Haberkorn, 2.46M) reports Republicans quickly "derided the CBO projections as an incomplete analysis, because" they "haven't yet revealed details of the regulatory action they plan to take, or the bills they hope to get through the Senate under the regular rules, which would allow a Democratic filibuster."

A separate Politico (3/13, McCaskill, 2.46M) article quotes Price as saying, "We believe that our plan will cover more individuals at a lower cost and give them the choices that they want for the coverage that they want for themselves and for their families, not that the government forces them to buy."

McClatchy (3/13, Pugh, 74K) reports that Price also said, "No, I wouldn't be able to concede that at all," referring to the projected number of people who are expected to lose coverage under the AHCA. He added, "Because the fact is they're going to be able to buy the coverage they want. ... We think the CBO simply has it wrong." Meanwhile, Andrew Gurman, MD, president of the American Medical Association, "called the potential loss of coverage 'unacceptable.'" He stated, "While the Affordable Care Act was an imperfect law, it was a significant improvement on the status quo at the time, and the AMA believes we need continued progress to expand coverage for the uninsured. Unfortunately, the current proposal – as the CBO analysis shows – would result in the most vulnerable population losing their coverage."

The AP (3/13) reports that Democratic leaders in Congress say the CBO's figures should be a "knockout blow" for the AHCA. Indeed, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) recommended that House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) "pull the bill from consideration, saying, 'It's really the only decent thing to do.'"

The Washington Times (3/13, Howell, 272K) reports Reps. Richard Neal (D-MA) and Frank Pallone (D-NJ) said the CBO's figures "now confirm what we already knew: Despite promises that 'everyone would be covered' and 'no one would be worse off,' this Republican bill would rip away health insurance from 24 million Americans over the next decade and ask millions to pay more for less coverage."

Also covering the story are the Washington Post (3/13, Blake, 11.43M), the Wall Street Journal (3/13, A1, Armour, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 6.37M), the Los Angeles Times (3/13, Levey, 4.52M), ABC News (3/13, Keneally, Fishel, Siegel, 3.09M), Fox News (3/13, 11.07M), TIME (3/13, Frizell, 6.98M), The Hill (3/13, Sullivan, 1.25M), The Hill (3/13, Fabian, 1.25M), Reuters (3/13, Ahmann), The Atlantic (3/13, Berman, 21.27M), Bloomberg Politics (3/13, Edney, Tracer, 201K), NBC News (3/13, Rafferty, 2.67M), CNBC (3/13, Pramuk, Mangan, 2.17M), Congressional Quarterly (3/13, Williams, Mershon, Subscription Publication, 967), The Hill (3/13, Carney, 1.25M) "Floor Action" blog, NBC News (3/14, Sarlin, 2.67M), The Hill (3/13, Lillis, 1.25M), the Huffington Post (3/13, Young, 237K), another Huffington Post (3/13, Terkel, Stein, 237K) article, the New York Post (3/13, Fredericks, Halper, 3.82M), U.S. News & World Report (3/13, Leonard, 1.02M), Vox (3/13, Kliff, 1.15M), the Washington Examiner (3/13, Adams, 400K), NBC News (3/13, Vitali, 2.67M), the Huffington Post (3/13, Date, 237K), the Washington Examiner (3/13, Morrongiello, 400K), Vox (3/13, Prokop, 1.15M), NPR (3/13, Kurtzleben, 1.92M), the Boston Globe (3/14, McGrane, 1.08M), Vox (3/13, Golshan, 1.15M), the Christian Science Monitor (3/13, Kiefer, 387K), the Huffington Post (3/13, D'Angelo, 237K), the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (3/13, Mauriello, 493K), Vox (3/13, Belluz, 1.15M), the New York Daily News (3/13, Joseph, 4.45M), PBS NewsHour (3/13, Santhanam, 255K), Politico (3/13, Cheney, Everett, Bade, 2.46M), Yahoo! News (3/13, 8.62M), Vox (3/13, Lopez, 1.15M), The Hill (3/13, Savransky, 1.25M), Reuters (3/13, Mason, Walsh), AFP (3/14), the Washington Examiner (3/14, Giaritelli, 400K), and the Daily Intelligencer (NY) (3/13, Kilgore, 795K).

Trump Administration's Criticism Of CBO Could Lead To Months Of Fighting Over Various Policies. The Washington Post (3/13, Paletta, 11.43M) reports that the CBO's findings "triggered a blistering backlash from the Trump administration, with senior White House officials working to undermine the independent budget office's credibility." The article points out that CBO officials are typically "political punching bags," yet "vitriolic attacks from top White House

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officials in recent days have the potential to erode the agency's standing at a time when its assessments of health-care policy, changes to the tax code and deficit projections will factor into whether Congress enacts key parts of the Trump administration's agenda."

CBO Findings Challenging Trump's Healthcare Promises. Politico (3/13, Jackson, 2.46M) reports President Trump has been promising that everyone will have access to healthcare, and that coverage "will be a 'lot less expensive' for everyone." The article says the CBO estimate that the AHCA could result in some 24 million people losing coverage "will test Trump's health care claims," although "the White House has made it clear they reject the analysis."

White House More Likely To Consider Conservative-Backed Changes To AHCA. Politico (3/13, Dawsey, Bade, Palmeri, 2.46M) reports the White House "is increasingly likely to support some conservative-backed changes to the House Obamacare alternative, two administration officials said Monday – a move" which came on the heels of the CBO's release of its findings regarding the AHCA. According to an unnamed senior Administration official, the White House is mulling "significant" changes "to the bill before it hits the House floor next week."

Sanders Warns "Thousands...Will Die" If AHCA Becomes Law. The Hill (3/13, Carney, 1.25M) reports that in response to the findings, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) said "'thousands of Americans will die' under the House GOP's plans to repeal and replace ObamaCare." He warned that if the proposal becomes law "and millions of people are thrown off health insurance...thousands of Americans will die."

Former Clinton Aide Calls CBO Findings "Too Damning." The Hill (3/13, Hensch, 1.25M) reports that Brian Fallon, the press secretary for Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign, said the White House will not be able to ignore the CBO's findings, adding that the results "are too damning for members who have to face reelection in '18 to ignore."

Gingrich Criticizes CBO, Says It Should Be Abolished. The Hill (3/13, Concha, 1.25M) reports that former House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-GA) "slammed the Congressional Budget Office's (CBO) scoring of Republican health care legislation, calling it 'disgustingly wrong' and recommending that the office be abolished." He stated, "They should abolish the Congressional Budget Office. It is corrupt. It is dishonest. It was totally wrong on ObamaCare by huge, huge margins."

The New York Daily News (3/13, Elizalde, 4.45M) also covers the story.

The Secretary in the News:

HHS SECRETARY HAS "SIGNIFICANT CONCERNS" ABOUT HOUSE BILL THAT WOULD ALLOW EMPLOYERS TO REQUIRE EMPLOYEES TO UNDERGO GENETIC TESTING. STAT (3/13, Joseph) reports Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price said he has "significant concerns" about "a House bill [HR 1313] that would allow companies to require employees to undergo genetic testing, but said the administration had not yet examined the issue." The article reports that the bill "would also allow employers to see their employees' genetic information and impose financial penalties on employees who wanted to opt out."

In a separate article, STAT (3/13, Begley) reports opposition is growing to a "bill that would explicitly remove genetic privacy protections from workplace wellness programs." The article mentions that the National Institutes of Health is starting a project this year that "would collect genetic and other information on 1 million or more Americans," and that genetic privacy is a major concern among the organizers of that project.

On its website, CNN (3/13, Christensen, 29.79M) reports that the American Academy of Pediatrics and other groups sent a letter opposing the measure to Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC), who introduced the bill. The Huffington Post (3/13, Jamieson, 237K) also covers the story.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTS MORE FLEXIBILITY WITH STATE WAIVERS UNDER ACA. Reuters (3/13, Humer) reports the Trump Administration said on Monday that it would be more flexible granting waivers to states "to make changes to their health insurance programs by using a section of the 2010 Affordable Care Act that gives them the flexibility to do so." President Donald Trump and Secretary of Health and Human Services Tom Price have said that states should have more control over healthcare.

HHS SEC. PRICE ASKS GOVERNORS TO APPLY FOR STATE INNOVATION WAIVERS. Healthcare Finance News (3/13, Morse, 94K) reports HHS Secretary Tom Price is "asking governors to apply for state innovation waivers made possible under the ACA" to help strengthen health insurance markets. Price said in a Monday letter, "State Innovation Waivers that implement high-risk pool/state-operated reinsurance programs may be an opportunity for states to lower premiums for consumers, improve market stability, and increase consumer choice." Alaska, California, Hawaii and Vermont have applied for waivers, but only Alaska and Hawaii "State Innovation Waivers that implement high-risk

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pool/state-operated reinsurance programs may be an opportunity for states to lower premiums for consumers, improve market stability, and increase consumer choice."

Zika Virus News:

CDC OFFICIALS WARN MEN IN THREE FLORIDA COUNTIES TO NOT DONATE SPERM DUE TO ZIKA CONCERNS. The AP (3/13, Stobbe) reports CDC health officials are warning men living in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties in Florida to avoid donating sperm due to the risk that it may spread Zika. According to the AP, "The advice applies to men who lived or traveled in those counties since June 15." The New York Times (3/13, Belluck, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports officials also warned women that sperm collected in the area "as far back as mid-June might be infected with the Zika virus." They added that "the new warning was driven by caution, not by any evidence of infected semen from sperm banks or of babies with Zika-linked brain damage who were conceived with donated sperm."

USA Today (3/13, Gomez, 5.28M), NBC News (3/13, Fox, 2.67M), Reuters (3/13, Steenhuysen) and CNN (3/13, Goldschmidt, 29.79M) also provide coverage.

NEW YORK OFFICIALS MORE CONFIDENT ABOUT FIGHTING ZIKA THIS YEAR. POLITICO New York (3/13, Baird, 53K) reports New York's "city and state health departments now say they are more confident about addressing Zika as mosquitoes return to the state in April." Officials explain that they "didn't really know" much about the disease last year, but they are "more certain of what to expect this year." The state "spent $2.1 million on Zika prevention through February 2017 and is still developing its budget to address prevention this summer," and New York City has "committed $21 million over three years" to fight the disease.

HHS in the News:

SENATE CONFIRMS VERMA AS CMS ADMINISTRATOR. The Hill (3/13, 1.25M) reports the Senate voted 55-43 Monday evening to confirm Seema Verma as head of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. According to Reuters (3/13, Cowan), Verma will be a key actor in the implementation of the GOP healthcare overhaul, called the American Health Care Act. The AP (3/13, Alonso-Zaldivar) says Verma does not support Secretary Price's approach to Medicare reform, a voucher plan that would give retirees a fixed federal contribution to purchase private coverage.

According to the New York Times (3/13, Pear, Subscription Publication, 13.9M), Verma has "extensive experience" in Medicaid programs, "unlike most people who have held" her position. Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch called her the "ideal candidate" for the position, and the Times says Sen. Joe Donnelly (D-IN) is one Democrat who approves of her Indiana Medicaid work.

The Wall Street Journal (3/13, Hackman, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports conservatives praised Verma's work in implementing Indiana's Medicaid expansion program under then-Gov. Mike Pence. Verma negotiated a deal with the Obama administration to charge monthly premiums to enrollees under the expansion. CNN (3/13, Killough, Bradner, Barrett, 29.79M) reports Pence has championed the Healthy Indiana Plan "as a conservative alternative to Obamacare's main vehicle for expanded coverage."

Congressional Quarterly (3/13, Young, Subscription Publication, 967) reports Verma is expected to facilitate states experimenting with various Medicaid reforms by approving waivers.

Also covering this story are Fierce Healthcare (3/13, 147K), Healthcare Finance News (3/13, Powderly, 94K), Modern Healthcare (3/13, Subscription Publication, 241K), U.S. News & World Report (3/13, Leonard, 1.02M), and the Washington Examiner (3/13, 400K)

CRITICS SUGGEST RIGHT-TO-TRY LAWS UNDERMINE FDA APPROVAL PROCESS. The Los Angeles Times (3/14, Healy, 4.52M) reports that right-to-try laws have been adopted in 33 states, but critics argue the laws do little to help patients while undermining the FDA's task of evaluating the safety and effectiveness of new drugs. The article reports that right-to-try laws are an alternative to the FDA's "compassionate use" or "expanded access" program, which has been in place for over 20 years and has approved roughly 99% of received applications. Dr. Peter Lurie, associate FDA commissioner, told a Senate committee last year that emergency requests under the program "are usually granted immediately over the phone, and non-emergencies are processed in a median of four days," and that the application process was streamlined last June. However, some proponents of right-to-try laws have criticized that FDA program arguing that the application process is too lengthy or cumbersome.

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EX-FDA BIOTECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR: RIGHT-TO-TRY LEGISLATION NEEDS FINE-TUNING. In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (3/13, Subscription Publication, 6.37M), Stanford physician and biology researcher Henry Miller, the founding director of the FDA Office of Biotechnology, writes that current right-to-try legislation needs more thought and fine-tuning as the policy has dangers. Miller recommends only drugs that have passed one Phase II trial that shows the drug performs with reasonable effectiveness be allowed and that the pharmaceutical company inform patients of the uncertainty of a positive response and of the potential for known side effects. According to Miller, determining the cost of drugs, insurance companies' payment responsibility, and where the liability rests if something goes wrong pose problems.

FDA CONSIDERS ESTABLISHING OFFICE OF PATIENT AFFAIRS. Congressional Quarterly (3/13, Siddons, Subscription Publication, 967) reports the Food and Drug Administration announced Monday that it "may establish an Office of Patient Affairs." The agency wants to incorporate "patient data into its benefit and risk assessments when making approval decisions," possibly speeding up the approval process. "The FDA is seeking comments on the new office," which would be "a main FDA liaison for the patient community" and maintain "the data systems that would manage the data collected from patients."

TRUMP'S FDA PICK GOTTLIEB SEEN AS FRIEND TO PHARMA. Reuters (3/13, Clarke) reports that President Trump "has chosen Dr. Scott Gottlieb, a conservative health policy expert with deep ties to the pharmaceutical industry, to lead the U.S. Food and Drug Administration." Gottlieb "is viewed favorably by drug companies and pharmaceutical investors," and "sits on the boards of several small drug and biotech companies and is an adviser to GlaxoSmithKline." Brian Skorney, an investment analyst at Robert W. Baird, wrote in a research note, "Thank God it's Gottlieb. We view this as a favorable development for the sector."

STAT (3/13, Garde) reported in a brief that "the pick drew bipartisan praise and was widely celebrated by the drug industry, but Gottlieb's close ties to pharma could be a drag on Senate confirmation, as was the case for his predecessor."

Reporting on his corporate ties, MarketWatch (3/13, Court, 767K) says that Gottlieb "has taken more than $400,000 from drugmakers just in the last few years, served on many corporate boards and forged countless other corporate ties while spending the last decade at a venture capital firm." However, MarketWatch says that corporate ties didn't stop Califf's confirmation and "they're unlikely to hobble Gottlieb," who is "the least radical of several names raised for the nomination and has the support of many in industry." The article adds that "a Mizuho Securities USA survey found 72% of 53 drug companies polled favored Gottlieb for the position."

Fierce Biotech (3/13, Taylor, 2K) reports that "Gottlieb has a history of calling for faster approvals, greater regulatory transparency and a realignment of the balance of power between FDA and doctors, but as an industry insider is seen as a safer pair of hands than some of the other mooted candidates." The article goes on to say that "Gottlieb is a believer in the potential for FDA actions to drive down the cost of drugs," which "means the fast, flexible approach to evidence taken by FDA's cancer division could spread throughout the agency, leading to the regulator waving through more applications and relying more on doctors to act as gatekeepers." Fierce Biotech adds that "Gottlieb could overhaul the aspects of generic drug regulation that prop up the prices of some products long after their patents have expired."

The Hill (3/13, Chacko, 1.25M) reports that Gottlieb "is drawing praise from some Democrats and Republicans, though his drug industry ties and policy positions will likely raise questions during the confirmation process." Commenting about the nomination, former FDA commissioner Robert Califf said, "I am breathing a sigh of relief." Former Medicare and Medicaid chief Andy Slavitt said Gottlieb is "a very good choice."

Fierce Pharma (3/13, Sagonowsky, 3K) reports that Gottlieb has said theories connecting vaccines and autism have been "thoroughly debunked" and are "myths." The claims stand in contrast to previous statements made by President Trump questioning the safety of vaccines.

Scientific American (3/13, 1.88M) also provides more on Gottlieb's background.

FDA DOES NOT FORCE COMPANIES TO RELEASE RETAILER LISTS DURING RECALL. The Washington Post (3/13, Dewey, 11.43M) reports SoyNut Butter has recalled some of its products due to an E. coli contamination, but does not need to declare where the affected products were sold, because "in the case of releasing retailer lists during major outbreaks, the FDA has historically sided with business, ruling that such lists constitute 'confidential commercial information' and thus should not be available for public consumption."

SENATOR PROPOSES BILL TO FORCE FDA TO ENFORCE DAIRY LABELING REGULATIONS. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (3/13, Barrett, 513K) reports the Sen. Tammy Baldwin is advocating on behalf of her Wisconsin dairy farmer constituents by proposing the Dairy Price Act, which would force the FDA to enforce existing regulations against products falsely labeled as milk. In a news release announcing the proposal, Baldwin said, "The FDA has not enforced

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these labeling regulations [requiring products labeled milk, cheese, or yogurt to meet specific ingredient standards], and the mislabeling of products has increased rapidly. This hurts dairy farmers … and it has also led to the proliferation of mislabeled alternative products." The bill is opposed by industries and groups promoting plant-based alternatives to dairy products, such as soy, almond, coconut, and rice milks.

NEW REPORT SUGGESTS BIOTECH DEVELOPMENTS COULD OVERWHELM REGULATORY SYSTEM. STAT (3/13, Keshavan) reports that a new report commissioned by the FDA and two other Federal agencies suggests that new biotech products could eventually "overwhelm the regulatory system" and tax the existing expertise and forms of governance. The report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine "comes at a time when far-reaching deregulation looms, along with a government hiring freeze," STAT says, adding that some forthcoming technologies, including CRISPR genome editing and "engineered microbes, and even plants and insects," will require "a scrupulous regulatory process." The EPA and the Department of Agriculture also commissioned the report.

RESEARCHERS SEEKING TO EXPLORE WHETHER TEENS ARE USING DRUGS LESS BECAUSE THEY ARE SPENDING MORE TIME WITH PHONES, COMPUTERS. The New York Times (3/13, Richtel, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that "researchers are starting to" question whether teenagers are "using drugs less in part because they are constantly stimulated and entertained by their computers and phones." According to the Times, "Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, says she plans to begin research on the topic in the next few months, and will convene a group of scholars" next month "to discuss it." The Times adds, "Dr. Volkow described interactive media as 'an alternative reinforcer' to drugs, adding that 'teens can get literally high when playing these games.'"

NIAID DIRECTOR FAUCI DISCUSSES HIV PREVENTION. NPR's The Diane Rehm Show (3/13) interviewed National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases director Dr. Anthony Fauci on the state of HIV prevention. Fauci detailed current efforts, but noted that the numbers "have not been as good as we would like." He also explained how pre-exposure prophylaxis functions, adding that in some studies using the treatment, "the numbers of infections there are essentially zero." Fauci warns that PrEP wont "eradicate" HIV, but he hopes it will "dramatically diminish the rate of new infections."

UTAH SET TO REDUCE LEGAL BLOOD-ALCOHOL CONTENT TO 0.05%. The Christian Science Monitor (3/13, Hoover, 387K) reports Utah may reduce "the legal blood-alcohol content for driving from 0.08 to 0.05," if the governor signs a bill passed by the state legislature last week. State Rep. Norman Thurston says the law "is about behavior and we hope that other states take a close look and move in a similar direction." National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism George Koob notes that "There's been an increase in deaths related to drunk driving in the last couple of years," adding that if the law is effective, "other states will take notice."

CHARLES RIVER LABORATORIES AGREES TO $1.8 MILLION SETTLEMENT FOR NIH OVERBILLING. The AP (3/13) reports Massachusetts' Charles River Laboratories International "has agreed to pay $1.8 million to settle claims" that it violated "the False Claims Act on contracts with the National Institutes of Health." The company reported the problem to the government when it was discovered, and "says it has cooperated to ensure proper repayment and resolution."

Health Reform:

TRUMP ACCUSES MEDIA OF MAKING ACA "LOOK SO GOOD." The Washington Post (3/13, Phillip, 11.43M) reports that President Trump is urging Americans "to throw out the Affordable Care Act," and replace it with the American Health Care Act, a GOP measure which would repeal and replace the ACA. But "according to Trump, the press and the public have come down with something akin to seller's remorse." Trump stated, "The press is making Obamacare look so good suddenly. I'm watching the news. It looks so good." He added, "It's a little bit like President Obama. When he left, people liked him. When he was here, people didn't like him so much."

USA Today (3/13, Jackson, 5.28M) reports that as part of his pitch to the public, Trump said the AHCA "will rescue people from an 'imploding' Obamacare system, and he protested news coverage of the high-stakes debate that will affect millions of people and their health insurance." He is quoted as saying, "The fact is that Obamacare is a disaster."

The Washington Times (3/13, Sherfinski, 272K) reports Trump predicted "Republicans will come together and 'save the day' amid an 'imploding' health care system that's about to get worse." Meanwhile, White House counselor Kellyanne Conway pointed out on Monday that "the president supports the House GOP heath care plan, but he is open to negotiations."

A separate Washington Times (3/13, Boyer, 272K) article reports Trump made the comments during a White House meeting with ACA critics. One attendee said, "We paid $8,000 for five months and were never able to use it. ... It's been

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hard. It's almost put our family in financial ruin."

The AP (3/13, Lucey) reports that Trump attempted to "highlight complaints about the Obama health care law Monday, including a gripe of his own, that the law is 'a disaster' but that the media makes it look 'wonderful.'"

On its website, CNN (3/13, Liptak, 29.79M) reports that Trump said it could take many years before healthcare prices fall. He added, "It's going to take a little while to get there. ... But once it does it's going to be a thing of beauty. I wish it didn't take a year or two years. But that's what's going to happen."

Politico (3/13, McCaskill, 2.46M) reports that Trump said GOP lawmakers "are putting themselves in a very bad position" by repealing the ACA. He added, "I tell this to Tom Price all the time – by repealing Obamacare. ... Because people aren't gonna see the truly devastating effects of Obamacare. They're not gonna see the devastation. In '17 and '18 and '19, it'll be gone by then. Whether we do it or not, it'll be imploded off the map."

Also covering the story are Bloomberg Politics (3/13, Pettypiece, 201K), Reuters (3/13, Lawder), Fox News (3/13, 11.07M), CBS News (3/13, 4.4M), the Washington Examiner (3/13, Morrongiello, 400K), the Daily Caller (3/13, Collins, 898K), the New York Post (3/13, Halper, Fredericks, 3.82M), The Hill (3/13, Fabian, 1.25M), The Hill (3/13, Beavers, 1.25M), CNBC (3/13, Pramuk, 2.17M), Vox (3/13, Prokop, 1.15M), and the Washington Examiner (3/13, Feldscher, 400K).

REPUBLICANS MOVING QUICKLY TO REPEAL AND REPLACE ACA. A front-page Washington Post (3/13, A1, Johnson, 11.43M) analysis contrasts Democrats' "big tent approach" to passing the Affordable Care Act, which included "convening health care groups that did not normally talk to each other while cutting deals and strong-arming key industry players to build broad support for the plan" with Republican efforts to repeal the law, which have "unfolded so fast that lobbyists and industry groups barely had time to digest the bill before lawmakers began marking it up." According to the Post, the differences speak to "a drastically changed political atmosphere and the reality of passing a health care plan chiefly aimed at dismantling the current law, versus building one from scratch."

The Hill (3/13, Beavers, 1.25M) reports that on Monday, Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT) "slammed Republicans and their proposed health plan, saying the GOP wants to 'rush through a bad bill that the American public won't ever see or understand before it's passed into law.'" He is quoted as saying that GOP lawmakers "have a plan that they are going to rush through the next few weeks so we need to spend our time right now, explaining to the American people what a disaster it is to stop it."

Meanwhile, the Washington Post (3/13, Hohmann, 11.43M) reports that by seeking to repeal the ACA, Republicans are attempting something which has never been accomplished in the US before. The article says "Congress has never reversed a major program of social benefits once it has taken effect and reached millions of Americans."

The Washington Times (3/13, Sherfinski, 272K) also covers the story.

WHITE HOUSE ANALYSIS FOUND 26 MILLION PEOPLE WOULD LOSE COVERAGE UNDER AHCA. Politico (3/13, Demko, 2.46M) reports an analysis of the AHCA conducted by the White House revealed "even steeper coverage losses than the projections by the Congressional Budget Office, according to a document viewed by POLITICO on Monday." Data indicate about 26 million people would lose coverage under the AHCA, a figure which is higher than the CBO's. Specifically, 17 million Medicaid recipients would lose coverage, as well as "six million in the individual market and three million in employer-based plans."

The Washington Examiner (3/14, Lott, 400K) also covers the story.

HOUSE COMMITTEE COULD DERAIL AHCA ON THURSDAY. McClatchy (3/13, Daugherty, 74K) reports the AHCA "will face its biggest test so far on Wednesday," when the House Budget Committee, which is comprised of several "conservatives, could derail the legislation backed by Speaker Paul Ryan before it gets to the House floor." The article says this "uncertainty comes as the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office released its estimate on the bill," saying that about 24 million consumers could lose coverage if it becomes law.

CBO DATA PROVIDING DEMOCRATS WITH NEW AMMUNITION AGAINST GOP. On its website, CNN (3/13, Lee, 29.79M) reports, "Democrats are finally back on the offensive on health care, brandishing" new, "damaging" data from the CBO. The article says their new weapon is the fact that on Monday, the CBO released projections which indicate about 24 million people could lose healthcare coverage if the GOP's ACA replacement plan, AHCA, is signed into law. The piece adds that what is especially valuable to Democrats "is the CBO's conclusion that the Republican bill would hurt demographic groups that President Donald Trump tended to perform better with, including older Americans."

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MEDIA ADOPT "TRUMPCARE" AS MONIKER FOR AHCA. The Washington Examiner (3/14, Scarry, 400K) reports that Democrats' attempt "to cast the new Republican healthcare bill as 'Trumpcare' is working, as the name has quickly been picked up by the national media." The piece explains that congressional Democrats "began branding the legislation as 'Trumpcare' last week, in an apparent attempt to tie the bill's undetermined fate to President Trump's national low approval ratings."

CONSERVATIVE GROUPS OPPOSED TO AHCA DIRECTING CRITICISM AT RYAN, NOT TRUMP. The Washington Examiner (3/14, 400K) reports influential conservative groups which are loathe to alienate "President Trump are blaming their opposition to his healthcare initiative on House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis." The article points out that rather than criticize Trump, who endorsed the AHCA, "conservative groups are dissing the AHCA as 'Ryancare' and training all of their fire at the speaker, in a bid to curry favor with the president and protect their relationships with him in future negotiations."

IRS DATA SHOW CONSTITUENTS OF MANY GOP LAWMAKERS WHO OPPOSE ACA ARE BENEFITING FROM THE LAW'S SUBSIDIES. TIME (3/13, Wilson, 6.98M) reports on new IRS data which show many constituents of GOP lawmakers who oppose the Affordable Care Act "benefit from tax credits the law provides to offset the cost of healthcare." The analysis indicates "55 percent of those households" which receive ACA subsidies "are represented by Republicans in the House of Representatives."

SEN. COTTON CRITICAL OF RYAN'S THREE-PHASE APPROACH TO ACA REPEAL. The Hill (3/13, Sullivan, 1.25M) reports that on Monday, Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR) "pushed back on Speaker Paul Ryan's (R-Wis.) plan to repeal and replace ObamaCare in three phases, calling it 'politicians' talk.'" Asked about the three-phase process of repealing the ACA, Cotton stated, "Let me just say this...about this so-called three-phase process. That's just not going to happen. That's just politicians' talk."

The Washington Examiner (3/13, King, 400K) also covers the story.

REP. ISSA WILL NOT VOTE FOR AHCA IN ITS CURRENT FORM. The Hill (3/13, Sullivan, 1.25M) reports that on Monday, Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA) said "he is 'not prepared' to vote for the House GOP ObamaCare replacement bill 'as it is right now.'" He told Fox News, "I'm not prepared to vote for it as it is right now, and I think that's not because of a specific 'this is unacceptable' but because I think we can do better."

SEN. HELLER SAYS GOP'S ACA REPLACEMENT PLAN MUST ALLOW MEDICAID EXPANSION STATES MORE TIME. The Hill (3/13, Shelbourne, 1.25M) reports that on Saturday, Sen. Dean Heller (R-NV) spoke about the GOP's proposal to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, "arguing that states need more time to adjust to changes in the Medicaid expansion." He said, "If you're going to make changes to the Medicaid expansion, you have to give Nevada time to respond." The piece points out that Nevada is one of the states which expanded Medicaid under the ACA.

REPUBLICAN ACA REPLACEMENT MAY CUT UP TO $1 BILLION IN CDC FUNDING. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (3/13, Schneider, 1.41M) reports the Republican ACA replacement would cut nearly $1 billion in funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Though "a large part of that money is funneled to the states...the cuts could also mean cuts at the CDC" itself in Georgia.

ANALYSIS: CBO OVERESTIMATED HOW MANY WOULD GAIN COVERAGE THROUGH ACA EXCHANGES BUT WAS RIGHT ABOUT REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF UNINSURED. CNN Money (3/13, 3.59M) reports that "Republicans are right that the CBO misjudged how many people would be insured through the Obamacare exchanges. But the agency was much closer to the mark on Obamacare's overall impact on coverage." The article reports that "several agencies and organizations" have "found unprecedented drops in the uninsured rate among non-elderly Americans" following the enactment of the Affordable Care Act.

HUMANA'S EXIT FROM ACA EXCHANGE IN TENNESSEE COULD LEAVE THOUSANDS OF RESIDENTS WITHOUT INSURANCE. On its website, CNN (3/13, Gingras, 29.79M) reports Humana's announced exit from the ACA marketplaces in 11 states, including Tennessee, could leave thousands of state residents without insurance. The article reports that Humana is the only option available on the exchange in 73 of the state's 95 counties, according to the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance.

SOME REPUBLICANS PUSH BACK AGAINST AARP AFTER CRITICISM OF HOUSE REPUBLICANS' HEALTHCARE BILL. The Washington Post (3/13, Weigel, 11.43M) reports some Republican leaders are criticizing the AARP after the group criticized the House Republicans' healthcare bill. The article reports the Trump Administration and Congressional Republicans "have chosen this year to simply define AARP as yet another flawed interest group."

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AARP SAYS HOUSE REPUBLICANS' HEALTHCARE BILL WOULD HARM SENIORS WHO ARE STRUGGLING FINANCIALLY. On its website, CNBC (3/13, Belvedere, 2.17M) reports the AARP Legislative Counsel and Policy Director David Certner said on CNBC's "Squawk on the Street" that the House Republicans' healthcare bill would hurt seniors who are struggling financially. Certner said on the program, "The older you get and the lower your income, the bigger the premium increase you're going to see." Certner added, "What we're seeing here between age ratings and loss of tax credit is what we call a huge 'age tax.'"

TWO OHIO GROUPS WARN US HOUSE REPUBLICANS' HEALTHCARE BILL WOULD FORCE STATE TO MAKE CUTS TO MEDICAID. The Columbus (OH) Dispatch (3/13, Candisky, 529K) reports two separate organizations, the Center for Community Solutions and Policy Matters Ohio, both released reports warning that the House Republicans' healthcare bill would force Ohio to make cuts to the state's Medicaid program. According to an analysis conducted by the Center for Community Solutions, the bill would cost Ohio between $19 billion and $26 billion in federal Medicaid funding over a period of six years, which "would lead to substantial reductions in eligibility, services, or payments to health-care providers." According to a report released by Policy Matters Ohio, the bill would force the state to abolish its expanded Medicaid program because of reduced funding.

The Dayton (OH) Daily News (3/13, Tucker, 181K) reports Policy Matters Ohio said in a statement, "This is bad news for Ohio, where the population is aging rapidly. Health care is the most costly among the elderly, so as the population ages, costs rise. But the federal share will not: in fact, the plan penalizes states with rising costs by imposing a penalty of reduced funding. This could lead to reduced Medicaid coverage for all Ohioans, but especially for growing and costly segments of the population, like seniors." Also covering the story are the AP (3/13) and the Cleveland Plain Dealer (3/13, Koff, 976K).

REP. KENNEDY "BATTLING" POTENTIAL REPEAL OF ACA. The AP (3/13, Jalonick) reports Rep. Joe Kennedy III (D-MA) is "battling Republicans" who want to repeal the Affordable Care Act. The article reports that Kennedy, the grandson of former Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, "emerged last week as a major Democratic voice against the Republican health care bill, delivering several speeches in a committee's all-night session that have been viewed millions of times on the internet."

AMERICANS WHO LIVE IN SMALL TOWNS OR RURAL AREAS WERE LIKELY TO GAIN AND LOSE FROM ACA. Congressional Quarterly (3/13, Mershon, Subscription Publication, 967) reports Americans who live in small towns or rural areas "were more likely than their big city counterparts to be uninsured before the" Affordable Care Act was implemented, and were "more likely to be lower income and suffer from expensive chronic conditions." However, "rural and small-town Americans also had the most to lose when Obamacare's performance fell short," for example, when insurers pulled their individual plans off the market in many rural areas.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS' HEALTHCARE BILL LACKS PROVISIONS THAT WOULD ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO INSURERS SELLING PLANS ACROSS STATE LINES. The Washington Examiner (3/13, Morrongiello, 400K) reports the House Republicans' healthcare bill lacks provisions that would eliminate restrictions on insurers selling health plans across state lines. The article points out that "President Trump had repeatedly promised" that he would allow insurers to sell health plans across state lines as part of his plan to reform healthcare.

HERITAGE ACTION FOR AMERICA SAYS REPUBLICANS WHO OPPOSE HEALTHCARE BILL "WILL NEVER REGRET IT." The Washington Post (3/13, Weigel, 11.43M) reports Heritage Action for America, "one of the leading conservative opponents of Republicans' American Health Care Act," announced that Republicans who oppose the bill "will never regret it." Heritage Action chief executive Michael Needham said on a call with reporters, "Ryancare leaves the fundamental architecture of Obamacare in place," and added, "Any conservative member who stands strong will never regret it."

HOUSE REPUBLICANS' HEALTHCARE BILL WOULD HELP MANY MIDDLE-CLASS TEXANS WHILE OFFERING LESS AID TO POORER AND OLDER TEXANS. The Dallas Morning News (3/13, Leslie, 1.12M) reports the House Republicans' healthcare bill would help many middle-class Texans who received "no federal help in paying for Obamacare," while many poorer and older Texans, "especially in rural areas," would "see federal aid shrink." The article explains that the bill would distribute tax credits for health insurance "more evenly with a refundable, age-based flat tax credit that shrinks for high earners," but critics suggest the bill would not offer enough aid for low-income people to purchase health insurance.

MCCONNELL: HEALTH REFORM REQUIRES "CREATIVE THINKING." The Washington Examiner (3/13, Crabtree, 400K) reports Sen. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) said on the Senate floor Monday "now is the time for creative thinking" to reduce costs under Obamacare, an "apparent open invitation to lawmakers to bring ideas to the table at a sensitive time for the House version of the Obamacare replacement bill." House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) has called the

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bill a “binary” choice, either voting for it or for no reform. McConnell has “stressed that senators will have the chance to amend the House measure when it comes to the Senate for floor consideration.”

MINNESOTA HOUSE APPROVES PROGRAM TO STABILIZE INSURANCE MARKET. The AP (3/13, Potter) reports Minnesota’s Republican-controlled House on Monday approved a reinsurance program “meant to tamp down health insurance costs and ensure plans are offered after years of instability and skyrocketing premiums.” The lawmakers voted to use $384 million from the state’s dedicated healthcare account every two years to “to help health plans’ high costs for covering patients – a kind of insurance for the insurance companies themselves.” However, Gov. Mark Dayton and fellow Democrats “have coalesced around Dayton’s proposal to create a public health care option, allowing all Minnesota residents to buy into the low-income program called MinnesotaCare.”

MINNESOTA WOULD LOSE $80 MILLION IN PUBLIC FUNDING UNDER GOP HEALTH PLAN. The Minneapolis-St. Paul (MN) Business Journal (3/13, Subscription Publication, 76K) reports the GOP healthcare bill could cause Minnesota to lose $80 million in public funding if passed. Minnesota Health Commissioner Dr. Ed Ehlinger said the cuts “would be a huge hit for us at the state level.”

BOSTON MAYOR OPPOSES GOP HEALTH BILL. Boston Mayor Martin Walsh and Boston Medical Center President and CEO Kate Walsh write in an opinion piece in the Boston Globe (3/13, Walsh, Walsh, 1.08M) that the GOP healthcare bill would “strip coverage from millions of Americans and put insurance costs out of reach for millions more.” It would “also hurt Boston’s economy and cost us jobs,” because “health care creates more jobs than any other industry in Boston, by a wide margin.” The authors “encourage our congressional and state leaders to continue defending our state’s nearly universal coverage.”

TRUMP JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OPPOSES ANTHEM-CIGNA MERGER APPEAL. Modern Healthcare (3/13, Subscription Publication, 241K) reports the Trump Administration Justice Department and several states on Monday “urged a federals appeals court not to overturn a decision blocking Anthem and Cigna’s proposed $54 billion merger,” citing “overwhelming evidence” showing the blocked merger would not guarantee the proposed efficiencies that Anthem touted. In a brief to the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, the Justice Department said, “The evidence showed Anthem had no real plan to achieve these savings and every proffered strategy either foundered in the face of business realities or was disconnected from the merger itself (or both).”

CBO ANALYSIS: REPUBLICAN HEALTH PLAN WOULD SAVE GOVERNMENT $337 BILLION BY CUTTING MEDICAID, INSURANCE SUBSIDIES. The Washington Post (3/13, Ehrenfreund, 11.43M) “Wonkblog” reports an analysis released Monday by the Congressional Budget Office found the Republicans’ plan to replace the Affordable Care Act “would cut spending by $1.2 trillion over the coming decade and save the government a total of $337 billion.” The plan would reduce spending on Medicaid by $880 billion, and it would place a “limit on how much states can spend on care for each Medicaid beneficiary, indexing it to inflation and to the prices of health care services.” The measure would also reduce spending by “replacing Obamacare’s insurance subsidies with a new, less generous (and less expensive) system of tax credits.” It would also repeal the insurance mandate and “cut taxes on the health insurance industry by $145 billion over a decade.”

GOP HEALTH PLAN COULD COST CONNECTICUT UP TO $539 MILLION IN 2020. The Connecticut Mirror (3/13) reports an analysis released Monday by Connecticut Gov. Dannel Malloy’s administration said the House Republican health bill “cost the state $89 million to $539 million in 2020, the year many of the major provisions would take effect.” The analysis also “estimated that 34,000 people who buy health plans through the state’s health insurance exchange would not renew their coverage for 2018 if the proposal becomes law.” According to the analysis, prepared by the Office of Policy and Management, the proposed law “would result in a tremendous cost shift to the states once fully implemented, which could cost upwards of $1 billion per year when fully implemented after 2020.”

The Associated Press (3/13) reports Malloy said in a statement about the GOP proposal, “Health care coverage for some of our most vulnerable populations will be threatened, including seniors, persons with disabilities, children and low-income adults.” The Hartford (CT) Courant (3/13, 445K) also covers this story.

SEN. MIKE LEE SKEPTICAL HOUSE HEALTH BILL COMPLIES WITH SENATE RULES. Roll Call (3/13, Lesniewski, 63K) reports Utah Sen. Mike Lee said in an opinion piece for the Heritage Foundation’s Daily Signal that the “House health care bill might not be compliant as a reconciliation bill, meaning it is a budget measure that only requires a majority vote, under Senate rules, saying that provisions will need to be stripped to comply with the Byrd Rule.” Calling it a “bad bill,” Lee wrote that the process of going through the Senate parliamentarian’s office “in this case could be used to knock out key provisions of the House bill, including prohibitions on taxpayer funding of abortion and price controls on insurance premiums.” Lee instead called on Republicans to “pass the 2015 repeal bill that Republicans in both houses of Congress voted for just 15 months ago.”

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ATUL GAWANDE INTERVIEWED ABOUT GOP HEALTHCARE PLAN. NPR (3/13, Hersher, Boddy, 1.92M) interviewed Atul Gawande, a cancer surgeon at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and a staff writer at The New Yorker magazine, about the GOP healthcare bill. Gawande "[expressed] concern that it would cause poor and sick people to lose health coverage," saying that Trump's promise of better coverage at a lower cost than the ACA is "in conflict with this other goal that Republicans have, which is actually to dismantle the ACA and its funding, and it's that pull that lies in the middle of this." A way to improve on the ACA is to provide some "tweaks" to Healthcare.gov to "get more young and healthy [people] in to go along with the sicker, older population and that would help flatten the premiums and keep that system" growing. Gawande also asks about the bill, "What's it aiming to solve? If the aim is to solve the problems [Republicans] criticize, they've not put forward solutions that actually do that."

CALIFORNIA SENATE DEMOCRATS BLAST GOP HEALTH PLAN. The Los Angeles Times (3/13, Mason, 4.52M) reports California Senate Democrats on Monday submitted a "speedily crafted, non-binding resolution assailing the House GOP's plan to replace the Affordable Care Act." The measure "called on Congress not to repeal the law unless its replacement would provide Americans at least the same level of coverage." Democratic state Sen. Scott Wiener said President Trump and the Republican Congress were peddling "snake oil" and said a "fraud is being perpetrated on the American people right now by this administration." Republicans said the ACA has hurt residents and complained they are wary of "regular anti-Trump actions from ruling Democrats."

TRUMP'S CRITIQUES OF ACA ARE OVERSTATED. The New York Times (3/13, Qiu, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports President Trump has repeatedly called the Affordable Care Act "a disaster," and while its true that the law has not been "universally beneficial, many of the criticisms from Mr. Trump and his team are cherry-picked or misleading." Trump's claim that the ACA has caused premiums to rise by double or even triple digits "requires context," but regardless his claim is "much higher than the 7 percent increase in 2016 and 3 percent increase in 2015," and doesn't take into account that 84 percent of enrollees qualify for tax credits. Furthermore, Trump's belief the law has had little impact on the uninsured is false. According to the Times, "about 20 million have gained insurance under the act," and the uninsured rate has declined to 10.9 percent at the end of last year.

MONTANA GOVERNOR, SENATORS EXPRESS CRITICISM OF REPUBLICAN HEALTHCARE PLAN. The AP (3/13, Volz) reports Montana Republican US Sen. Steve Daines joined Democratic Gov. Steve Bullock and Sen. Jon Tester (D) in criticizing the Republican healthcare plan Monday after the CBO analysis "showed the legislation would lead to millions losing their coverage and insurance premiums continuing to rise over the next several years." Daines said about the report, "We need to do better. I want to see costs and premiums go down to make health care more affordable for Montana families." Bullock called the health proposal a "troubling step backwards." The AP notes Montana's uninsured rate has declined from 22 percent to 7 percent since the Affordable Care Act became law.

WASHINGTON GOV. INSLEE SAYS GOP HEALTH PLAN "CONFIRMS OUR WORST FEARS." The AP (3/13, Corte) reports Washington Gov. Jay Inslee (D) said the CBO analysis of the Republican plan to replace the ACA "confirms our worst fears" that it would "actually leave our nation worse off than before the ACA was implemented." State officials say the GOP legislation would potentially cause the more than 600,000 lower-income people in the state who gained coverage through Medicaid expansion to lose coverage, "depending on what changes are made to the law at the federal level." Bob Crittenden, Gov. Jay Inslee's senior policy adviser for healthcare, said, "if the state were to return to paying for health programs that were replaced by the federal law, the state's costs would increase by an additional $330 million every two years."

NEW MEXICO INSURANCE REGULATORS TO STUDY IMPACTS OF ACA REPEAL. The AP (3/13) reports New Mexico Insurance Superintendent John Franchini announced Monday his office is analyzing consequences of House Republican's plan to overhaul the ACA "after the Congressional Budget Office found that 14 million Americans would lose coverage next year." Residents have "flocked to enroll in Medicaid since Republican Gov. Susana Martinez agreed to expand the program in 2014."

ARKANSAS GOVERNOR SAYS CBO ANALYSIS UNDERSCORES CONCERNS WITH GOP HEALTH BILL. The AP (3/13) reports Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson (R) said the CBO analysis of the GOP healthcare plan shows the need for Congress to examine the proposal and concerns he has raised about it. Hutchinson has said the law "will shift costs to the states and not provide Arkansas the flexibility it needs. Hutchinson said he's hopeful for changes to address those concerns as the bill moves through the U.S. House."

MASSACHUSETTS GOV. BAKER WANTS TO KEEP UNINSURED RATE LOW. The AP (3/13, Leblanc) reports Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker (R) said "it's very important to us that we continue" providing "virtually universal access to coverage" after the release of a CBO analysis that found 14 million Americans would lose coverage next year under legislation put forward by House Republicans. Baker, a former healthcare executive, "says the state receives about $10.5

billion in federal Medicaid reimbursement each year, a little more than half of the state's total $19 billion in Medicaid spending." Baker sent a letter in January to House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy "urging his fellow Republicans to keep key parts of the federal law, including letting Massachusetts keep its mandate that all residents have health insurance."

VIRGINIA GOP REP. WITTMAN SAYS HE OPPOSES GOP HEALTHCARE PLAN. The Washington Post (3/13, Portnoy, 11.43M) reports that Virginia Rep. Rob Wittman (R) on Monday "broke with House GOP leadership and announced his opposition to Speaker Paul D. Ryan's plan to revise the Affordable Care Act." Wittman "made the statement hours after the release of a Congressional Budget Office estimate that Ryan's bill would reduce the number of Americans with health insurance by 24 million." Wittman, in a statement, said, "After reviewing this legislation and receiving the Congressional Budget Office score today, it is clear that this bill is not consistent with the repeal and replace principles for which I stand."

The Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (3/13, Wilson, 324K) also covers this story.

HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE POSTPONES MARKUP OF GOP HEALTHCARE BILL TO THURSDAY. The Hill (3/13, Master, 1.25M) reports the House Budget Committee announced Monday evening it had rescheduled its markup of the GOP healthcare bill from Tuesday to Thursday due to snowfall expected in DC. Meanwhile, Chairwoman Diane Black (R-TN) released a statement Monday saying the CBO analysis of the plan "reduces the deficit by $337 billion and lowers taxes by $883 billion for Americans and small business owners."

VIRGINIA HOSPITAL GROUP TAKES ISSUE WITH PARTS OF GOP HEALTH PLAN. The Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (3/13, Demeria, 324K) reports the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association has expressed concern about the GOP healthcare plan in letters it sent to Virginia's Congressional representatives. VHHA's president and CEO, Sean T. Connaughton in the letters "applauded the fact that the proposed replacement does not change Medicaid to a block-granting system," but was also cautious about the "proposed per capita cap, which would lock Virginia in at what it paid per Medicaid enrollee in 2016. Virginia is ranked 47th in the nation for per capita Medicaid spending." The VHHA is also concerned about "the proposal for refundable tax credits for health insurance, which the replacement plan bases on age rather than on income, as is the case under the ACA."

MICHIGAN REPUBLICANS QUIET ON CBO ANALYSIS OF GOP HEALTHCARE BILL. The Detroit Free Press (3/13, Spangler, 1.01M) reports an analysis of the Republican healthcare plan by the CBO found it "severely scales back Medicaid payments," suggesting that many Michigan residents "would be expected to ultimately lose or fail to qualify for coverage." Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder has "lobbied Republican leaders on Capitol Hill and the Trump Administration for flexibility in continuing the Medicaid program," but has so far "remained mum on his opinion of his proposal since its unveiling last week." While Republican Members of Michigan's congressional delegation "were largely silent on the CBO score Monday evening," Democrats heavily criticized the plan.

PEREZ: CBO SCORE SHOWS TRUMP IS FAILING TO PROVIDE "INSURANCE FOR EVERYONE." The Hill (3/13, Kamisar, 1.25M) reports DNC Chairman Tom Perez said President Trump failed to deliver on his promise of "insurance for everyone" after a CBO analysis estimated over 20 million people would lose insurance under the House Republicans' proposed healthcare plan. Perez said in a statement that the plan "slashes Medicaid, drives up the cost of care for older Americans, and defunds life-saving services provided by Planned Parenthood. The only winners here are Trump, and the corporations and rich people who get to pocket new tax breaks."

OKLAHOMA REP. FORTENBERRY DEFENDS ACA REPEAL AT HOSTILE TOWN HALL. The Omaha (NE) World-Herald (3/14, 544K) reports US Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (R) faced an "angry and disruptive crowd" when he met with constituents during a 90-minute town hall meeting at Lincoln Southwest High School. The "standing room-only crowd of about 1,200" repeatedly called on Fortenberry to reject the Republican plan to replace the Affordable Care Act. Fortenberry regularly asked the crowd to "please be quiet" as he defended his stance in favor of repealing and replacing the health plan. Fortenberry told reporters after the town hall meeting was over, "Obviously a lot of people are not in favor of (the Republican proposal), but it was important to have the discussion."

HERITAGE ACTION CEO WARNS GOP PLAN COULD LEAD TO SINGLE-PAYER SYSTEM. USA Today (3/13, Shesgreen, 5.28M) reports that Heritage Action CEO Mike Needham "blasted the GOP plan" during a call with reporters on Monday. Needham envisioned a "nightmare scenario" in which Democrats gain power after the next presidential election and "enact a single-payer health-care system." Needham said of the GOP bill, "It leaves the fundamental architecture of Obamacare in place." He added that his "biggest fear" is "that Republicans pass a bill preserving such elements of Obamacare, and then absorb the wrath of the electorate as health insurance costs continue to rise and competition continues to shrink." Needham said, "The same death spirals that are already starting to happen under Obamacare happen under a Republican replacement plan. ... And that in 2020 or 2024, the American people look at health care system that's collapsing and vote a Democrat in who says the only answer is single-payer health care."

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COMMENTARY CONSIDERS ACA. Numerous outlets offer opinions on health reform.

David Leonhardt, in his column in the New York Times (3/14, Leonhardt, Subscription Publication, 13.9M), writes that the GOP has placed itself in a position where, should its healthcare plan pass, it "will take political ownership of the flawed American health care system – after making it much more flawed." Leonhardt attributes the situation to Republicans "believing their own hype" and, instead of addressing the ACA's problems, the GOP is "trying to fix a fictional one: saving America from a partisan, socialistic big-government takeover of health care." However, "Obamacare is the bipartisan version of health reform," using conservative means to achieve a liberal end, and is close to conservatives' plan from a few decades ago. As the GOP currently "no longer supports any plan that covers the uninsured," which is unpopular, it "had to invent the notion of a socialistic Obamacare." However, Leonhardt cautions that while "Lying can be an effective political tactic," believing those lies "is usually not so smart."

In the Washington Post (3/13, 11.43M) "Plum Line" blog, contributor Paul Waldman writes that "2018 is probably going to be a bloodbath for Republicans whether they pass repeal or not." Waldman argues that if Republicans fail to repeal the law, then there could be "depressed turnout among Republicans," but if Republicans do repeal the law, then they would likely face a backlash from people who supported the ACA and those who dislike the Republicans' replacement.

In the Washington Post (3/13, 11.43M) "Right Turn" blog, contributor Jennifer Rubin writes that several Republican leaders, including Secretary of Health and Human Services Tom Price and House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI), have made various promises regarding healthcare reform that would not be kept under the House Republicans' healthcare bill. Rubin argues that Price's assertion that "nobody will be worse off financially" under the healthcare bill is "so preposterous that it makes President Obama's 'You can keep your doctor' declaration seem trivial." Rubin also argues that Ryan is damaging his credibility with his "unfounded assertions and obliviousness to the country's mood."

The Oklahoman (3/13, 380K) editorializes that the House Republicans' healthcare bill "would repeal many regulations and taxes that have created perverse incentives in US health care," and that eliminating "those regulations opens the door for a better system." The editorial argues that repealing the law would allow employers to offer their employees lower-cost plans, which would in turn reduce the costs of employment and in turn increase employment.

The Northwest Florida Daily News (3/13, 79K) editorializes the House Republicans' healthcare bill would eliminate lots of the ACA's taxes while retaining "the federal government's fundamental role in health care." The editorial argues that the bill "does nothing to reverse the downward spiral of health insurance markets."

The Springfield (MA) Republican (3/13, 366K) editorializes that House Republicans are rushing to attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act without worrying about the "details." The editorial argues that the House Republicans' mindset can be summarized as: "We kept on promising to repeal and replace Obamacare. So let's act now. And we can worry about those pesky details further on down the road."

J. Pepper Bryars writes in his column in Alabama Live (3/13, 804K) that "any attempt by Republicans in Congress to ensure that all Americans have affordable health care coverage will simply extend and further complicate the mess left by Obamacare." Bryars argues that the House Republicans' healthcare bill violates conservative principles by striving to be perfect through government planning, rather than "planning for competition, and knowing it's still not going to be perfect."

In an opinion piece, The Week (3/13, 2.41M) national correspondent Ryan Cooper writes that President Donald Trump's greatest advantage during his presidential campaign "was how he ditched traditional Republican notions on social programs." Cooper argues that as President, Trump is "ditching his biggest political advantage" by returning to more traditional Republican views "all so that rich people like himself and the people in his Cabinet can enjoy a gigantic tax cut."

Michael Cruz, the former executive director of healthcare provider CDC Resources, writes in an opinion piece in the Lafayette (IN) Journal and Courier (3/13, 129K) that the House Republicans' healthcare bill would "cap Medicaid expenditures to states ending an entitlement program that has effectively served low income children, people with disabilities and poor individuals with serious health care needs for over 50 years." Cruz argues that Indiana lacks "the additional resources to pick up the slack when federal funding begins to decline – roughly two-thirds of Medicaid funding in Indiana come from the federal government."

Richard Nelson, MS, the CEO of The Bone & Joint Center in North Dakota, writes in an opinion piece in The Hill (3/13, 1.25M) "Congress Blog" that Congress should pass a bill introduced by Rep. Sam Johnson (R-TX) that would repeal "the ban on physician-owned specialty hospitals, a ban that was unjustified in 2010 and remains unjustified." Nelson argues that nine "of the top 10 performing hospitals in the Hospital Readmission Reduction Program (HRRP)...are physician-owned specialty hospitals," which demonstrates that such hospitals can offer high-quality care.

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Dr. Hal Scherz, the founder of Docs 4 Patient Care, and Alfredo Ortiz, the CEO of the Job Creator Network, write in an opinion piece in the Washington Examiner (3/13, 400K) that the House Republicans' healthcare bill would "reduce healthcare costs in several ways" by offering "refundable tax credits and expanded health savings accounts that encourage patients to become better shoppers for healthcare services." Scherz and Ortiz argue that the bill would also cut costs by encouraging competition "among insurance companies" by allowing them to create cheaper, customized plans.

In an opinion piece in the Washington Examiner (3/13, 400K), commentary writer Philip Wegman writes the House Budget Committee may not approve the House Republicans' healthcare bill. Wegman argues that it would only take four Republican members of the committee to delay the bill from advancing. Wegman says "the committee is stacked with unruly conservatives," including three members of the House Freedom Caucus.

Ian Reifowitz, a history professor at SUNY-Empire State College, writes in an opinion piece in the Huffington Post (3/13, 237K) that progressives who "want to resist Donald Trump" should fight against "Trumpcare." Reifowitz argues that "stopping Trump from gutting of the Affordable Care Act is vital," but would also be politically "monumental" because it would "grievously [weaken] his presidency."

Megan McArdle writes in her column in Bloomberg View (3/13, 125K) that Republicans should "wait" to pass healthcare reform, because what the Republicans are proposing now would only make the healthcare system worse. McArdle argues that "the partial-reform structure" Republicans "think they'll be able to get through the Senate is likely to make the problems in the individual market worse, not better."

Bloomberg View (3/13, 125K) editorializes that "the Republicans' plan to change the American health-care system would not be an improvement over Obamacare," because it would repeal the individual mandate without an adequate replacement. The editorial argues that the ACA's individual mandate was designed to address the problem of people getting healthcare without being able to pay for it, but that the Republican bill fails to address the issue.

Richard Eskow, a senior fellow with the Campaign for America's Future, writes in an opinion piece in the Huffington Post (3/13, 237K) that the "American Health Care Act is a rich person's bonanza," which would provide "no benefits at all to those who earn $200,000 or less a year." Eskow argues that "this cynical wealth grab falls disproportionately on the nation's black, brown and poor households."

Juan Williams, a political analyst for Fox News Channel, writes in an opinion piece in The Hill (3/13, 1.25M) that President Trump's "Plan B," if Republicans fail to pass a healthcare reform bill, is to allow the ACA to fail and then blame Democrats when it happens. Williams argues that Trump needs a Plan C, because "if the Affordable Care Act ever fails, it will be because of Republicans."

In an opinion piece, Forbes (3/13, 15.17M) contributor Neil Versel writes that President Trump "will have to moderate some of his proposals on healthcare reform and regulation of the medical industry, according to two prominent healthcare leaders." Versel argues that criticism of the House Republicans' healthcare bill from the American Medical Association and the Mayo Clinic could influence Republicans' efforts to reform healthcare.

Alice M. Rivlin, the founding director of the Congressional Budget Office and the former director of the Office of Management and Budget, writes in an opinion piece in the Washington Post (3/13, 11.43M) that the CBO "is a valuable resource for Congress that both parties need." Rivlin argues that "undermining the credibility of the CBO when policymakers need it most harms not only Congress's ability to do its job, but also the long-term effectiveness of political parties in addressing the challenges that face our country's future."

Steven G. Calabresi, a law professor at Northwestern University, writes in an opinion piece in The Hill (3/13, 1.25M) that the House Republicans' healthcare bill has "at least one grievous flaw," because "it does not allow interstate competition among health insurers, which President Donald Trump repeatedly promised to create during his long campaign for the presidency." Calabresi argues that "the absence of interstate competition in health insurance has led to oligopoly and monopoly markets in health insurance, which has led to much higher prices for health insurance and to much lower quality health insurance plans than would exist if there was national competition."

Kelly Riddell writes in her column in the Washington Times (3/13, 272K) that the Congressional Budget Office is "unassailable and nonpartisan" or "a master manipulator of data," depending on what the agency says and "one's politics." Riddell argues that the White House Office of Management and Budget director Mick Mulvaney is criticizing the CBO in anticipation that the agency's analysis will be unfavorable to the House Republicans' healthcare bill, while opponents of the bill are currently praising the CBO.

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Francis Wilkinson, an editorial writer, writes in an opinion piece in Bloomberg View (3/13, 125K) that the CBO's analysis of the Republican healthcare bill "did not disappoint." Wilkinson argues that "Republicans have never tried to grapple with the realities of health care" and that the CBO's analysis reveals that Secretary of Health and Human Services Tom Price "was not telling anything remotely like the truth" when he said earlier that this week that "nobody will be worse off financially" under the bill.

USA Today (3/13, Today, 5.28M) carries an op-ed by House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI), in which he defends the American Health Care Act. He says the analysis released Monday by the Congressional Budget Office confirms the plan "will lower premiums (starting in 2020) and improve access to quality, affordable care. CBO also finds that this legislation will provide massive tax relief, dramatically reduce the deficit, and make the most fundamental entitlement reform in more than a generation."

USA Today (3/13, 5.28M) argues in an editorial that in the wake of the CBO scoring, House Republicans "ought to start over on their plan to repeal and replace Obamacare," or, better still, "look for ways to retain and repair the current law." USA Today also takes issue with Republican attacks on the CBO, arguing that they will "only strengthen the argument that President Trump and his backers on Capitol Hill live in a world of alternative facts and relative truths."

A Washington Post (3/13, 11.43M) editorial calls the CBO "the most trustworthy scorekeeper in the legislative business," and argues that despite the "last-minute, irresponsible Republican campaign to discredit the CBO's professionals, their view should carry far more weight than all the magical thinking the GOP has passed off as policy analysis in the health-care debate."

In an editorial, the New York Times (3/13, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) says that whether or not HHS Secretary Price accepts it, "the numbers are the numbers." According to the Times, the CBO report says, "Trumpcare would throw millions of Americans off their health coverage. And no amount of spin or scorn for the CBO can alter that reality."

A Wall Street Journal (3/13, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) editorial downplays the significance of the CBO's report on the Republican healthcare bill, arguing that while the findings were not good for Republicans, the CBO has a history of underestimating the power of market forces and should not drive policy.

In the Los Angeles Times (3/13, Healey, 4.52M), deputy editorial page editor Jon Healey writes that the CBO report will not "make the bill more palatable to Democrats or critics in the healthcare industry because it predicts an even wider loss of insurance coverage than they'd feared." Furthermore, the Republican argument that "reducing the number of people on Medicaid isn't necessarily a bad thing because it can be hard to find a doctor willing to see Medicaid patients" is, according to Healey, "ridiculous on its face."

In his Los Angeles Times (3/13, Hiltzik, 4.52M) column, Michael Hiltzik writes that the CBO assessment of the House GOP health bill shows the legislation's goal is "saving money for the wealthy, whose taxes pay for most of the federal budget, by soaking the middle class and the poor." The GOP also evidently knows the findings are bad, Hiltzik says, because "they've spent the last week denigrating the professionalism of the CBO."

In the New York Times (3/13, Rattner, Subscription Publication, 13.9M), contributing opinion writer Steven Rattner debunks several "flat out untruths" spoken by White House officials as they attempted to defend the GOP healthcare plan on Sunday talk shows. For example, HHS Sec. Sec Tom Price's statement on "Meet the Press" that "the number of individuals who actually got coverage through the exchange who didn't have coverage before…is relatively small" is inaccurate, Rattner says, because "of the 11 million people who are buying health insurance coverage through the exchanges, all but 1.7 million are receiving subsidies through Obamacare."

In her Washington Post (3/13, Rubin, 11.43M) "Right Turn" blog, Jennifer Rubin writes that Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR) has correctly criticized the GOP healthcare bill for not increasing competition or providing more "choices" because it is unable to fix the regulations that make insurance plans so expensive through reconciliation. Cotton's criticisms are "sound while Ryan's are born of frustration, and, it seems, panic at failing in his task."

Bloomberg View (3/13, 125K) columnist Megan McArdle writes that the CBO analysis of the Republican healthcare bill is "going to provide the canonical numbers in discussing this bill, no matter how hard Republicans complain about their assumptions." She writes the "average voter is going to remember whatever numbers were in the headlines, or scrolling by on the nightly news."

Bill Press writes in The Hill (3/13, 1.25M) that President Trump's support of the Affordable Health Care Act signifies he is breaking three promises of his campaign: universal coverage, less expensive premiums, and quick implementation of healthcare reform. Several healthcare providers, including the American Medical Association and the American Health

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Care Association, oppose the GOP healthcare plan because, "as healthcare providers, they know the harm this plan will cause to millions of Americans, especially the poor and most vulnerable." Trump's support for Paul Ryan's bill is because "he is no leader" and "just wants to sign a healthcare bill, any bill, so he can brag about it and lie about."

John Grabel, Wisconsin state director of For Our Future Action Fund, writes in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (3/13, 513K) that arguments in support of the GOP healthcare plan are an example of the Administration's reliance on "alternative facts." Grabel asserts that the "near-daily lies, falsehoods, unfounded allegations and forays into alternative 'facts' mean that from now on, the American people can't believe the president."

In her Arizona Republic (3/13, 1.1M) column, Laurie Roberts writes the 2018 election has gotten tougher for Arizona Republicans, including Sen. Jeff Flake, now that a report by the Congressional Budget Office estimates that 14 million people will "either lose or forego health insurance by 2018." Gov. Doug Ducey also faces the dubious option of raising taxes or proposing "kicking tens of thousands of Arizonans, many of them with serious mental illnesses, to the health-care curb."

Dylan Matthews writes in Vox (3/13, Matthews, 1.15M) that the AHCA would "reverse one of the greatest actions against inequality ever taken by the federal government, and then increase inequality yet further." He calls the legislation an "act of class warfare against low-income Americans, waged for the benefit of the handful of rich taxpayers affected by Obamacare's surtaxes."

The Arizona Republic (3/13, Montini, 1.1M) columnist EJ Montini writes that the CBO's "honest assessment" of the Republican replacement plan for the ACA is "worse" than anticipated, because the plan "would pull the plug" for "as many as 24 million Americans whose health care coverage already is on life support."

In the Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal (3/13, 219K), three Reno-Sparks area pediatricians, along with the Nevada chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, say they "recently wrote the Nevada congressional delegation to express serious concerns over Congress' plans to repeal the Affordable Care Act." The law, while not perfect, has reduced the number and percentage of uninsured children in Nevada "dramatically in just 5 years, from 107,000 children (16% of the state's kids) in 2011 to 50,000 children (8% of the state's kids) in 2015."

In an editorial, the Sacramento (CA) Bee (3/13, 574K) says that it is no surprise that "legislation as complex as the Obama administration's Affordable Care Act can't be overhauled overnight, as Republicans in Congress are trying to do." Given the unflattering analysis of their healthcare plan by the CBO today, Republicans should "step back, rethink their approach, and put in the hours and analysis necessary to get a workable consensus."

The New York Daily News (3/13, Editorials, 4.45M) editorializes that the CBO analysis of their healthcare bill shows Republicans have not learned from President Obama's "If you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor" gaffe. After vowing his proposals "would cover every last American, and for less money, and with lower deductibles." Trump has to now "pretend he's thrilled with seeing as many as 24 million go without the peace of mind insurance brings."

The Huffington Post (3/13, Weigant, Contributor, 237K) contributor Chris Weigant writes Paul Ryan's "initial scheme was to get the bill through both houses of Congress and on the president's desk so fast that public opinion wouldn't have time to react." This was "never very realistic," and it is likely "that a fair portion of the 24 million people who will be affected are going to speak up to their congressional representatives, quite loudly and unequivocally. Which was precisely what Ryan was trying to avoid."

A Crain's New York Business (3/14, 230K) editorial says that repealing the ACA would be "fool's gold" for New York employers, because local politicians are "not going to let millions of New Yorkers lose Medicaid coverage." It is likely politicians would then turn to "employers to cover the shortfall in the form of higher city and state taxes and new mandates and fees, all of which would make New York a less desirable place to do business."

Timothy Jost, emeritus professor of law at Washington and Lee University and Rockingham County Democratic committee chair, writes on CNN's (3/14, Jost, 29.79M) website that according to the CBO analysis of the Republican healthcare plan, its overall effect "is to make health insurance coverage less accessible for older and poorer Americans while making it more affordable for younger and higher-income Americans."

Roll Call (3/14, Shapiro, 63K) columnist Walter Shapiro writes that "it is easy to invent a scenario in which the Republicans pay a political price for repeal and replace in 2018." Shapiro advises Ryan to consider that "people who are starving want food rather than a system that supposedly provides them with "access" to food." GOP lawmakers "should offer sighs of relief if they can avoid voting on a bill that is both Obamacare Lite and a policy disaster."

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A Chicago Tribune (3/13, 2.54M) editorial says the CBO analysis made the Republican task of overhauling the ACA "more complicated, but also possibly more clear: Americans need health coverage that is flexible, that they can afford and that includes the doctors and hospitals they want." Instead of pushing ahead on a flawed bill, Republican leaders should "respond and retool."

Josh Archambault, a senior fellow with the Foundation for Government Accountability, writes in the Washington Examiner (3/13, 400K) that ways to improve the Affordable Health Care Act is stopping or freezing all new Medicaid enrollment, blocking states from allowing to expand Medicaid through the ACA, and including work requirements on non-disabled, working-age adults on Medicaid.

Healthcare News:

INVESTIGATION REVEALS CHALLENGES IN EFFORT TO DEFUND PLANNED PARENTHOOD IN TEXAS. The AP (3/14, Weber) reports that as they promote an Affordable Care Act replacement plan which defunds Planned Parenthood, GOP lawmakers "are out to reassure women who rely on the major health care organization that other clinics will step up to provide their low-cost breast exams, contraception and cancer screenings." The article says Texas is already conducting this experiment. Last year, the state "gave $1.6 million to an anti-abortion organization called the Heidi Group to help strengthen small clinics that specialize in women's health like Planned Parenthood but don't offer abortions." But an AP investigation revealed that to date, "the nonprofit has done little of the outreach it promised, such as helping clinics promote their services on Facebook, or airing public service announcements."

HARVARD STUDY SUGGESTS HOSPITAL-BASED INSURANCE MAY LEAD TO HIGHER CUSTOMER SATISFACTION. The New York Times (3/13, Frakt, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports an analysis of Medicare Advantage plans by a Harvard medical student and a Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health researcher determined that selecting health insurance plans offered directly through hospitals can lead to higher customer satisfaction. The study, published in the journal Health Affairs, found that provider-based insurance could produce higher rates of satisfaction among policyholders because "problems may be resolved faster; they may be less likely to develop in the first place." The study suggests "such tight integration between plans and providers is at least a signal of higher quality, even if it doesn't cause it."

OP-ED URGES TEXAS TO AMEND HEALTHCARE POLICY TO COVER MORE WOMEN. In a Dallas Morning News (3/13, 1.12M) op-ed, Wayne Brewer, PT, Ph.D., assistant physical therapy professor at the Texas Woman's University Institute of Health Sciences in Houston, emphasizes the need for healthcare service availability for low-income women. Brewer refers to a study conducted by the Dallas Women's Foundation, which found that "30 percent of all households are female-headed, yet 53 percent of all households living in poverty are female-headed." Brewer opines that, "no matter what side of the political fence we sit on, surely all Texans can agree that with more than 2 million uninsured women and girls in our great state, action needs to be taken. That action may include drastic changes in policy or simply a greater emphasis on health education."

Human Services News:

TENNESSEE FILES FEDERAL LAWSUIT CONCERNING REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT POLICIES. The Tennessean (3/13, Ebert, 407K) reports Tennessee initiated a lawsuit against the federal government concerning refugee resettlement initiatives, alleging the government violated the Tenth Amendment of the US Constitution and the Refugee Act of 1980. The defendants include the US State Department, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, the US Health and Human Services Department, and the Office of Refugee Resettlement. The lawsuit has been "slammed" by organizations like the American Civil Liberties Union of Tennessee and the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition. The Thomas More Law Center has taken charge of the case, pointing out that "Tennessee opted out of the federal refugee resettlement program," but that "refugees have continued to be sent to Tennessee."

The AP (3/13) reports the lawsuit was filed Monday by the Tennessee General Assembly which "argues that the refugee program is forcing the state to spend money on additional services, such as health care and education." The state requested the resettlement program be halted until the federal government reimburses the state for the program's cost.

The Hill (3/13, Hensch, 1.25M) reports the lawsuit alleges "operation of the federal refugee resettlement program commandeers Tennessee's funds through Medicaid with the threatened loss of nearly $7 billion, amounting to 20 percent of its overall state budget – money that is needed fund services that are critical to the health and welfare of countless Tennesseans." Tennessee state Sen. John Stevens (R) and state Rep. Terri Lynn Weaver (R) joined in filing the suit.

Food & Import Safety:

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WIDOW SUES VULTO CREAMERY OVER HUSBAND'S DEATH FROM LISTERIA-TAINTED CHEESE. The Hartford (CT) Courant (3/14, Lurye, 445K) reports the widow of a man who died due to consuming cheese tainted with Listeria is suing the manufacturer, Vulto Creamery. Veronica Friedman is alleging the wrongful death of her husband Richard, who the Connecticut Department of Health confirmed is the second man to die as a result of the contamination, as well as emotional and financial damage.

Nutrition & Obesity:

CONSUMER GOODS COMPANIES CUT SUGAR, SALT CONTENT. Bloomberg News (3/13, Chambers, 2.41M) highlights a new Consumer Goods Forum survey which found global consumer goods companies "reduced ingredients such as sugar and salt in about 20 percent of their products in 2016 as shoppers shift toward healthier brands." In addition to shifting consumer desires, government restrictions such as the US Food and Drug Administration's announcement last year that "companies would be required to label products with more detailed information about their sugar content" have impacted sugar and salt levels in food products. The report surveyed 102 companies.

Medicare:

PROVIDERS CONCERNED ABOUT LOSING MEDICARE CONTRACTS, PATIENTS DUE TO NEW REQUIREMENT FOR HOSPITALS TO NOTIFY MEDICARE PATIENTS OF OBSERVATION STATUS. In continuing coverage, Modern Healthcare (3/13, Dickson, Subscription Publication, 241K) reports that healthcare providers are concerned that they could lose Medicare contracts and patients because of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' "lack of guidance on a new requirement for hospitals to notify Medicare patients why they are receiving observation care could cause hospitals to lose billing privileges and patients." The article explains that "the CMS requires hospitals to give patients a reason for their observation status, but the CMS has declined repeated requests from hospitals to suggest language that providers should use."

Medicaid & CHIP:

TWO MAYORS OPPOSE HOUSE REPUBLICANS' HEALTHCARE BILL. Congressional Quarterly (3/13, Williams, Subscription Publication, 967) reports New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu (D) and Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh (D) are both opposed to the House Republicans' healthcare bill because it would replace the ACA's Medicaid expansion "with either a block grant or an allotment based on population." Landrieu and Walsh argue that the Republicans' plan would lead to decreased funding for states' Medicaid programs and could also hurt local economies that are dependent on jobs in the healthcare industry.

Health & Medical News:

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION HAS FILLED ONLY ONE OF 46 KEY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POSITIONS, WPOST ANALYSIS FINDS. In a nearly 2,000-word piece, the Washington Post (3/13, Mooney, 11.43M) reports that President Donald Trump "has filled just one of 46 key science and technology positions that help the government counter risks ranging from chemical and biological attacks to rising seas, a Washington Post analysis has found." Those "vacancies in the 46 Senate-confirmed posts range from the president's science adviser, to the administrators of NASA and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to the chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality." What's more, "the Trump administration is expected to propose deep cuts to science-focused agencies, such as the EPA, Energy Department, and NOAA, according to numerous press reports, including several by The Post."

STUDY: HIGH-SPENDING MEDICARE DOCTORS COULD SPEND LESS WITHOUT HARMING PATIENTS. The Wall Street Journal (3/13, Evans, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports a study published by JAMA Internal Medicine shows Medicare patients of high-spending doctors were as likely to die within a month of leaving the hospital or return to the hospital as patients whose doctors spent less on tests, scans, and consultations. The authors of the study that examined about 485,000 hospital visits by Medicare patients between 2011 and 2014 suggest high-spending doctors could spend less without harming patients, but academic hospitalist and researcher Tara Lagu of Baystate Medical Center's Center for Quality of Care Research said the issue is complex, and doctors cannot necessarily expect to achieve the same outcomes when they spend less.

AS JURY PREPARES TO DELIBERATE NECC TRIAL, JUDGE EXPRESSES DOUBTS ABOUT CHARGES. The Boston Globe (3/13, Valencia, 1.08M) reports that "after more than nine weeks of testimony, a federal jury is slated to begin deliberating Wednesday in the trial of Barry J. Cadden, the former New England Compounding Center head pharmacist and co-owner who is accused of causing the 2012 fungal meningitis outbreak that killed more than 60 people

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and sickened roughly 700 more." Attorneys for Cadden "argued at Monday's hearing that no 'reasonable jury' could convict Cadden of second-degree murder based on the evidence that was introduced in the trial." The Tennessean (3/13, Roche, 407K) reports District Judge Richard G. Stearns "expressed strong doubts about some of the more serious charges against" Barry Cadden and the New England Compounding Center on Monday. Stearns "said he would let the jury decide on the 25 counts of second-degree murder...but noted that some court rulings have concluded that recklessness alone is 'not sufficient' to establish a case of second-degree murder."

OPINION: IMPORTING CANADIAN DRUGS WOULD EXPOSE AMERICANS TO POORLY REGULATED PRODUCTS, HURT INNOVATION. In an op-ed in The Hill (3/13, Ramesh, Shah, Contributors, 1.25M) "Pundits Blog," Market Access Solutions president Sandip Shah and associate director Vidya Ramesh criticize Senator Bernie Sanders' "bill that would enable Americans to import medicines from" Canada. They explain that drug "importation would expose Americans to drugs that have not been as stringently regulated as the current status quo, and curb future medical innovation." In addition, imports would cut "just one to two percent of total U.S. prescription drug spending," according to the Surgeon General's estimates. They conclude, we must "consider the broader ramifications of a short-term decision to artificially lower drug prices. Importation risks forfeiting future cures and compromises the safety of the drug supply."

ACCESS TO VACCINES INDEX RANKS DRUG MAKERS ON RESEARCH, PRICING, SUPPLY. The New York Times (3/13, McNeil, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports vaccine makers were ranked on research, pricing and supply by "the first Access to Vaccines Index" released last week. According to the index, GlaxoSmithKline "led Sanofi, Johnson & Johnson and Merck, while Pfizer lagged behind."

NEW YORK CITY ANNOUNCES $38M INITIATIVE TO COMBAT OPIOID EPIDEMIC. The Wall Street Journal (3/13, Kanno-Youngs, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports New York City officials announced the "HealingNYC" initiative, their newest effort to fight the opioid epidemic. The project will receive $38 million annually, which will fund distribution of 100,000 naloxone kits to treatment programs, shelters, and the NYPD. The initiative will also support education programs in schools and hospitals to raise awareness and encourage doctors to prescribe less of the addictive painkillers.

ASTRAZENECA'S EMERGING INNOVATIONS UNIT SEEKS TO REPURPOSE REJECTED DRUGS. The Wall Street Journal (3/13, Roland, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) profiles AstraZeneca's Emerging Innovations Unit, which seeks to repurpose rejected drugs to treat other diseases. The unit is a strategic change by the company to offset declining revenues from patent expiration on their more popular drugs, and has already has some success. The Journal notes that while AstraZeneca has been more involved in its rejected drugs than other big companies, others, including Novartis, are making similar changes.

MEDTRONIC RECEIVES FDA APPROVAL FOR IMPROVED HEART MONITOR. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (3/13, 1.27M) reports Medtronic announced Monday that it has received FDA approval for its "Reveal Linq cardiac monitor with new computer programming called TruRhythm Detection," which makes it "more accurate than prior versions" of the device. Another "key advantage" of the device is its three-year battery.

FDA APPROVES DRUG FOR TYPE OF ADVANCED BREAST CANCER. The AP (3/13) reports the Food and Drug Administration has approved Novartis' Kisqali (ribociclib) "as an initial treatment for postmenopausal women with a type of advanced breast cancer." The drug works by "blocking two proteins that can stimulate growth and division of cancer cells."

Reuters (3/13, Jain) reports the drug is to be used in combination with letrozole. Late-stage data "showed that kisqali, along with letrozole, met the main goal of progression-free survival (PFS) at an interim analysis compared to patients treated with letrozole alone."

WYDEN TO INTRODUCE BILL REQUIRING GREATER TRANSPARENCY IN NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN PBMS, DRUG COMPANIES. Congressional Quarterly (3/13, Williams, Subscription Publication, 967) reports Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) "intends to introduce legislation this week to require greater transparency in negotiations between pharmacy benefit managers and drug manufacturers." The bill "would mandate the disclosure of the proportion of the rebates and discounts on prescription drugs that PBMs pass on to certain insurance plans" and "require the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to post the information publicly on its website."

MOST MILITARY PHYSICIANS RECEIVED LITTLE TRAINING IN TRANSGENDER CARE, SMALL STUDY INDICATES. The PBS NewsHour (3/13, Segal, 255K) "The Rundown" blog reports researchers who surveyed 180 physicians "at the 2016 annual meeting of the Uniformed Services Academy of Family Physicians...found the vast majority of the group – 94.9 percent – had received 'three hours or less of training on transgender care.'" About three-fourths "had received no training at all." That "trend does not differ substantially from many providers outside the military, according to Dr. Natasha Schvey...who co-authored the study published Mar. 13 in JAMA Internal Medicine."

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MedPage Today (3/13, Monaco, 97K) reports that while "the small study did not find a significant link between increased training for transgender care and the ability to provide nonjudgmental care, greater medical training was associated with an increased propensity to prescribe cross-hormone therapy to a patient with gender dysphoria." The "findings echo those of a previous survey conducted by Mayo Clinic and the Endocrine Society of practicing endocrinologists, whom transgender individuals often see regarding hormone therapy; that study found that nearly 80% of endocrinologists surveyed had treated a transgender person, but 80.6%, reported never having received training on proper care and treatment for transgender individuals."

YOUNG PEOPLE WHO USE SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS MAY BE MORE LIKELY TO USE OTHER DRUGS OR ALCOHOL, BEHAVE VIOLENTLY, STUDY SUGGESTS. CNN (3/13, Scutti, 29.79M) reports that research suggests "young people who use" synthetic cannabinoids may be "more likely to use other drugs or alcohol, to behave violently and to have high-risk sex." For the study, "Heather Clayton, lead researcher of the new study and a health scientist in the CDC's Division of Adolescent and School Health, turned to the 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey." Clayton said, "We learned from the 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey that nearly one in 10 high school students had used synthetic marijuana at some point in their lifetime."

MORE THAN 400,000 US DEATHS FROM CARDIOVASCULAR CAUSES IN 2015 WERE ASSOCIATED WITH UNHEALTHY DIETS, STUDY SUGGESTS. In continuing coverage, the New York Times (3/13, Yin, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that research suggests "in 2015, more than 400,000 deaths from cardiovascular causes were linked to unhealthy diets." Investigators found that "the biggest factors were a deficit of nuts and seeds, vegetables, whole grains and fruits, and an excess of salt." Meanwhile, "diets low in omega-3 fatty acids, found in seafood, and high in trans-fat, processed meat or sugary beverages also played a role." The findings were presented at the American Heart Association's Epidemiology/Lifestyle 2017 meeting.

FISH OIL SUPPLEMENTS MAY BE BENEFICIAL FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE SUFFERED A HEART ATTACK OR HEART FAILURE, HEART GROUP SAYS. CBS News (3/13, 4.4M) reports on its website that while "millions of people take fish oil supplements for heart health...a new report from the American Heart Associations shows not everyone may benefit from it." The report indicated "that omega-3 fish oil supplements can help people who have suffered a heart attack or heart failure in the past." However, "there wasn't enough evidence to support their use in people without a history of heart trouble."

Reuters (3/13, Emery) reports, "The scientific advisory published in...Circulation updates a 2002 guidance with data from 15 newer studies."

INTERVIEW WITH EMINENT PALLIATIVE PHYSICIAN HIGHLIGHTS ATTITUDES TOWARD DEATH IN HEALTHCARE. STAT (3/13, Tedeschi) reports on an interview with physician and MacArthur Foundation "genius" grant recipient Dr. Diane Meier, known "for her pioneering work in palliative medicine." Meier speaks about the importance of health professionals' involvement in helping patients and families "live as well and as fully as possible while they are alive," and describes the importance of "societal advantages to it being permissible to talk about the fact of death and its inevitability." Meier explains that "it's not our job as health professionals to be convincing people that it's OK to die, and that death is natural and death is good."

STUDY SUGGESTS AMERICANS EXPERIENCE MORE CARE COORDINATION GAPS THAN PATIENTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES. Reuters (3/13, Rapaport) reports a study published in the Annals of Family Medicine suggests US patients "are more likely to experience gaps in coordination among healthcare providers than their counterparts in other high-income nations." The article notes that nearly one in 10 US patients experiences multiple gaps in care coordination – a rate nearly double that of cases across the 11 countries surveyed. The study, conducted by researchers from the University of Sydney, surveyed approximately 14,000 adults and found the five percent of patients who experienced at least three gaps in service "were more than three times as likely to be hospitalized and more than twice as likely to visit the emergency department."

NEVADA LEGISLATURE REVIEWS BILL GRANTING PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE FOR TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS. The Las Vegas Review-Journal (3/13, Chereb, 676K) reports the Nevada State Senate reviewed a bill sponsored by Sen. David Parks (D-Las Vegas) that would allow terminally ill patients over the age of 18 who are likely to die in six months to voluntarily end their lives with physician-prescribed medication. The bill would require at least two physicians to confirm the prognosis, and the patient would only be eligible if he or she is a Nevada resident, and "mentally competent to make the life-ending decision." The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services.

SYNTHETIC IMPLANT USES CONTACT LENS MATERIAL TO ACT AS A CUSHION FOR JOINTS AFFECTED BY ARTHRITIS. NBC Nightly News (3/13, story 7, 2:00, Holt, 16.61M) reported on a "new treatment for a common form of

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arthritis that can hit women especially hard." NBC News correspondent Kristen Dalgren discussed a "first-of-its-kind implant," a form of "synthetic cartilage made with the same material as a contact lens that acts as a cushion for the joint." Currently, the implant is "only used in the big toe in the US, but European doctors are already using it in knees and thumbs." According to Dahlgren, "Data released today shows pain reduction in 91 percent of patients," and "more than 100 percent improvement in their ability to play sports and activities." The NBC News (3/13, Dahlgren, 2.67M) website also covers the story.

Global Health:

CANADIANS WITH CYSTIC FIBROSIS SURVIVE APPROXIMATELY 10 YEARS LONGER THAN AMERICANS WITH THE CONDITION, STUDY INDICATES. The AP (3/13, Neergaard) reports that research published in the Annals of Internal Medicine indicates "Canadians with cystic fibrosis survive" approximately a decade "longer than Americans with the...disease."

CNN (3/13, Scutti, 29.79M) reports that investigators "examined national cystic fibrosis registry data between 1990 and 2013 for 5,941 patients in Canada and 45,456 patients in the" US. Although "survival increased in both countries over time, Canada began to see greater improvements than the US beginning in 1995." The researchers found that "for the most recent years, 2009 through 2013, the median age of survival has been 50.9 years in Canada, compared with just 40.6 years in the US."

STAT (3/13, Boodman) reports that "the Canadians, all of whom get government-provided health coverage, had the same risk of dying as those Americans who had private insurance." However, "when compared with Americans on continuous Medicare and Medicaid...Canadians' risk of death was 44 percent lower." Meanwhile, "the disparity was even greater when it came to Americans" who had no insurance.

Reuters (3/13, Rapaport) reports that "a high-fat diet," linked to "better survival for cystic fibrosis patients, has been recommended in Canada since the 1970s but wasn't implemented in the US until the 1980s." Additionally, "differences in selecting patients for lung transplantation – which was also associated with better survival odds – may explain the longer lifespans in Canada as well, the researchers" pointed out.

NEPALESE AUTHORITIES CONFIRM H5N8 BIRD FLU KILLED 3,650 CHICKENS IN KOSHI REGION. Reuters (3/13, Trompiz, de La Hamaide) says Nepalese authorities released a report on Monday confirming an outbreak of H5N8 bird flu on a farm in the Koshi region. The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) determined the virus killed 3,650 of 6,200 exposed hens, while the remaining birds were culled. Nepal announced last month that a highly pathogenic H5N1 strain reached backyard chickens and ducks.

National News:

MEDIA ANALYSES: WHITE HOUSE WALKING BACK TRUMP'S WIRETAPPING ALLEGATIONS. The House Intelligence Committee's deadline for the Justice Department to turn over any evidence supporting President Trump's claim that the Obama Administration engaged in surveillance of Trump Tower during the presidential campaign passed Monday – with the DOJ getting approval for an additional week to gather the information. Though the three broadcast networks all carried the story, giving it seven and one-half minutes combined, none ran it near the top of their broadcasts. Coverage of the deadline itself is brief and straightforward, though reporting on comments by Sean Spicer and Kellyanne Conway about the President's charge is more detailed and very critical toward the Administration.

ABC World News Tonight (3/13, story 5, 3:15, Muir, 14.63M) reported that "the Justice Department is asking for more time to determine what if any evidence exists of wiretapping. Nine days after President Trump accused President Obama of wiretapping him, there is still not one credible shred of evidence to back up that claim. ... In today's White House briefing, press secretary Sean Spicer trying to walk back the wiretapping accusation altogether." Spicer: "The President used the word 'wiretap' in quotes to mean broadly surveillance and other activities. He literally had it in quotes. He said they were in quotes. It was referring to surveillance overall." Vega: "True. Two tweets from the President put quotes around 'wiretap,' but in others, nope, no quotes. And the President was clear: 'How low has President Obama gone to tap my phones during the very sacred election process?' In another tweet, the President cites 'the fact that President Obama was tapping my phones.'"

The CBS Evening News (3/13, story 5, 2:15, Mason, 11.17M) reported, "The White House has yet to provide any evidence to back the President's claim that President Obama tapped his phone during the campaign." CBS' Major Garrett: "President Trump again ignored questions about what evidence he has" to back up the claim. Spicer "said the President has not directed the Justice Department to turn over evidence requested by the House Intelligence Committee." NBC

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Nightly News (3/13, story 5, 2:00, Holt, 16.61M) reported, “With the Justice Department under congressional pressure to provide some evidence by today to support those claims, the White House has now presented a different explanation for what the President really meant when he fired off those allegations.” NBC’s Peter Alexander: “Can you say affirmatively that whenever the President sends something, we can trust it to be real?” Spicer: “If he’s not joking, of course. Every time that he speaks authoritatively, he’s speaking as the President of the United States.”

Much of the print and online coverage of the passing of the deadline is brief and straightforward. The AP (3/13) reports that the DOJ “asked lawmakers for more time to provide evidence,” and the committee “said it would give the Justice Department until March 20 to comply with the evidence request.” Reuters (3/13, Mason, Ainsley) reports the DOJ said in a statement that it “requested ‘additional time to review the request in compliance with the governing legal authorities and to determine what if any responsive documents may exist.’” The Washington Post (3/13, Zapotosky, 11.43M) says the “one-paragraph statement” was all that came from DOJ on the matter on Monday. USA Today (3/13, Johnson, Jackson, 5.28M) reports that while FBI Director Comey “pressed Justice officials to offer a rebuke of the claims,” the DOJ “has yet to address the matter.”

CNN (3/13, Raju, Schleifer, 29.79M) reports on its website that a spokesman for House Intelligence Chairman Devin Nunes said in a statement, “We have asked the Department to provide us this information before the committee’s open hearing scheduled for March 20. If the committee does not receive a response by then, the committee will ask for this information during the March 20 hearing and may resort to a compulsory process if our questions continue to go unanswered.” Catherine Herridge reported on Fox News Special Report (3/13, 1.53M) that the Monday deadline was intended to be one week before that first hearing.

Sen. Lindsey Graham said on Fox News’ O’Reilly Factor (3/13, 767K), “I think I owe to the people of the United States...to let you know whether or not there was a warrant issued against the Trump campaign or Trump Tower by a lawful authority. So, I have written the FBI and the Department of Justice and I want them to provide...the Judiciary Committee any evidence of a warrant. If there is no warrant, then we will have solved this problem, there was no wiretapping.” Graham added that “we all need to know whether a warrant was issued against the Trump campaign. I promise you, I will get to it.”

Appearing on CNN’s Situation Room (3/13, 554K), Rep. Jim Himes (D-CT) said there are two possibilities behind the Justice Department’s delay in providing the evidence. The first is that Trump made the accusations up, and now “the FBI and the Justice Department are figuring out how to tell us that in a way that doesn’t create quite a rift with the White House.” The second is that a wiretap did occur, but Himes said that would raise issues on its own. He explained that “if there was some form of surveillance, it would have to be done pursuant to a federal judge’s order. And it could be that they’re concerned about that.”

Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA) said on CNN’s Wolf (3/13, 224K), “There’s only two reasonable explanations. Either US intelligence officials and an independent FISA court judge believe there were foreign agents at Trump Tower or Donald Trump is making stuff up again. ... My belief is Donald Trump likely lied about this wiretap. He falsely accused President Obama of being a bad and sick person. Donald Trump needs to apologize if he cannot come up with evidence.”

Rep. Kathleen Rice (D-NY) said on CNN’s Situation Room (3/13, 554K), “This is one of the biggest problems with President Trump. He says whatever comes out of his mouth. He doesn’t think about it. He doesn’t measure his words. He doesn’t care whether what he is saying is true or not. When you accuse a President of breaking the law in this way that would create a constitutional crisis the likes of which we have never seen in our country’s history.”

Rep. Francis Rooney (R-FL) was asked on CNN’s Wolf (3/13, 224K) if Trump should apologize if there is no evidence to back up his wiretapping claim. Rooney said, “Mr. Trump has his own unique style. This is not the first time things like this would have been said. ... I would like to get to the bottom of were there warrants or not, first, then look at the circumstances surrounding that.”

Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA) tweeted, “Every day Trump fails to show proof of Obama wiretapping, it becomes clearer it was just latest attempt to distract from #TrumpRussia ties.” Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA) similarly tweeted, “Trump wants more time to get his lies in order on Obama wiretapping allegations.”

The conservative Washington Times (3/13, Sherfinski, 272K) headlines its report “White House Dances Around Trump Wiretap Claim As Justice Department Seeks More Time For Evidence.” Politico (3/13, Wright, 2.46M), Axios (3/13, Vavra), and the NPR (3/13, Chappell, 1.92M) website also have brief reports.

Media Analyses Critical Of Spicer And Conway Comments. Coverage of comments from Spicer and Conway is more detailed, and very critical toward the Administration. CNN’s Situation Room (3/13, 554K) showed Spicer stating, “The

President used the word 'wiretap' to mean broadly surveillance and other activities," but CNN's Jeff Zeleny said, "But that's not true. It was not widely reported surveillance took place in the campaign. And the President stated the wiretapping allegation as fact. ... This could be one of those many conspiracy theories that have been floated out around this White House that never quite seem to have an end to them."

Politico (3/13, Conway, 2.46M) says Spicer "tried to argue that Trump had accused the Obama administration of general 'surveillance' activities, and not a literal wiretap, even though Trump himself had use the term 'wire tapping' in one of several tweets making the claim without evidence." And when Spicer referenced surveillance activities during the campaign, it was "unclear what reports Spicer was referring to. News outlets have reported that intelligence officials have been investigating whether there were inappropriate ties between the Trump campaign and the Russian government...but no credible mainstream American outlets have reported that the Obama administration conducted surveillance on Trump Tower or the Trump campaign, whether in the form of a court-ordered wiretap or something else." Glenn Thrush of the New York Times tweeted, "Spicer keeps claiming, falsely, that Trump's wide-ranging and unsupported statements about targeted 'wiretapping' of him came from MSM." Politico (3/13, McCaskill, 2.46M) says in a second story that Spicer "struggled Monday to say what's real" and "sidestepped a series of pointed questions about whether things the president has said are 'real' or 'phony.'"

The New York Times (3/13, Davis, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that Spicer and Conway "suggested on Monday that President Trump's unsubstantiated claim...was not meant to be taken literally." Conway "said in an interview on Sunday that Mr. Obama could have employed any number of devices other than a traditional telephone wiretap, even including a microwave oven," but "clarified on Monday that she was not accusing the former president of snooping via a kitchen appliance." Conway said on CNN's New Day (3/13, 226K), "I'm not Inspector Gadget. I don't believe people are using the microwave to spy on the Trump campaign. However, I'm not in the job of having evidence. That's what investigations are for." Conway said on Fox News' Fox & Friends (3/13, 831K), "The President has made very clear that he is incredibly concerned about these leaks from the intelligence and security communities. ... As goes Trump Tower though, we all see where these investigations lead." #KellyanneMicrowave was trending on Twitter on Monday evening.

The Washington Times (3/13, Sherfinski, 272K) reports that Conway said she was "speaking generally when she told a New Jersey newspaper there are many ways to surveil people, after she had been asked if she knew whether or not Trump Tower had been wiretapped." The New York Post (3/13, Moore, 3.82M) headlines its report "Conway Walks Back Trump Tower Surveillance Remarks," while a Wall Street Journal (3/13, Mann, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) piece is similarly headlined "White House Back-Pedals On Claim Obama Wiretapped Trump's Phones."

As for the President, Politico (3/13, Nelson, 2.46M) reports that he "complained Monday morning that members of the media have treated officials from his administration rudely and advised the media that 'you will do much better' if his officials are treated nicely." He tweeted, "It is amazing how rude much of the media is to my very hard working representatives. Be nice, you will do much better!" Though the tweet "did not reference any specific interactions between his administration and the media," it followed interviews with Conway on four networks.

Jake Tapper said on CNN's The Lead (3/13, 320K), "Since the tweets nine days ago, this charge by the President has been called false by the Director of the FBI, false by the former Director of National Intelligence, and not one credible, informed source that we can find in Washington has said that the President's accusation is true. ... We as a nation have had to live in this farce for the last nine days. Defenders of the President have twisted themselves to try to suggest the possibility that the tweets were not preposterous make it seem somewhere in the neighborhood of possible." Tapper added, "The White House is spending its energy and your tax dollars trying to change demonstrably false assertions into perfectly understandable beliefs tangentially related to the original lie."

Michael Gerson writes in his Washington Post (3/13, 11.43M) column, "Children sitting in Professor Trump's history class would learn that Obama was America's first Muslim president; that his co-religionists celebrated in the streets following the 9/11 attacks; that their vaccination schedule is the dangerous scam of greedy doctors; that Ted Cruz's father might have been involved in the death of John F. Kennedy; that Hillary Clinton might have been involved in the death of Vince Foster; that unnamed liberals might have been involved in the death of Justice Antonin Scalia. More recently, Trump has claimed – based, so far, on nothing – that Obama ordered the bugging of Trump Tower." Gerson says Trump "does not support things because they are true; they are true because he supports them. And he expects everyone who works for him to publicly and vocally embrace his version of reality."

Catherine Rampell writes in her Washington Post (3/13, 11.43M) column, "From top to bottom, this administration has been infested with conspiracy theorists. Most appear to be true believers. ... Others, such as Kellyanne Conway, appear to just be paranoiacs for pay."

"Fake News Sites" Claim FBI Has Warrant For Obama's Arrest. PolitiFact (3/13, Graves, 287K) reports that "multiple

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fake news sites" have published stories "claiming that the FBI has a warrant out for Obama's arrest stemming from allegations he wiretapped Trump's phones." These stories are false.

New Watchdog Group Focused On Trump Administration. The Washington Times (3/13, Harper, 272K) reports that a new group called American Oversight "is up and running, and has an eye trained on President Trump. The watchdog organization...offers this mission statement: 'There's a perfect storm for corruption and scandal brewing in the Trump administration. And Congress has completely abdicated its responsibility to provide oversight – or even vet high-ranking nominees.'"

CNN Documentary Explores Putin's Role In Election Interference. CNN's Situation Room (3/13, 554K) reported on an upcoming CNN documentary titled "The Most Powerful Man In The World," on Russian President Vladimir Putin's role in the 2016 presidential election. CNN showed a clip of Masha Gessen, author of "The Man Without A Face: The Unlikely Rise of Vladimir Putin," saying, "I think Putin views Trump as an apprentice." The complete video of the documentary is available online.

The AP (3/13, Lederman) looks at the "key members of Trump's circle" who are "under scrutiny for Russia ties," briefly examining the cases of Attorney General Sessions, former national security adviser Michael Flynn, and Trump campaign operatives Paul Manafort, Carter Page, and Roger Stone.

TRUMP EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE REOPENING OF FUEL ECONOMY RULE REVIEW AT MICHIGAN EVENT. The Washington Post (3/13, Overly, Eilperin, 11.43M) reports that President Trump will travel to Ypsilanti, Michigan on Wednesday to announce the reopening of "a review of the fuel economy standards that automakers must meet" in the coming years, in "a sign that the White House could ease environmental regulations the industry finds onerous." The Obama Administration approved the rules in question in 2012 "and determined in January that the standards were sound." Last month, auto sector trade groups asked the EPA to reopen the review of the rules. Reuters (3/13, Shepardson) reports that the CEOs of Fiat Chrysler, Ford, and GM are expected to attend the Wednesday event, along with "officials from Japanese and German automakers."

The Detroit News (3/13, Burke, 473K) says Trump "will talk up his priorities of bolstering the manufacturing industry and taming the outsourcing of American jobs." MLive (MI) (3/13, Haynes, 878K) reports that Trump is set to speak at "the future home of an autonomous and connected vehicle testing facility being created by the American Center for Mobility." The Detroit Free Press (3/13, Snavely, Spangler, 1.01M) runs a similar report.

SCIENTISTS CRITICIZE PRUITT'S QUESTIONING OF HUMAN ROLE IN CLIMATE CHANGE. The Washington Post (3/13, Mooney, 11.43M) reports that the American Meteorological Society, "a key scientific organization whose members have considerable expertise in studying the climate and weather," is criticizing EPA Administrator Pruitt's statement last week "questioning the most important scientific conclusion about climate change – namely, that it is driven by human beings." In a letter to Pruitt, the group's executive director wrote, "The world's 7 billion people are causing climate to change and our emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are the primary cause. This is a conclusion based on the comprehensive assessment of scientific evidence." The Post says a group of 30 leading US scientists "who share an expertise in climate change also wrote to Pruitt, with a similar message."

Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide Continues To Climb At Record Pace. The Washington Post (3/13, Harvey, 11.43M) reports National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) data show that "for the second year in a row, atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations have climbed at a record pace," with carbon dioxide levels climbing "by three parts per million in both 2015 and 2016 and now rest at about 405 parts per million."

Florida Scientists Write To Trump Regarding NOAA Budget. The Miami Herald (3/13, Staletovich, 856K) reports, "A growing chorus of scientists is raising the alarm over reports of Trump administration budgets cuts that would affect climate change research and hurricane forecasting." Thirty-two Florida scientists wrote to the President on Monday expressing concerns about proposed cuts to the NOAA budget.

WHITE HOUSE DEFENDS DISMISSALS OF US ATTORNEYS AS STANDARD PRACTICE. The Trump Administration defended the dismissal of 46 US attorneys on Monday as standard practice. The Washington Times (3/13, Boyer, 272K) reports that press secretary Sean Spicer said, "This is a standard operating procedure for a new administration around this time. This is a standard action that takes place in most administrations." Kellyanne Conway, appearing on Fox News' Fox & Friends (3/13, 831K), said, "This is just not a news story. It is a lot of noise and not much news, because it is very uniform and very common for presidents to ask for the resignations of political appointees like ambassadors and like US attorneys."

USA Today (3/13, 5.28M) contributor Glenn Harlan Reynolds writes, "There's been a lot of faux outrage about this

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decision of Trump's, but it's all bogus. ... United States attorneys serve at the pleasure of the president. The prosecution of crimes, including the decision of which crimes to prosecute and which crimes not to prosecute, is at the discretion of the executive branch." Reynolds says the refusal of Preet Bharara to resign as US attorney for the Southern District of New York "was childish, an effort to score anti-Trump points with Democrats."

However, the New York Times (3/13, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) praises Bharara in an editorial, writing that New Yorkers, "who have had a front-row seat to his work over the last seven years, know him for his efforts to drain one of the swampiest states in the country of its rampant public corruption." The Times calls Bharara "an equal-opportunity prosecutor" who took on those close to leading Democrats in the state.

Possible Bharara Successor Has Represented Ailes. The New York Times (3/13, Dwyer, Rashbaum, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that whomever President Trump "nominates to replace Mr. Bharara will inherit an investigation of Fox News. A federal grand jury sitting in Manhattan is expected to soon hear testimony from at least two witnesses to testify in coming days about business practices at Fox News" under Roger Ailes. One candidate mentioned as a possible Bharara successor is Marc Mukasey, who has represented Ailes in the past.

Two US Attorneys Granted Reprieves In Order To Complete 20 Years Of Service. Politico (3/13, Gerstein, 2.46M) reports that US Attorney for Connecticut Deirdre Daly and US Attorney for the Northern District of New York Richard Hartunian "have won short-term reprieves," in both cases so that they may complete 20 years of Justice Department service later this year.

SPICER: TRUMP WOULD LIKE REPORTERS' HELP IN CHOOSING CHARITY FOR HIS SALARY. USA Today (3/13, Estepa, 5.28M) reports, "White House press secretary Sean Spicer said Monday that President Trump plans to donate his salary at the end of the year – and that Trump would like reporters to help him decide where to send that check to." Spicer told reporters, "He kindly asked that you all help determine where that goes." The comment "drew laughters from reporters." Spicer continued, "In all seriousness, I think his view is that he made a pledge to the American people. He wants to donate it to charity, and he'd love your help to determine where it should go." Politico (3/13, Conway, 2.46M) says in a brief item that reporters "have been aggressive in covering the administration and topics like the conflicts of interest presented by Trump's business empire." The Washington Times (3/13, Boyer, 272K) also has a brief report.

NRA LAUNCHES NATIONAL AD BUY ON GORSUCH NOMINATION. McClatchy (3/13, Kumar, 74K) reports that the NRA Freedom Action Foundation is launching a $1 million eight-day national television ad buy on the Supreme Court as nominee Neil Gorsuch's confirmation hearings are set to begin. The narrator says in part, "Four Supreme Court justices believe you have the right to defend yourselves with a gun. Four do not. The men and women of the NRA will not let anti-gun elites strip away our rights or our freedom."

Senate Judiciary Committee Examining Gorsuch's Year At DOJ. USA Today (3/9, Wolf, 5.28M) reports that though Gorsuch has spent much of his career in Colorado, the year he spent "as a high-ranking Justice Department official may be emerging as a point of contention in his bid for Senate confirmation." The Senate Judiciary Committee last week "received more than 144,000 pages of documents from Gorsuch's 13-month tenure at the Justice Department in 2005-06. At the time, the agency was wrestling with issues such as how to treat terror suspects and justify warrantless wiretaps."

LABOR DEPARTMENT NO LONGER PUBLICIZING FINES AGAINST COMPANIES. The New York Times (3/13, Meier, Ivory, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that though the Labor Department says it is "moving forward against companies accused of violating workplace safety rules," DOL "has stopped publicizing fines against companies. As of Monday, seven weeks after the inauguration of President Trump, the department had yet to post a single news release about an enforcement fine." The Times calls the shift "a sharp break with the past." The Obama Administration "saw the announcements – essentially publicly shaming companies – as a major tool in its workplace safety enforcement."

IN OCTOBER, RYAN TOLD HOUSE REPUBLICANS HE WOULD NEVER DEFEND TRUMP. Breitbart (3/13, Boyle, 2.02M) cites an Oct. 10, 2016 conference call with House Republicans in which Ryan said "he was abandoning then-GOP presidential nominee Donald Trump forever and would never defend him again." In audio of the call, which occurred soon after the Access Hollywood tape of Trump was leaked, Ryan says, "I am not going to defend Donald Trump—not now, not in the future." Brietbart adds that Ryan has now "pushed" Trump "to believe his healthcare legislation...would repeal and replace Obamacare when it does not repeal Obamacare." Breitbart cites conversations "with no fewer than 15 other White House aides, including many on the press team," and says "it is clear that the President and the senior Trump administration team are not happy with this bill's lack of conservative support" after they "were assured by Ryan that conservatives would, in fact, be on board with it in the beginning."

FED EXPECTED TO FORECAST FASTER INTEREST RATE HIKES. USA Today (3/13, Davidson, 5.28M) reports that while "it's all but certain the Fed will," as it "strongly signaled," raise the benchmark short-term interest rate by a quarter

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percentage point, there is “more drama” over whether “Fed officials will predict faster rate hikes this year and in 2018,” as several top economists predict. While “a meaningful pickup in economic activity has yet to occur,” Michael Gapen, chief US economist at Barclays say the Fed appears to be motivated by, in USA Today’s words, increased “consumer and business sentiment – rooted largely in President Trump’s plan to cut taxes and regulations and boost federal spending – and a rise in inflation.” However, Trump’s proposals are uncertain, with tax reform and spending stimulus predicted for the future, their exact form unknown, and Trump expected to change the Fed’s composition and leadership.

Neil Irwin writes in “The Upshot” blog of the New York Times (3/13, Irwin, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) that this week looks like the end of the Fed acting “to decrease access to easy money with the caution of a technician defusing a powerful bomb,” which began when “global financial markets metaphorically bawled like a toddler” when the Fed first indicated it would move towards ending its extraordinary monetary intervention. Besides the expected rate hike, public comments by half a dozen senior Fed officials “suggested greater collective confidence and unanimity that the economy can handle tighter money than has been on display since the onset of the financial crisis nearly a decade ago.” Additionally, “Fed officials are displaying greater confidence” that the economy is headed for “full employment and inflation near their 2 percent target.”

Seib: Trump Language Appeals To Supporters’ Economic Concerns. Gerald F. Seib writes in a column in the Wall Street Journal (3/13, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) that a core of Trump supporters aren’t turned off by the turmoil in Washington, instead seeing it as an indication that change is occurring. These people express economic anxiety about the increasing trade deficits, federal debt, and cost of military operations. While Trump has tapped into these sentiments, his policies could make them worse, with his tax cut, defense buildup, and refusal to alter entitlements possibly increasing the debt; his plan to fight ISIS increasing military costs; and his trade policies possibly leading to trade wars. Additionally, immigration and healthcare, which Washington is currently focused on, rank lower in Trump supporters’ priorities. However, Trump continues to use language that appeal to their concerns, giving them the acknowledgment they seek.

ATLANTA FED NAMES FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN REGIONAL RESERVE BANK PRESIDENT. The New York Times (3/13, Appelbaum, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports Raphael W. Bostic was named the new president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, becoming “the first African-American to serve as president of any of the Fed’s 12 regional reserve banks.” Atlanta Fed’s board chairman, Thomas A. Fanning, in a statement called Bostic “a perfect bridge between people and policy.” A professor at USC, he served the Obama Administration as assistant secretary for policy development and research at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, helping “orchestrate the administration’s response to the collapse of the housing bubble” before returning to the school.

US STOCKS LITTLE CHANGED ON MONDAY. Reuters (3/13, Campos) reports, “U.S. stocks ended little changed” on Monday. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 21.5 points (0.1 percent) to 20,881.48, the S&P 500 was up 0.87 point (0.04 percent) to 2,373.47, and the Nasdaq Composite rose 14.06 points (0.24 percent) to 5,875.78. Investors expect the Fed’s two-day meeting, which starts on Tuesday, to result in interest rates rising by 25 basis points. Paul Mendelsohn, chief investment strategist at Windham Financial Services in Charlotte, Vermont, said, “Other than the Fed on Wednesday, I don’t see anything going on to make any (investment) decisions on.”

DEVOS EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR “GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS,” BUT SKEPTICISM REMAINS. The Washington Post (3/13, Brown, 11.43M) reports that, in “a conciliatory message” at the annual legislative conference of the Council of the Great City Schools, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos said that families should have access to “great public schools” among other education options. She added, “I am agnostic as to the delivery system, or the building in which it takes place, so long as that child is in an environment that meets their needs and the parents are satisfied.” However, the remarks, following nearly three decades promoting vouchers, charter schools, and other public school alternatives, “did not quell all the skepticism” among those assembled. Questions included how scraping Obama Administration regulations requiring states consult with parents in developing plans for holding schools accountable helps families and reconciling DeVos’ talk of accountability with her support for voucher programs “that allow private schools to continue accepting taxpayer-supported students no matter how well – or poorly – those students fare.”

NY ATTORNEY GENERAL: AT EXXON, TILLERSON USED EMAIL ALIAS FOR CLIMATE MESSAGES. Bloomberg News (3/13, Larson, 2.41M) reports New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman said Monday that Secretary of State Tillerson used an email alias to discuss climate change while he was Exxon Mobil Corp.’s chief executive. Tillerson sent messages under the alias “Wayne Tracker” to discuss “the risks posed by climate change...Schneiderman said in a court filing about his office’s fraud investigation of the company.” Tillerson, whose middle name is Wayne, used the account “on the Exxon system from at least 2008 through 2015,” Schneiderman claimed. Reuters (3/13, Freifeld) reports in a statement Monday, Exxon spokesman Alan Jeffers said, “The email address, Wayne. Tracker@exxonmobil.com, is part of the company’s email system and was put in place for secure and expedited communications between select senior company officials and the former chairman for a broad range of business-related topics.” A State Department spokeswoman “declined to comment on the matter.”

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POLITICO ANALYSIS: DC SNOW STORM OFFERS PITFALLS, OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRUMP. Politico (3/13, Samuelsohn, 2.46M) reports President Trump faces "his first big snow test," as a poorly managed federal response to what could be a big snow storm could put him "in the political crosshairs." Closing the government prior to a noticeable amount of snow could lead to accusations of "panicking," but responding too late could cause "a major traffic snarl" across the DC region. The storm also could give Trump "his first big opportunity to showcase his disaster management skills." White House press secretary Sean Spicer said Trump already has meet with his homeland security adviser and the acting FEMA administrator about the storm, adding, "He has directed his acting FEMA administrator to lean forward and be prepared to help states should they require federal assistance." However, the federal response "could be the source of controversy," as Trump previously expressed opposition to using salt to prepare for storms, banning its use in his company.

VETERANS GROUP CALLS ON FIRST LADY TO CONDEMN MILITARY NUDE PHOTO SCANDAL. The Military Times (3/13, Shane, 734K) reports that the veterans group Common Defense, "which has been critical" of President Trump, is calling on the First Lady "to weigh in on the unfolding military nude photo sharing scandal, saying it's connected to her stated platform of fighting cyberbullying." Navy veteran Trina McDonald said, "We are waiting for our first lady to support our women in uniform against continued harassment and cyberbullying. The social media stalking of women is unacceptable and the involvement of our armed services members is an embarrassment."

Ex-Air Force Lt. Col.: Neller Should be Relieved Of Command. In an op-ed for USA Today (3/13, Vanlandingham, 5.28M), retired Air Force lieutenant colonel and Southwestern Law School Associate Professor Rachel VanLandingham writes Marine Corps Commandant General Robert Neller "should be immediately relieved of his command." His "willful ignorance" has allowed the persistence of the nude photo sharing phenomenon that is abusive to female Marines. VanLandingham writes Neller uses the "blame game" to escape culpability and his response to the current scandal "seems disconnected and disinterested." The latest scandal is only "the tip of the iceberg of a deep-seated resentment of women in the Marine Corps," and Defense Secretary Mattis "is part of the problem" due to his past opposition to allowing women in combat positions.

FIRST LADY WILL NOT ATTEND WHITE HOUSE ST. PATRICK'S DAY EVENT. The International Business Times (3/13, Riotta, 814K) reports, "The annual White House St. Patrick's Day celebration this week will reportedly be absent a first lady, as Melania Trump was set to remain in New York City" with Barron Trump. Michelle Obama "previously hosted Ireland's Taoiseach Enda Kenny, the prime minister of the nation, and his wife Fionnuala, for the Irish holiday." President Trump "will meet with Kenny prior to the annual celebrations, and was expected to discuss several key issues with the Irish prime minister, including Irish immigration."

NASCAR CEO "SAW A BUSINESS CONNECTION WITH A SEGMENT OF TRUMP VOTERS." The Arizona Republic (3/12, Knight, 1.1M) reported that NASCAR Chairman and CEO Brian France "was an early supporter of Donald Trump's presidential campaign," which "made a few of his corporate partners unhappy." Speaking over the weekend with the Republic, France "said he saw a business connection with a segment of Trump voters. 'People don't buy tickets to a race to hear my political views,' he said," adding, "But I do think that the middle class, the factory worker, has lost ground in recent years with job layoffs and exporting jobs. That's our core fan." France further stated, "They're good Americans, playing by the rules, trying to get ahead. The more you make life better for them, obviously, the more disposable income they'll have to enjoy the sport they love. That's a good thing for us."

Buttigieg: Democrats Need To "Reclaim" Trump's "Message About Fairness." On its website, CNN (3/13, Skoczek, 29.79M) reported, "Democrats must reclaim the mantle of fairness and reengage rather than cut ties with the working-class voters who gravitated to Donald Trump in the last election, says one of the party's rising new leaders," South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg (D), who unsuccessfully sought the DNC chairmanship. Speaking with former President Obama's chief strategist, David Axelrod, "on 'The Axe Files,' a podcast from the University of Chicago Institute of Politics and CNN," Buttigieg said, "(Trump) had this message about fairness and unfairness that should be the bread-and-butter of the Democratic Party," adding, "(Democrats) had fairness as a theme kind of stolen from us, I think, with devastating effect."

NYTIMES MAGAZINE: "INDIVISIBLE" DOCUMENT HELPED SOLIDIFY DEMOCRATS' OPPOSITION TO TRUMP. In a lengthy piece for New York Times Magazine (3/13, Homans, 4.18M), Charles Homans discusses how Democrats have worked to oppose President Trump's nominees and policies. Homans says Democrats were divided on how to deal with Trump, but eventually became mostly united in opposing the President after several former Democratic congressional aides in mid-December published an online document "titled 'Indivisible: A Practical Guide for Resisting the Trump Agenda.'" Homans says the guide was embraced by Democratic operatives and party activists, and the tactics calling for a unified opposition to Trump upped the pressure on congressional Democrats to not compromise with the President.

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BALDWIN EMAIL LINKS POTENTIAL CHALLENGER CLARKE TO TRUMP. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (3/13, Bice, 513K) reported that Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) "and her political team have been largely silent about the possibility of" being challenged by Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke (D) in next year's election. "That changed over the weekend" when the Baldwin camp issued "an email solicitation that suggests the conservative sheriff is 'being groomed' to run against" the senator. The Baldwin email read in part, "[Clarke is] exactly the type of person President Trump would love to have as an ally in the Senate," adding, "Sheriff Clarke checks all the boxes. He has four shady PACs raising money in an attempt to get him to run. His offensive, stream-of-consciousness tweets are eerily similar to Trump's. And, wait for it. ... He has ties to Russia." Clarke has run in the past as a Democrat, but would likely challenge Baldwin as a Republican.

NO SEATS EXPECTED TO FLIP PARTIES IN FIVE SPECIAL ELECTIONS. The AP (3/13, Barrow) highlights five upcoming special elections: the race to succeed ex-CA34 Rep. Xavier Becerra (D), who stepped down from Congress after being confirmed as California attorney general; the race to replace ex-GA6 Rep. Tom Price (R), President Trump's new HHS chief; the race to succeed ex-KS4 Rep. Mike Pompeo (R), Trump's new CIA director; the race to replace former MT-AL Rep. Ryan Zinke (R), Trump's new Interior secretary; and the race to succeed ex-SC5 Rep. Mick Mulvaney (R), Trump's new budget chief. None of the seats are expected to flip to the other party, though "Democrats believe they have a shot" in the GA6, "based on Trump's underperformance and the early fundraising success of" ex-congressional aide Jon Ossoff (D).

Roll Call (3/13, Pathé, 63K) reported that of five special elections, the GA6 is "the only one which offers much of a chance of a partisan flip. It's been a reliably Republican seat, which Price won by 23 points last fall. But Trump's underperformance" in the GA6 "among well-educated, affluent voters, and the unpredictability of the upcoming jungle primary is fueling liberals' hopes that they can pick off this district."

Reporter Says Democrat Ossoff Has "Unsettled" GOP In Price Special. Writing for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (3/13, 1.41M), Greg Bluestein said that Democrat Ossoff, who is running in the Price special, has "unsettled Republicans who want to keep" the seat in GOP hands, as evidenced by the fact he "was invoked throughout a GOP candidate forum as a sort of sword of Damocles hanging over the" contest. A number "of the candidates at the Fulton County GOP breakfast talked of Ossoff as if he had already locked in a spot in the June 20 runoff," as "did several veteran activists who said in speeches and hushed asides they were worried he could win." There are "18 candidates in the April 18" jungle primary – "five Democrats, 11 Republicans and 2 independents." If no candidate tops 50%, the top two vote-getters, regardless of party, advance to a June 20 runoff.

Gray Out With Online Spot Defending Trump, Attacking Ossoff. On its website, WXIA-TV Atlanta (3/13, Darnell, 415K) reports that technology executive Bob Gray (D) "has released a web ad defending President Donald Trump and attacking" Ossoff. Gray, "who has consistently polled third in the race, defended Trump's record in the ad." WXIA-TV said, "Ossoff has been followed by Republican Karen Handel in two polls that have been released in the special election."

GOP Hopefuls In Mulvaney Special Embrace Trump. The Charleston (SC) Post and Courier (3/13, Shain, 300K) reports that in the wake of Trump's "South Carolina success during the 2016 election," the GOP hopefuls running in the Mulvaney special "are embracing the New York billionaire's populist message." For example, state House Speaker Pro Tempore Tommy Pope (R) "is giving away an Ivanka Trump handbag in the face of backlash from the 'liberal media' about her hawking her goods"; attorney Tom Mullikin (R) declined to take part "in a candidates' forum last week because of what he considered as anti-Trump comments made by the moderator"; and education activist Sheri Few's (R) "campaign slogan 'Make America America Again' is an offshoot of Trump's 'Make America Great Again.'" Said Furman University political scientist Danielle Vinson, "The Trump message played pretty well in South Carolina," adding, "This is a great message because (voters) know something about it."

CA49: ISSA'S INTERNAL POLL INDICATES TRUMP WAS A DRAG ON HIS NUMBERS. The Los Angeles Times (3/13, Stewart, 4.52M) reports that CA49 Rep. Darrell Issa (R) in November "won reelection in the closest congressional race in the country," and in December, he "got a warning that his next contest could be even tougher. An internal poll by Issa's campaign showed a nearly 10-percentage point drop in his favorability ratings between mid-October and early December – and that one likely reason" his "image took a hit was because of his support for President Trump. Overall, the poll suggested Issa was hurt significantly by negative television advertising," as it "found that voters who saw television ads remembered Issa's ties to Trump more than any other detail. And when voters had negative things to say about" Issa, "his support for Trump was at the top of the list." The Times adds that Issa, "one of Trump's highest-profile supporters in last year's campaign, has since distanced himself from the president and his administration."

VILLARAIGOSA'S ANTI-TRUMP SUPER PAC BENEFITED HIS OWN NASCENT BID. In a report on the 2018 race to succeed term-limited Gov. Jerry Brown (D), the Sacramento (CA) Bee (3/13, Cadelago, Miller, 574K) says, "Last spring, as he laid the groundwork for his gubernatorial run," ex-Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa (D) formed "a super PAC

he said would 'harness the compassion and power' of Californians to fight back against anti-immigrant policies and then-Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump." The Bee says, "For Villaraigosa, who last held office in 2013, the timing was helpful: With the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia approaching," he "could use the federal committee to reintroduce himself to national donors – and voters across California." The Bee adds, "The super PAC's efforts proved inconsequential in the" White House contest "and they appear to have been focused largely within liberal California in ways that could help Villaraigosa politically."

NRSC RAISED $5.1M LAST MONTH. The Hill (3/13, Hagen, 1.25M) reported that the National Republican Senatorial Committee on Monday announced it "raised $5.1 million last month, the committee's best off-year February fundraising in the past 16 years." The NRSC said "it has raised about $9.3 million so far this year and has nearly $10.3 million cash on hand, according to figures provided by the NRSC." The Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee has yet to release its February numbers. The NRSC entered February with "$18 million in outstanding debt, while the DSCC was $19.3 million in debt."

CUBAN LABELS TRUMP "ZOOLANDER PRESIDENT," DOESN'T CLOSE DOOR ON 2020 RUN. The New York Daily News (3/13, Healy, 4.45M) reports that Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban is continuing "to take his shots at President Donald Trump." Cuban, a billionaire, "called Trump the 'Zoolander president' while speaking at the South by Southwest festival in Austin, Texas on Sunday. And much like Derek Zoolander, Cuban does not think Trump knows much about computers. 'Just think how efficient he could be if he learned how to use a search engine,' said Cuban." Cuban went on to say "that the next person to run for president has to 'look forward' as opposed to 'acting like it's 1975,' and left the door open that perhaps that candidate could be him. 'I've got a lot of time to decide,' Cuban said. 'We'll see what happens.'"

REPORT: "DOZENS" OF 17-YEAR-OLDS VOTED ILLEGALLY IN WISCONSIN'S PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY. The AP (3/13, Richmond) reports, "Dozens of 17-year-olds voted illegally across Wisconsin during last spring's intense presidential primary, apparently wrongly believing they could cast ballots if they turned 18 ahead of the November general election, according to a new state report. Wisconsin Elections Commission staff examined voter fraud referrals municipal clerks said they made to prosecutors following the 2016 spring primary and general elections." The AP adds that President Trump "has called for a 'major investigation' into voter fraud and alleged that 3 million to 5 million people may have voted illegally in the November general election, a widely debunked claim. The report lists no instances of underage voters casting ballots in the general election."

COSTUMER CONFRONTS, BLASTS SPICER AT DC APPLE STORE. The DCist (3/13, Kuzius, 57K) reports DC "education advocate" Shree Chauhan confronted White House press secretary Sean Spicer at the Georgetown Apple Store Saturday evening. She asked him how it feels to be "destroying our country" and "to work for a fascist," and inquired about "the Russia stuff." The DCist cites the Medium post in which she writes that "Mr. Spicer and his boss" are not "entitled to [the] norms and customs" of privacy usually afforded to public figures because the President "and his Klan are openly trampling on the rule of law." Spicer reportedly told her, "Such a great country that allows you to be here," which Chauhan interpreted as "racism" and "an implied threat." She disagreed with The Daily Mail's suggestion that Spicer's comment referred to her First Amendment rights. According to the Washington Times (3/13, Chasmar, 272K), the Periscope video of the encounter Chauhan posted online has gone viral, garnering more than 490,000 views. Spicer said of the encounter Monday, "It's a free country," and that he is fine with such situations "as long as they stay on the right side of the First Amendment."

In the Medium (3/12, Chauhan, 356K) post referenced by the DCist and Times, Chauhan writes the press secretary's comments were worse than those by "rabid Trump supporters" because they indicate the Administration "will use its power to silence ordinary people like me." Chauhan encourages fellow Americans to collaborate to "end this illegitimate presidency," and she suggests ways readers can engage in advocacy.

SNOOP DOGG PULLS GUN ON "TRUMP CLOWN" IN MUSIC VIDEO. The Pitchfork (3/13, Monroe, Yoo, 807K) reports rapper Snoop Dogg starred in the video of BADBADNOTGOOD and Kaytranada's IV single "Lavender" in which "a Donald Trump parody reigns supreme." In the video, President Trump orders the deportation of all dogs, Snoop pulls a gun on the "Trump clown," and a chain-bound president tries to join Snoop and a companion in smoking marijuana. Talking to Billboard, Snoop called the President "this f--king clown," and he denounced harsh penalties for people of color caught with marijuana.

ASHLEY JUDD "VERY SAD," "SCARED" AFTER FAN AT BASKETBALL GAME TELLS HER HE IS PRO-TRUMP. The Washington Times (3/13, Chasmar, 272K) reports actress Ashley Judd described in a Facebook post her encounter with a man who asked to take her picture at the Kentucky Wildcats basketball game Saturday as "uncomfortable and scary." She says she was "very sad" and "scared," after the "older man with white hair" said, "We like Trump" in response to her enthusiasm about his native Big Stone Gap. Judd called the behavior a "hostile act" and said, "We absolutely need apolitical spaces in this country."

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AP ANALYSIS: TECH WORKERS, TRADITIONAL ACTIVISTS FORM "IMPROBABLE" ALLIANCE IN BAY AREA. The AP (3/13, Riccardi) says that Bay Area tech workers and traditional activists from "the country's heartland of radicalism" increasingly have joined forces in opposition to President Trump. Some activists say they are encouraged by what the AP calls "the civil awakening among tech workers," but VOTE.org founder and CEO Debra Cleaver warned that efforts to merely "engineer" a way around the Administration's policies would be ineffective. Franki Velez, an Iraq War veteran on disability, worries that tech workers who have joined forces with traditional activists do not share their sense of purpose. University of Notre Dame Center for the Study of Social Movements Director Rory McVeigh says such improbable partnerships defy the historical model for protests.

WPOST'S WEIGEL BEWILDERED BY GOP ATTACKS ON MURPHY FOR LIKENING TRUMP TO NAZIS. Writing for the Washington Post (3/13, 11.43M), Dave Weigel largely focuses on the 2017 race to succeed term-limited New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, saying that contest "looks brutal for President Trump and the GOP. Just 41 percent of the state's voters backed Trump in the 2016 election." Meanwhile, Christie "has seen his favorable ratings sink into the 20s." Saying the polls show ex-Goldman Sachs executive Phil Murphy (D) as the "front-runner" in the race, Weigel adds, "The GOP's surprising strategy to dig out, so far, has been to pummel Murphy for his criticism of Trump. For the second time, the Republican Governors Association has accused Murphy of being 'unhinged,' because" he "keeps comparing Trump's early days to the rise of the Nazi party."

FEDERAL JUDGE ORDERS RELEASE, PENDING TRIAL, OF WHITE HOUSE FENCE-JUMPER. The CBS Evening News (3/13, story 6, 1:45, Mason, 11.17M) reported a federal judge ordered Jonathan Tran, the man charged with breaching the White House perimeter Friday, be released pending trial Monday. Correspondent Chip Reid said that after two people breached the perimeter in 2014, "an intruder making it that close to the residence wasn't supposed to happen again."

Ex-Secret Service Agents Say Agency Security Protocol Is Insufficient. The Washington Times (3/13, Ernst, 272K) reports former Secret Service agent Dan Bongino said on "Fox and Friends" Saturday that Jonathan Tran's successful fence-jumping shows the agency is unprepared for a "multiple-man tactical assault on the White House," and he said to anyone who thinks otherwise: "You're out of your mind." Bongino recommends double-fencing, angled fencing, increased personnel, and special weapons teams to boost security. The Times says former Secret Service agent Jonathan Wackrow told CNN that he thinks the agency should take a "hard look very quickly" at security protocol because the Tran incident shows there is the potential for "a catastrophic breach."

NYTIMES' BAQUET ON TRUMP: "HE WANTS OUR FAVOR." Politico (3/13, Pompeo, 2.46M) reported that New York Times editor Dean Baquet says President Trump "loves the Times and lashes out when he can't win its favor. 'I think he wants our favor, but when he can't have it, he gets hugely angry. ... But I also think he's a New York guy, and The New York Times means a lot to him,' Baquet said at the Austin Convention Center Sunday morning, part of a South by Southwest Interactive event cheekily titled 'Covering POTUS: A Conversation with the Failing NYT.'"

CILLIZZA LEAVING WPOST TO JOIN CNN. Politico (3/13, Gold, 2.46M) reported that Chris Cillizza of the Washington Post "is joining CNN Politics as a reporter and editor at large, with a digital presence and an on-air role. Cillizza is leaving behind the blog known as The Fix he built at the Post over more than a decade." He "will also be ending his role as a contributor at MSNBC when he joins CNN. 'I've been looking for the opportunity to do it all under one roof,' Cillizza said. 'Having a place to do the writing and the television piece and do it all under one umbrella – that's a pretty unique deal. It's not easy to find.'"

SPENCER'S NONPROFIT LOSES ITS TAX-EXEMPT STATUS. The Los Angeles Times (3/13, Pearce, 4.52M) reports that the National Policy Institute, a "nonprofit run by one of America's most prominent white nationalists, Richard Spencer, has lost its tax-exempt status for failing to file tax returns with the federal government, according to Internal Revenue Service records." Speaking on Monday with the Times, Spencer "said an IRS error led him to believe his group was not required to file federal tax returns, and said he would appeal the loss of his tax-exempt status." Spencer, "a Donald Trump supporter," told the Times, "I don't know what to say. I don't want to make a comment because I don't understand this stuff." The Times adds that the nonprofit's "website says it is 'dedicated to the heritage, identity, and future of people of European descent in the United States, and around the world.'"

FEDERAL POLICE PROBE COSTS CHICAGO $4.5 MILLION. The Chicago Sun-Times (3/13, Spielman, 798K) reports that the city of Chicago has paid $4.5 million in legal and consulting fees in connection to the federal civil rights investigation "triggered by the 2014 police shooting of Laquan McDonald – and the meter is still running." The cost, "up from a previous estimate of $3.8 million," is "certain to rise even higher as invoices and expenses for January, February and March get submitted." A spokesman for the city's Law Department "called the work 'ongoing' even though U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions has made it clear he has no intention of pursuing a consent decree that would have

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included mandates, deadlines and the appointment of a federal monitor to ride herd over the Chicago Police Department."

Departing Chicago US Attorney Calls On DOJ, City To Reform Police Department. The Chicago Tribune (3/13, Weisner, 2.54M) reports that "hours after he abruptly resigned as Chicago's top federal prosecutor," former US attorney for the Northern District of Illinois Zachary Fardon "issued a fiery open letter urging the city and Justice Department to push through a consent decree for sweeping changes at the Chicago Police Department." The five-page letter "also called for federal and local police to 'flood' neighborhoods afflicted by rampant gang crime."

FERGUSON PROSECUTOR RELEASES UNEDITED FOOTAGE OF MICHAEL BROWN AT MARKET. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch (3/13, Byers, Currier, 729K) reports from Ferguson, MO that St. Louis County Prosecutor Robert McCulloch on Monday released unedited footage from the Ferguson Market "to try to settle questions raised by what he called a 'pretty pathetic attempt at a video production' that led to a protest outside the Ferguson Market on Sunday." McCulloch said "the footage shown in the independent film, 'Stranger Fruit,' was known to police and investigators when they looked into the police shooting death of Michael Brown in 2014," but "it was deemed 'not relevant or admissible' to the grand jury weighing charges against the officer, and therefore not released to the public." The film's creator and Brown's mother "allege that the video shows Brown trading a store clerk marijuana for Cigarillos about 11 hours before he was shot and killed by Ferguson Officer Darren Wilson," and they "claim that disproves the police notion that Brown was robbing the store shortly before he was killed."

ABC World News Tonight (3/13, story 6, 2:05, Muir, 14.63M) reported that "the store is adamant they don't do layaway, and they have released the full video they say shows there was no exchange for drugs." ABC (Osunsami) added that "no matter what happened at the store behind me, it doesn't shed any new light on the confrontation that took place between the officer and Michael Brown. Legally, this changes nothing."

The New York Times (3/13, Smith, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that "shortly after the shooting on Aug. 9, 2014, the Ferguson police released a video showing" Brown "taking cigarillos and shoving an employee at Ferguson Market and Liquor," and "minutes later, Officer Darren Wilson encountered" Brown "on a nearby street and shot him during a confrontation." The Times adds that the documentarian, Jason Pollock, "claimed that the video showed" Brown "trading marijuana for cigarillos with store employees, then leaving the cigarillos behind for safekeeping." Brown "returned to the store around noon to pick up his merchandise," Pollock said, "not to commit a robbery," but Jay Kanzler, "a lawyer for the store and its employees, disputed the documentary's claims," saying "that no trade had been made, that the employees had not kept the marijuana and that the later episode reported as a robbery was indeed a robbery."

ARMY CORPS COMPLETES $1.1 MILLION DAKOTA ACCESS PROTEST CAMP CLEANUP. According to the Washington Times (3/13, Richardson, 272K), the US Army Corps of Engineers declared its $1.1 million cleanup of the Dakota Access pipeline protest camps finished Thursday. Corps Capt. Ryan Highnight said in an email that the Florida sanitation company which cleaned the area removed 835 dumpsters of trash, a total of 8,170 cubic yards of debris, from the three camps. Furry Friends Rockin' Rescue of Bismarck-Mandan said in an online post that it has rescued 12 dogs since the protesters evacuated.

PUERTO RICO, OVERSIGHT BOARD REACH AGREEMENT ON DEBT CRISIS PLAN. The New York Times (3/13, Walsh, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports the federal oversight board unanimously approved on Monday Puerto Rico's plan to address its debt crisis, a move that "should set the stage for meaningful talks with creditors." In a telephone interview, Gov. Ricardo Rosselló said his plan generates $160 million more in government revenue than the plan rejected last Thursday by increasing traffic fines and tobacco excise taxes, as well as extending a tax break for manufacturers. The plan does not include provisions for cutting government retirees' pensions, shorten the public workforce's work week, or enacting a furlough for public workers. The agreement does, however, change the current pension system to a pay-as-you-go arrangement and shifts all public workers to defined-contribution retirement plans.

RHODE ISLAND GOVERNOR USING TAX INCENTIVES TO BOOST LONG-SLUMPING ECONOMY. The New York Times (3/13, Seelye, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports tax incentives are part of Gov. Gina Raimondo's "frenzy of economic and job development." Rhode Island's unemployment rate to fell to 4.7 percent in January, which the Times calls this "striking" following the state's long economic "slump." Critics say the tax incentives, which total about $130 million so far, amount to corporate welfare, but Raimondo defends them as fiscally responsible and only a part of her strategy, which also looks to abolish the energy sales tax, put computers in schools, and invest in workforce development. Other critics say there is a disconnect between positive coverage in national media and how her constituents view her, and they point to a $364 million social service payment computer system debacle as evidence of her ineptitude.

DE BLASIO ANNOUNCES FIVE-YEAR PLAN TO ADDRESS FATAL OPIATE OVERDOSES. The New York Times (3/13, Goodman, Southall, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports Mayor Bill de Blasio announced a multifaceted plan to reduce the number of fatal drug overdoses from opiates by 35 percent in five years on Monday at Lincoln Hospital in the

Bronx. The plan, which will cost $38 million annually, allocates the most funding to providing heroin antidote naloxone to law enforcement officers, and it also will expand access to buprenorphine, which suppresses withdrawal symptoms. The increased law enforcement efforts under de Blasio's plan will focus on targeting dealers with the creation of "Overdose Response Squads" within the Police Department.

PEARL HARBOR'S OLDEST VETERAN TURNS 105. NBC Nightly News (3/13, story 11, 2:10, Holt, 16.61M) correspondent Katie Beck reported on the birthday celebrations of 105-year-old Ray Chavez, the oldest surviving Pearl Harbor veteran. Beck reported the festivities included a visit to the gym, a celebration with his family, a procession to the USS Midway, and a letter from President George H.W. Bush.

THIESSEN: HILL REPUBLICANS SHOULD DRAW FROM WALKER'S 2011 LESSONS. In his Washington Post (3/13, 11.43M) column, Marc Thiessen writes, "Six weeks into a new administration, with unified Republican government for the first time in a decade, the GOP should be busy enacting a bold reform agenda. Instead, the party is wracked by internal divisions on key issues from health care to taxes," Republicans are receiving no cooperation from Democrats, and "the left is ramping up anti-GOP protests across the country" aimed at intimidating Republicans. Thiessen says the situation recalls Gov. Scott Walker's (R-WI) plight in 2011 as he pushed "collective bargaining reform legislation," which eventually "passed, and voters rewarded him at the polls." Thiessen says congressional Republicans will be similarly rewarded, but only if they make good on their vows to "pass health care and tax reform legislation" and other reforms.

MILBANK: TRUMP IS CLINTON'S UNEXPECTED ALLY IN EMAIL PROBE. In his column for the Washington Post (3/13, 11.43M), Dana Milbank writes that "after the 'lock her up' campaign of 2016, President Trump's administration has an unexpected message for those still investigating Hillary Clinton's emails: Shut it down." Trump "made clear after the election that he had no appetite to go after Clinton legally, and on Monday his administration went further: His Justice Department went to court to fight those still going after Clinton." According to Milbank, the "conservative legal groups" Judicial Watch and Cause of Action "were in federal court in Washington on Monday morning to compel the release of more Clinton emails," and the Trump Administration "was on the other side. 'It is moot,' said Justice Department lawyer Carol Federighi, telling Judge James E. Boasberg of the administration's plan to oppose requests" for discovery by the legal groups.

BROOKS CRITICIZES PURISM ON BOTH SIDES OF LGBT DEBATE. David Brooks, in his column in the New York Times (3/14, Subscription Publication, 13.9M), criticizes Rod Dreher, who released a new book, "The Benedict Option," in which, responding to fears "common in Orthodox Christian circles" that their views on LGBT will see them banned from many professions and corporations, Dreher calls for setting up separate religious communities. Brooks criticizes this approach as answering "secular purism with religious purism" and "fostering narrowness, prejudice and moral arrogance" through the creation of homogeneous monocultures. Not only should it "be possible to find a workable accommodation between L.G.B.T. rights and religious liberty," but Brooks argues "the real enemy is" not differing views but the "form of purism that can't tolerate difference because it can't humbly accept the mystery of truth."

RESEARCHER WARNS NUCLEAR MISSILES VULNERABLE TO CYBERATTACK. Princeton research scholar Bruce G. Blair, a founder of Global Zero, a group opposed to nuclear weapons, in an op-ed in the New York Times (3/14, Blair, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) warns of US nuclear missiles' vulnerability to cyberwarfare. Critical issues were discovered and corrected under President Obama, but more remain, including corrupted early-warning data and the use of off-the-shelf commercial hardware and software "that could be infected by malware" in critical networks. Blair calls for the US and Russia to take nuclear missiles "off hair-trigger alert," leading to eliminating "silo-based missiles and quick-launch procedures on all sides." He then advocates "a comprehensive examination of the threat and develop a remediation plan" and negotiating with US rivals to "put nuclear networks off limits to cyberintrusion."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Trading Health Care For The Poor For Tax Cuts For The Rich."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (3/13, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) says that whether or not HHS Secretary Price accepts it, "the numbers are the numbers." According to the Times, the CBO report says, "Trumpcare would throw millions of Americans off their health coverage. And no amount of spin or scorn for the CBO can alter that reality."

"Preet Bharara: A Prosecutor Who Knew How To Drain A Swamp." The New York Times (3/13, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) praises former US Attorney Preet Bharara in an editorial, writing that New Yorkers, "who have had a front-row seat to his work over the last seven years, know him for his efforts to drain one of the swampiest states in the country of its rampant public corruption." The Times calls Bharara "an equal-opportunity prosecutor" who took on those close to leading Democrats in the state.

"The U.S. Should Not Be Egypt's Accomplice." In an editorial, the New York Times (3/14, Subscription Publication,

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13.9M) writes that President Trump's "laudatory words" for Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi "could well signal a dangerous shift in American policy." The US took some steps to express displeasure with Egypt's "worsening human rights abuse," changes el-Sisi would like reversed. While the Administration may consider "Sisi as an ideal partner in fighting" extremists, "his tactics have been draconian and counterproductive." The Times calls for no more concessions until Egypt makes "real reforms" on "human rights and governance." The Time warns that encouraging a "brutal, anti-democratic" leader in Egypt "would fuel radicalization and discontent."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"The CBO Reveals Republicans' Health-Care Cruelty."*** A Washington Post (3/13, 11.43M) editorial calls the CBO "the most trustworthy scorekeeper in the legislative business," and argues that despite the "last-minute, irresponsible Republican campaign to discredit the CBO's professionals, their view should carry far more weight than all the magical thinking the GOP has passed off as policy analysis in the health-care debate."

"Trump Is Letting Human Rights Deteriorate, And Bahrain Is Exhibit A." In an editorial, the Washington Post (3/13, 11.43M) calls Bahrain "Exhibit A for how the ascent of the Trump administration is leading to the deterioration of human rights in other countries." The Post writes King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa failed to comply with the former Administration's conditions imposed on a $3 million sale of 19 F-16 war planes, but President Trump and the Administration are still "preparing to go forward with the F-16 sale." The Times warns that the US' failure to check abuses of human rights is not only a moral problem, but also a regional security risk because "the Bahraini regime's abuses risk further destabilizing the country and triggering a sectarian conflict that nearby Iran could exploit." The Post implores the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and ranking member Sen. Benjamin Cardin to "insist that before going forward with the Bahrain deal, the administration come up with a strategy to reverse the ongoing repression."

"Time To Drill Trump's Nominee For Agriculture Secretary." The Washington Post (3/13, 11.43M) editorializes that while Secretary of Agriculture nominee Sonny Perdue is likely to "meet with relatively easy confirmation," senators "should explore his ethics" during the confirmation hearing. They should require him to explain his record as governor of Georgia, during which his failure to create a blind trust exposed him to conflicts of interest, and to justify the billion-dollar farm bill subsidies for "mostly well-off agribusiness owners" at the expense of the needy beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, though the Post says this may be difficult.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"CBO's Prophecies, Demystified."*** A Wall Street Journal (3/13, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) editorial downplays the significance of the CBO's report on the Republican healthcare bill, arguing that while the findings were not good for Republicans, the CBO has a history of underestimating the power of market forces and should not drive policy.

"The Trump-Xi Summit." A Wall Street Journal (3/13, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) editorial welcomes a meeting between President Trump and Chinese Premier Xi Jinping amid urgent questions about how to respond to North Korea's nuclear ambitions and rising tensions in the South China Sea.

"Modi's Landslide Victory." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/13, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) writes that the landslide victory India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party won in the most populous state of Uttar Pradesh not only positions Prime Minister Narendra Modi in an advantageous position ahead of his re-election bid in 2019, but also grants him a new chance to push for much-needed economic reforms. If Modi hopes to expand manufacturing to 25 percent of India's economy in 2020 and deliver on his pledges to create jobs, the Journal writes, he must push for bold, far-reaching governmental deregulation.

The Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
CBO Sees 24 Million More Uninsured, $337 Billion Deficit Cut With GOP Plan
Pershing Square Sold Stake In Valeant
Intel Joins Silicon Valley's Race To Make Best 'Server On Wheels'
Mexico's States Gained Power And Money; Then Came Corruption

New York Times:
Health Bill Would Add 24 Million Uninsured But Save $337 Billion, Report Says
Netherlands Considers A New Relationship To Muslims With Coming Election
Intel Buys Mobileye In $15.3 Billion Bid To Lead Self-Driving Car Market
When A Common Sedative Becomes An Execution Drug
Steve King, Hurling Insults At Immigrants, Is Rebuked By His Own Party

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Bracing For A Blizzard, Officials Close Schools And Stop Trains

Washington Post:
In This Health-Care Push, Industry On The Outside
As NCAA Money Trickles Down, All Coaches Cash In
A Deaf, Mute Defendant's 12-year Legal Limbo
Trump Wants To Relax Rules Governing Drone Strikes
CBO: Millions Fewer Insured Under GOP Plan

Financial Times:
Dutch PM Denies Shift To Right Over Turkey Dispute
Sturgeon Throws Down Gauntlet On Independence
Fillon's Taste In Bespoke Suits Draws Criticism
Intel Bets On Driverless Cars With $15.3bn Mobileye Deal
Washington Times:
CBO Score Roils Obamacare Repeal Debate
Nor'easter Fuels Debate On Whether Snow Means More Change In Climate
Democrats Vow Government Shutdown Over Trump Border Wall
Nor'easter Prompts Region To Prepare For Snow After Mild Winter
Tunisian Diplomat Seeks Outreach With Trump Administration

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Severe Weather-Flights Grounded; Healthcare Reform Plan-CBO Report; Trump-Obama Wiretap Claim; Ferguson Shooting-New Video; Hoverboard Fire; California-Police Traffic Stop; Sandusky Sex Abuse Trial; Lottery Winner Remains Anonymous; Airline Captain Donates Organ.
CBS: Healthcare Reform Plan-CBO Report; Weather Forecast; Severe Weather-Preparation; Severe Weather-Flights Grounded; Trump-Obama Wiretap Claim; White House Perimeter Breach; Iraq-Mosul Assault; Hoverboard Fire; Sandusky Sex Abuse Trial; Bike Race-Strong Wind; West-Spring Flowers.
NBC: Weather Forecast; Severe Weather; Severe Weather-Flights Grounded; Healthcare Reform Plan-CBO Report; Trump-Obama Wiretap Claim; Border Crossing-Cell Phone Check; Health-Arthritis Treatment; Men's College Basketball; Florida-Overturned Jet-Ski; England Dog Show; Pearl Harbor Veteran Turns 105.

Network TV At A Glance:
Weather – 15 minutes, 20 seconds
Healthcare Reform Plan-CBO Report – 8 minutes, 25 seconds
Trump-Obama Wiretap Claim – 7 minutes, 30 seconds
Hoverboard Fire – 3 minutes, 20 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Healthcare Reform Plan-CBO Report; German Chancellor Visit Postponed; Severe Weather; Gasoline Price; Wall Street News.
CBS: Severe Weather; Healthcare Reform Plan-CBO Report; Trump-More Drone Strikes; Marine-Female Photos Scandal; Wall Street News.
FOX: Healthcare Reform Plan-CBO Report; Severe Weather; Trump-Obama Wiretap Claim.
NPR: Healthcare Reform Plan-CBO Report; Revised Immigration Order-Legal Challenge; Trump-Obama Wiretap Claim; Severe Weather.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Donald Trump is continuing what has become a presidential tradition. Obama did this every year. Today Donald Trump unveiled his bracket picks. ... The President specifically said he does not plan to fill out a bracket. Instead he's going to wait until the tournament is over and then have Kellyanne Conway tell everyone he had them right."

Jimmy Kimmel: [Referring to the American Health Care Act bill] "Almost everyone has a problem with this bill. It's the least popular bill since Cosby."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Today [Sean Spicer] said when Trump claimed Obama was wiretapping him, he didn't really mean he was wiretapping him. For real, that's what he said. Trump used the word 'wiretap' in quotes to mean surveillance and other activities. Sean Spicer backpedals so fast the Cowboys just signed him to play free safety."

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Stephen Colbert: "Speaking of crazy balls, the GOP's health care plan came out last week and, so far, it's popular with everyone, except doctors, hospitals, the insurance industry, patients, the elderly, Democrats, Republicans, and mortals."

Stephen Colbert: "This afternoon, the Congressional Budget Office released its official analysis of the GOP's healthcare bill and found 24 million Americans will lose coverage under the plan. ... Keep in mind, that's 24 million people by 2026. Without health insurance, a lot of those people won't live that long."

Stephen Colbert: [Referring to Trump's claim that Obama was wiretapping him] "Trump offered no evidence and then demanded that Congress go out and find some evidence. Well, today is the deadline set by Congress for the Justice Department to turn over anything that might exist. So far, brace yourself, nothing. Who could have seen this coming? Who could have predicted that? Everyone, including Paul Ryan."

James Corden: "I have to say, those first few days after the start of daylight savings time can be disorienting. Like all day long, I'm like, 'Why am I hungry? It's not lunchtime. Why is it still light out? Why is Donald Trump still the President?' Nothing makes sense."

James Corden: "They caught a man who managed to scale the fence and run across the White House front lawn. I know, that makes him the second mentally unstable person to make it all the way to the White House this year."

James Corden: "President Trump has declined. He will have Steve Bannon fill out a bracket and sign it. Just so you know, they picked Russia to win everything."

James Corden: "In an interview on Sunday, Trump's spokesperson Kellyanne Conway said that it was possible that Obama spied on Trump by using, quote, 'microwaves that turn into cameras.' Yeah, as opposed to a camera that turns into a microwave, otherwise known as a Samsung Galaxy Note 7."

James Corden: "That's right, Conway said that Obama could have used microwave ovens to see Trump, and Conway backed up her claim saying that this weekend, she saw a documentary where a clock, a teacup, and a candlestick came to life and sang songs."

Trevor Noah: "Wow, 24 million fewer people will have health insurance? But which 24 million? I smell a reality show!"

Trevor Noah: "Unlike Republicans, we like to spend time with our healthcare numbers. So we'll jump into this tomorrow – that's assuming Trump doesn't invade Sweden. Half a joke and half a warning to the people of Sweden."

Trevor Noah: "After months of protest, the President of South Korea was finally impeached Friday and removed from office. ... And worst of all, many said the President wasn't even running the country herself. They said she had been manipulated by a shadowy adviser. I know this may seem completely foreign now, but don't worry, you will understand it soon."

Trevor Noah: "If you remember, nine days ago, out of nowhere, Donald Trump accused President Obama of illegally wiretapping him during the campaign, which sounds like a serious thing until you remember Trump doesn't mean anything he says."

Trevor Noah: "Basically, Trump is a magician who never finishes a trick."

Jimmy Fallon: "If you're not familiar, here's how the NCAA tournament works. It start at 68, then 64, then 32, then 16, then eight, then four, then one. I'm sorry. That's the number of Republicans backing Trump's healthcare bill. I'm sorry."

Jimmy Fallon: "On Friday night, someone actually jumped the White House fence. Secret Service eventually caught him and said, 'Sorry, but you have to stay here for all four years, Mr. President.' He was like, 'Well, it was worth a try.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "And finally you guys, 'The Beauty and the Beast' is coming out this week. Yeah, it's pretty big. There's a talking teapot, there's a singing candlestick, and Kellyanne Conway's favorite character, the spying microwave."

Seth Meyers: [Referring to Kellyanne Conway's comment on the wiretapping allegation] "If Trump had a secret camera in his microwave, that must have been a very distressing feed to watch. 'How long does it take to warm up KFC, Melania?"

Seth Meyers: [Referring to the White House exclusive pizza and bowling party] "That's right, Trump is trying to sway members of Congress with an 8-year-old's birthday party. Also, good news, Steve Bannon has agreed to be a terrifying

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clown."

Seth Meyers: [Referring to Republican debate on healthcare] "Yeah, why should men pay for prenatal care? For that matter, why should women? Prenatal care is for the fetuses, fetuses should pay for it."

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Murphy, Ryan (OS/ASPA)
Sent: Tuesday, May 09, 2017 11:44 AM
To: Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Caliguiri, Laura (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); McGowan, Robert (Kyle) (HHS/IEA); Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Horn, Wade (HHS/IOS) (CTR); Oakley, Caitlin B. (OS/ASPA); Lloyd, Matt (OS/ASPA); Bult, Nathan (OS/ASPA); Grinney, Matthew (OS/ASPA); Seidel, Elizabeth (OS/IEA)
Cc: Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Gartland, Molly (HHS/IOS); Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: Series of One-Pagers - Challenging Issues Post-AHCA Vote
Attachments: 5.9.17 - DRAFT AHCA TALKERS.docx

Attached are talkers from ASPA on the 10-11 specific items.

From: Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, May 09, 2017 10:51 AM
To: Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Caliguiri, Laura (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); McGowan, Robert (Kyle) (HHS/IEA); Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Murphy, Ryan (OS/ASPA); Horn, Wade (HHS/IOS) (CTR); Oakley, Caitlin B. (OS/ASPA); Lloyd, Matt (OS/ASPA); Bult, Nathan (OS/ASPA); Grinney, Matthew (OS/ASPA); Seidel, Elizabeth (OS/IEA)
Cc: Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Gartland, Molly (HHS/IOS); Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS)
Subject: Series of One-Pagers - Challenging Issues Post-AHCA Vote

Thanks to all of you for assembling and discussing today's project. To recap, we are putting together a series of one-pagers addressing the most challenging issues, post-AHCA House vote.

(b)(5)

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(b)(5)

Pre-Decisional Communication

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 7:13 PM
To: Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC)
Subject: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 6:44 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

On: 24 March 2017 18:37, "Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)" <Margaret.Wynne@hhs.gov> wrote:
Attorney-client privilege for consultation:

Matt,

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

From: Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 12:21 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: (b)(5)

Maggie,

(b)(5)

Matt Bowman
Deputy General Counsel
HHS OGC
(b)(6)
matthew.bowman@hhs.gov

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 5:13 PM
To: Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC)
Subject: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 4:45 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 4:08 PM
To: Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Subject: (b)(5)

Hi Matt,

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Maggie

From: Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 3:48 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: (b)(5)

Hi Maggie,

(b)(5)

Thanks.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Page 188 of 550

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Sunday, March 19, 2017 3:01 PM
To: Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Subject: (b)(5)

Matt,

(b)(5)

Thanks,
Maggie

From: Espinosa, Diana (HRSA) [mailto:DEspinosa@hrsa.gov]
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 1:58 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Valentine, Steven (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Macrae, Jim (HRSA); Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Subject: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Diana Espinosa
Deputy Administrator
Health Resources and Services Administration/HHS
despinosa@hrsa.gov
301-443-2216

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 6:37 PM
To: Bowman, Matthew (HHS/IOS)
Subject: (b)(5)
Attachments:

Attorney-client privilege for consultation:

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(b)(5)

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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HHS OGC
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matthew.bowman@hhs.gov

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Page 193 of 550

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Maggie

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Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 1:58 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Valentine, Steven (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Macrae, Jim (HRSA); Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Subject: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Diana Espinosa
Deputy Administrator
Health Resources and Services Administration/HHS
despinosa@hrsa.gov
301-443-2216

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Carl Schmid <cschmid@theaidsinstitute.org>
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 2:38 PM
To: cschmid@theaidsinstitute.org
Subject: 146 Organizations Urge President Trump to Adequately Fund Domestic HIV Programs
Attachments: 03.24.17 ABAC_FY18 letter to Trump - Final.pdf

Please find attached a letter signed by 146 organizations urging President Trump to adequately fund domestic HIV programs as he and his Administration crafts its detailed FY18 budget. The letter was organized by the AIDS Budget and Appropriations Coalition (ABAC), a work group of the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership (FAPP).

HIV/AIDS remains a significant and serious public health concern in the United States with over 1.2 million people living with HIV and an estimated 37,600 new infections each year. Despite some recent progress in reducing the number of new infections, there are still too many new infections each year, with some specific communities and areas disproportionately affected. In terms of treatment, only 36 percent of people living with HIV in the U.S. have been prescribed antiretroviral treatment and only 30 percent are virally suppressed.

As stated in the letter:

> **If we take steps to adequately prevent HIV and provide treatment to those living with HIV, scientists believe we can actually end HIV and AIDS. But in order to reach that goal, we must continue to maintain a commitment to ending AIDS, provide the necessary leadership and provide the necessary resources for domestic HIV/AIDS and related programs.**

We ask that you maintain the federal government's commitment to safety net programs for low income people living with HIV/AIDS, such as the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program at HRSA and the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) program at HUD. In order to prevent new infections, we ask that you fully fund HIV, STD, and Hepatitis prevention programs at the CDC and throughout the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), as well as AIDS research at the NIH so that we may find a cure and address additional research priorities. In order to address the extreme racial and ethnic disparities and assist those communities most impacted by HIV, we also urge you to fully fund the Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI).

The letter describes each of these programs and their needs in more detail. (See ABAC funding chart or http://bit.ly/2nbJIaP for more detailed and historical funding levels for each program.)

We are pleased that in the President's Budget Blueprint, the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program was identified as a high priority program that delivers critical health care services to low-income and vulnerable populations.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

However, we are extremely concerned with the overall level of proposed cuts that, if enacted, would gut our nation's public health infrastructure. HHS would be cut by 18 percent. If that was applied to HIV prevention programs at the CDC, it would equal a reduction of over $141 million. The National Institutes of Health would be cut by $5.8 billion or 19 percent. If that was applied to the AIDS research portfolio, it would be a loss of $570 million. Under the Budget Blueprint, HUD would be cut by over 13 percent. If that was applied to the Housing Opportunities Program for People with AIDS (HOPWA) program it would be a drop of over $44 million. While the Budget Blueprint severely cuts non-defense discretionary (NDD) programs, it provides substantial increases in national security programs. As you develop your detailed budget, we urge you to reject these extreme cuts and take a balanced approach to non-defense and defense discretionary funding totals.

Should you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact ABAC co-chairs Carl Schmid at cschmid@theaidsinstitute.org, Emily McCloskey at emccloskey@nastad.org, or Carl Baloney at cbaloney@aidsunited.org.

Thank you very much,

Carl Schmid, The AIDS Institute

Carl Baloney, AIDS United

Emily McCloskey, NASTAD (National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors)

Attachment

Carl Schmid
Deputy Executive Director
The AIDS Institute
Washington DC
202/462-3042-office
(b)(6) cell
202/328-0467-fax
cschmid@theaidsinstitute.org

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 12:21 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: (b)(5)
Attachments:

Maggie,

(b)(5)

Matt Bowman
Deputy General Counsel
HHS OGC
(b)(6)
matthew.bowman@hhs.gov

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 5:13 PM
To: Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC)
Subject: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 4:45 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 4:08 PM
To: Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Subject: (b)(5)

Hi Matt,

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Maggie

From: Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 3:48 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: (b)(5)

Hi Maggie,

(b)(5)

Thanks.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Page 199 of 550

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Sunday, March 19, 2017 3:01 PM
To: Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Subject: (b)(5)

Matt,

(b)(5)

Thanks,
Maggie

From: Espinosa, Diana (HRSA) [mailto:DEspinosa@hrsa.gov]
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 1:58 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Valentine, Steven (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Macrae, Jim (HRSA); Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Subject: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Diana Espinosa
Deputy Administrator
Health Resources and Services Administration/HHS
despinosa@hrsa.gov
301-443-2216

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Sunday, March 19, 2017 3:01 PM
To: Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Subject: (b)(5)
Attachments:

Matt,

(b)(5)

Thanks,
Maggie

From: Espinosa, Diana (HRSA) [mailto:DEspinosa@hrsa.gov]
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 1:58 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Valentine, Steven (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Macrae, Jim (HRSA); Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Subject: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Diana Espinosa
Deputy Administrator
Health Resources and Services Administration/HHS
despinosa@hrsa.gov
301-443-2216

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 2:28 PM
To: Powers, Mary (HHS/IOS)
Subject: (b)(5)
Attachments:

(b)(5)

From: Espinosa, Diana (HRSA) [mailto:DEspinosa@hrsa.gov]
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 1:58 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Valentine, Steven (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Macrae, Jim (HRSA); Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Subject: HRSA FOA for Review

(b)(5)

Diana Espinosa
Deputy Administrator
Health Resources and Services Administration/HHS
despinosa@hrsa.gov
301-443-2216

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Brooks, John (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Saturday, March 11, 2017 10:07 AM
To: Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Cc: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: (b)(5)
Attachments:

(b)(5)

Best,

John

From: Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2017 9:44 PM
To: Brooks, John (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: Espinosa, Diana (HRSA) <DEspinosa@hrsa.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 6, 2017 5:18:57 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Valentine, Steven (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Macrae, Jim (HRSA); Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Subject: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Diana Espinosa
Deputy Administrator
Health Resources and Services Administration/HHS
despinosa@hrsa.gov
301-443-2216

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Valentine, Steven (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, March 07, 2017 2:41 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 8:29 PM
To: Valentine, Steven (HHS/IOS)
Subject: (b)(5)

Steven,

(b)(5)

Thanks,

Maggie

From: Valentine, Steven (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 5:56 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: (b)(5)

Maggie,

(b)(5)

Thanks,

Steven

From: Espinosa, Diana (HRSA) [mailto:DEspinosa@hrsa.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 9:00 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Macrae, Jim (HRSA); Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS); Valentine, Steven (HHS/IOS)
Subject: (b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS) [mailto:Margaret.Wynne@hhs.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 8:51 AM
To: Espinosa, Diana (HRSA) <DEspinosa@hrsa.gov>
Cc: Macrae, Jim (HRSA) <JMacrae@hrsa.gov>; Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS) <Matthew.Grove@HHS.GOV>; Valentine, Steven (HHS/IOS) <Steven.Valentine@hhs.gov>
Subject: (b)(5)

Diana,

(b)(5)

Thank you,
Maggie

From: Espinosa, Diana (HRSA) [mailto:DEspinosa@hrsa.gov]
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 5:38 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Valentine, Steven (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Macrae, Jim (HRSA); Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Subject (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Thanks.

Diana Espinosa
Deputy Administrator
Health Resources and Services Administration/HHS
despinosa@hrsa.gov
301-443-2216

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 9:37 PM
To: Brooks, John (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Valentine, Steven (HHS/IOS)
Subject: (b)(5)

Hi John,

(b)(5)

Maggie

From: Espinosa, Diana (HRSA) [mailto:DEspinosa@hrsa.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 5:19 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Valentine, Steven (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Macrae, Jim (HRSA); Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Subject: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Diana Espinosa
Deputy Administrator
Health Resources and Services Administration/HHS
despinosa@hrsa.gov
301-443-2216

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 8:29 PM
To: Valentine, Steven (HHS/IOS)
Subject: (b)(5)

Steven,

(b)(5)

Thanks,

Maggie

From: Valentine, Steven (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 5:56 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: (b)(5)

Maggie,

(b)(5)

Thanks,

Steven

From: Espinosa, Diana (HRSA) [mailto:DEspinosa@hrsa.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 9:00 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Macrae, Jim (HRSA); Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS); Valentine, Steven (HHS/IOS)
Subject: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS) [mailto:Margaret.Wynne@hhs.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 8:51 AM
To: Espinosa, Diana (HRSA) <DEspinosa@hrsa.gov>
Cc: Macrae, Jim (HRSA) <JMacrae@hrsa.gov>; Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS) <Matthew.Grove@HHS.GOV>; Valentine, Steven (HHS/IOS) <Steven.Valentine@hhs.gov>
Subject: (b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Diana,

(b)(5)

Thank you,
Maggie

From: Espinosa, Diana (HRSA) [mailto:DEspinosa@hrsa.gov]
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 5:38 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Valentine, Steven (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Macrae, Jim (HRSA); Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Subject: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Thanks.

Diana Espinosa
Deputy Administrator
Health Resources and Services Administration/HHS
despinosa@hrsa.gov
301-443-2216

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Espinosa, Diana (HRSA) <DEspinosa@hrsa.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 5:19 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Valentine, Steven (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Macrae, Jim (HRSA); Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Subject: (b)(5)
Attachments:

(b)(5)

Diana Espinosa
Deputy Administrator
Health Resources and Services Administration/HHS
despinosa@hrsa.gov
301-443-2216

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2017 7:31 PM
To: Gartland, Molly (HHS/IOS)
Subject: FW: map attached
Attachments: PP Maine and FQHCs services.docx

Molly,
Please use this one instead, and no need to put anything on the map. I think I've got it covered here.
Thanks!
Maggie

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2017 5:30 PM
To: Gartland, Molly (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: map attached

I hope the attached is what Lance wants to accompany the map!

From: Gartland, Molly (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2017 12:00 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: map attached

Hi Maggie,

(b)(5)

Best,
Molly Gartland
Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff
Office of the Secretary – HHS
O: (202) 260-7503
C: (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2017 9:01 PM
To: Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS)
Subject: Maine document
Attachments: PP Maine and FQHCs services (3).docx

Lance,

I'm sorry this is late(ish).

I also sent it to Molly.

I think this is what you were looking for, but let me know if you would like changes.

Maggie

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Hawkins, Jamar (HHS/OS)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 10:18 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Zebley, Kyle (HHS/IOS); Powers, Mary (HHS/IOS)
Subject: Follow UP -- Item #11
Attachments: NIH Week Ahead Report and Addendum 03 02 2017.pdf

Maggie:

(b)(5)

Jamar M. Hawkins
Team Lead – Science & Public Health
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services | Executive Secretariat
200 Independence Ave., SW – Suite 615H – Washington, D.C. 20201
Office: 202.205.6380 | Fax: 202.205.2135

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Hawkins, Jamar (HHS/OS)
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 11:26 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: FW: NIH Week Ahead Report 03.02.17
Attachments: NIH Week Ahead Report and Addendum 03 02 2017.pdf; NIH Week Ahead Report_ 03-02-17.docx; 2017-03-03_Policy Team Meeting Agenda.docx

Maggie:

Here's the separate email with the Week Ahead. It was also added to the calendar invite. I am going to do that every week.

From: Allen-Gifford, Patrice (NIH/OD) [E] [mailto:patrice.allen-gifford@nih.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2017 11:37 AM
To: Hawkins, Jamar (HHS/OS)
Cc: Koeneman, Sandy (NIH/OD) [E]; Di Mantova, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]; Boskent, Celeste (NIH/OD) [E]
Subject: NIH Week Ahead Report 03.02.17

Good morning Jamar,

In preparation for the Policy Team's meeting with Dr. Collins and Dr. Tabak tomorrow, March 3, attached is NIH's Week-Ahead Report for the Policy Team. As in previous weeks, we are providing the report as a **word document** and as part of a **bookmarked PDF** that includes an addendum of documents supporting discussions at the meeting. In addition, I have attached the **Agenda** for the meeting.

Please let us know if you or the Policy Team need any further information.

Best,
Patrice

Patrice Allen-Gifford
Director
Executive Secretariat
National Institutes of Health
One Center Drive, B1-46
Bethesda, MD 20892
Tel: 301-496-3976

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Powers, Mary (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 7:33 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: Fwd: HHS Secretary's News Briefing for Wednesday, March 01, 2017

HUMAN-ANIMAL HYBRIDS: A CURE FOR THE ORGAN SHORTAGE?

U.S. News & World Report (2/28, Elaine Cox, M.D.)

In her U.S. News & World Report column, Elaine Cox, MD, medical director of infection prevention and clinical safety officer at Riley Children's Health, suggests human-animal hybrids known as chimeras could help cut the organ waiting list by increasing the supply of organs, but the development of such hybrids also raises ethical concerns. Cox argues that chimeras could be a feasible solution for the long waiting lists for organs, but she points out that the National Institutes of Health has imposed a moratorium on funding such research in large part because of ethical concerns

Mary Powers
Special Assistant
Department of Health and Human Services

From: "Bulletin Intelligence" <HHS@BulletinIntelligence.com>
Subject: HHS Secretary's News Briefing for Wednesday, March 01, 2017
Date: 01 March 2017 06:08
To: "HHS@BulletinIntelligence.com" <HHS@BulletinIntelligence.com>

HHS SECRETARY'S NEWS BRIEFING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2017 6:00 AM EST

Zika Virus News:

FEDERAL OFFICIALS ARE AUDITING D.C. PUBLIC HEALTH LAB IN WAKE OF BOTCHED ZIKA TESTS

Washington Post (2/28, Peter Jamison)

The Washington Post reports CMS officials are auditing DC's public health lab "in response to botched Zika testing that erroneously provided negative results to at least nine pregnant women, D.C. Department of Forensic Sciences Director Jenifer Smith said Tuesday." Subsequent testing by CDC were "inconclusive for eight of them and confirmed that one had a Zika infection, public-health officials said." Interviews and public documents have shown the "debacle unfolded over a period of months last year in which the District lab was in a state of turmoil – understaffed, lacking permanent leadership, spread thin on competing projects, and relying on new employees to test for the emerging public health threat in Zika."

Top National Stories:

DONALD TRUMP ASKS CONGRESS TO UNITE BEHIND HEALTH CARE, TAX OVERHAULS

Wall Street Journal (2/28, Michael C. Bender and Louise Radnofsky)

The Wall Street Journal reports on its front page that President Trump called on Congress to unite behind his calls for overhauling healthcare and the nation's tax laws. Trump referred to the surge in nationalism as a renewal of the American spirit.

More Coverage. Conservatives Rebel On Health Care, And GOP Looks To Trump (Associated Press, 2/28, Erica Werner and Alan Fram), Trump Declares It's 'Time To Join Forces' To Fix US Problems (Associated Press, 2/28, Julie Pace), Trump Opposes Required Health Benefits But Reveals Few Details Of His Plan To End The ACA (Washington Post, 2/28, Amy Goldstein), Trump Proposed 5 Specific Policies To Replace Obamacare. Here's How They Work. (Vox, 2/28), Trump Backs Healthcare Tax Credit Amid Conservative Opposition (The Hill, 2/28, Peter Sullivan), Trump Backs Health-Care Tax Credits That Have Split Republicans (Bloomberg News, 3/1, Anna Edney), BREAKING: Trump Calls For Tax Credits

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

In Address To Congress (Modern Healthcare, 2/28), Donald Trump Talks Health Care To Congress But Doesn't Say Much (Huffington Post, 2/28), It Looks Like President Trump Just Took Sides In Republican Debate Over Obamacare (Washington Examiner, 3/1), Trump And Health Care: President Gives Congress Five Principles For Obamacare Replacement (CNBC, 2/28), Trump Lays Out Ambitious Plans For Healthcare And Immigration In A Disciplined Speech To Congress (Los Angeles Times, 2/28, Noah Bierman , Michael A. Memoli and Brian Bennett), No Bragging, No Booing: Trump Gives Presidential Speech, And Republicans Cheer (McClatchy, 2/28), Republicans Fight Over What Trump Meant On Obamacare (Politico, 3/1, Seung Min Kim and Rachael Bade), Trump Embraces Key GOP Healthcare Proposals In Address To Congress (Newsweek, 2/28, Emily Cadei), Trump Lays Out Details On Dismantling ObamaCare (Fox News, 2/28), Fact-checking Donald Trump's Claim About Soaring Obamacare Premiums (PolitiFact, 2/28), Trump's Pledge To Cut Health Care Costs Won't Come Cheap (CNBC, 2/28)

IN DEM REPLY, FORMER KY GOV SAYS TRUMP WOULD 'RIP' AWAY CARE

Associated Press (2/28, Alan Fram and Kevin Freking)

The AP reports former Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear accused President Trump of planning to "rip affordable health insurance" from Americans during his response to the presidents address to a joint session of Congress on Tuesday. During Beshear's rebuttal, he took a populist tone, and he criticized Trump for his negative tone towards the intelligence agencies, Federal courts, the press, and others.

More Coverage. Former Kentucky Governor Uses Trump Rebuttal To Defend Obamacare (New York Daily News, 2/28, Christopher Brennan), Response To Trump Address Portrays Obamacare As Working Class Pillar (Politico, 2/28, Politico Staff), Trump Is 'Wall Street's Champion,' Says Dem In Rebuttal (The Hill, 2/28, Jonathan Easley), Democratic Response On Obamacare: 'This Isn't A Game' (Washington Examiner, 3/1), Former Kentucky Gov Blasts Trump, GOP Over ObamaCare Claims In Dem Rebuttal (Fox News, 2/28), Democrat Steve Beshear Rallies Party To Protect Obamacare (Wall Street Journal, 2/28, Reid J. Epstein), Dems Give Thumbs Down For Trump's Push To Repeal And Replace ObamaCare (The Hill, 2/28, Rebecca Savransky)

DONALD TRUMP FACES A CONSERVATIVE REVOLT IN CONGRESS

Wall Street Journal (2/28, Kristina Peterson and Stephanie Armour)

The Wall Street Journal reports conservatives in Congress are in revolt and President Trump will need to quell the uprising if he hopes to move his legislative agenda. As an example, the Journal cites conservative opposition to the leaked Affordable Care Act repeal and replacement plan.

More Coverage: TV. Republicans Divided Over How To Replace The ACA, Hope Trump Will Be Unifying Force (ABC World News Tonight, 2/28), Republicans Divided Over How To Replace The ACA, Hope Trump Will Be Unifying Force (NBC Nightly News, 2/28), Republicans Divided Over How To Replace The ACA, Hope Trump Will Be Unifying Force (CBS Evening News, 2/28)

More Coverage: Print and Online. Trump's Speech Can't Mend GOP Schisms On Obamacare (Politico, 2/28, Jennifer Haberkorn), GOP Hopes Trump Will Unify Party Around Obamacare Replacement (Washington Examiner, 2/28), McConnell: GOP Not In 'Same Place' On ObamaCare Strategy (The Hill, 2/28, Jordain Carney), Conservatives Say They're Tired Of Seeing Obamacare Drafts Via Leaks (CNN, 2/28, Lauren Fox), Donald Trump Congressional Address: Obamacare Fight Splinters GOP (Fortune, 2/28), Republicans Near Make-or-break Moment On Obamacare Repeal (Politico, 2/28, Burgess Everett and Jennifer Haberkorn), Desperate For Presidential Leadership, Republicans Find Little (New York Times, 2/28, Jennifer Steinhauer and Emmarie Huetteman), The GOP Obamacare Repeal And Replace Plan Is Flailing. Will Trump Help Republicans? (Huffington Post, 2/28)

Health Insurance Marketplaces:

OBAMACARE DEDUCTIBLES TO CLIMB SHARPLY FOR 1/4 OF CUSTOMERS

Hartford (CT) Courant (2/28)

The Hartford (CT) Courant reports that on Tuesday, Access Health CT's board voted to increase deductibles for certain customers with Affordable Care Act plans. The article explains that for ACA plans, "customers' deductibles in Silver plans vary according to their income." Therefore, those with higher incomes will see their deductibles go up by 25 percent to $5,000 next year. This change will impact about 16 percent of the exchange's customers. Meanwhile, other customers will also see higher deductibles or no increases at all.

Health Reform & Healthcare:

RYAN DISMISSES CONSERVATIVE OPPOSITION TO HIS OBAMACARE REPLACEMENT

Politico (2/28, Rachael Bade)

Politico reports that on Tuesday, House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) "dismissed growing conservative opposition to his

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Obamacare alternative...even as his allies simmer over the far-right's bid to derail GOP leadership's repeal strategy." Ryan denied claims that the GOP is divided over how to replace the Affordable Care Act, and he "would not commit to tweaking his draft proposal to accommodate hard-liners." He stated, "This is a plan that we are all working on together: the House, the Senate and the White House, so there aren't rival plans here. ... We're all working on this together with the administration."

More Coverage. Ryan: We Are Really 'In A Rescue Mission' With Healthcare (The Hill, 2/28, Nikita Vladimirov), U.S. House Speaker Vows Republican Unity On Healthcare Overhaul (Reuters, 2/28, David Morgan), Speaker Paul Ryan Downplays Divisions Over Health Plan (Washington Times, 2/28, Tom Howell Jr.)

PAUL RYAN: 'WE ARE HOSED' IF WE DON'T TACKLE ENTITLEMENTS LIKE MEDICARE

CNN (2/28, Dana Bash, Jim Acosta and Jake Tapper)

On its website, CNN reports that President Trump promised during the campaign not to cut Medicare benefits, but House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) "said he thinks that is still an 'open question.'" He said on Tuesday morning, "From all my conversations with the President, he says 'I don't want to change Medicare benefits for people in or near retirement,' and we agree with that." The article adds that Ryan has sought a Medicare overhaul for years, arguing that it is critical to shore up the program's finances. Ryan warned on Tuesday that "we are hosed" if lawmakers do not begin curtailing Medicare spending. Meanwhile, GOP lawmakers are working to overhaul the Affordable Care Act, and unnamed sources "say they expect Trump to embrace concepts they have been outlining – ideas Ryan along with Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price, a former congressman, have been pushing for years."

More Coverage. Paul Ryan: Repealing And Replacing Obamacare Is Entitlement Reform (Washington Times, 2/28, David Sherfinski), Ryan Not Bothered By Lack Of Entitlement Reform In Trump's Budget (Washington Examiner, 2/28)

WASHINGTON GOVERNOR: 'RED FLAGS' THAT AMERICANS COULD LOSE COVERAGE

CNN (2/28, Eugene Scott)

On its website, CNN reports that on Tuesday, Washington state Gov. Jay Inslee (D) said "the Trump administration's unwillingness to promise that Americans would not lose coverage if the Affordable Care Act is repealed is a 'red flag.'" He said HHS Secretary Tom Price's inability to assure governors that their citizens will not lose coverage when the ACA is replaced "is a red warning sign. And the red flags are going up big time in this effort."

CONSERVATIVE CHAIRMAN FACES BLOWBACK OVER OBAMACARE STATEMENT

The Hill (2/28, Scott Wong)

The Hill reports that several members of the Republican Study Committee are unhappy with Chairman Rep. Mark Walker (R-NC), who issued a statement on behalf of the group "opposing a leaked draft ObamaCare repeal and replacement plan." Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI) said on Tuesday that he "approached Walker on Monday night on the House floor to decry Walker's decision to release the statement using letterhead from the 172-member RSC." Said Walberg, "I asked him, 'Are you speaking on behalf of the RSC or yourself?' He said, 'Myself.' Well, I think it should have been done with no RSC letterhead. ... As far as I'm concerned, [the statement suggested that] he's speaking for me." The Hill describes this incident as "yet another example of GOP infighting as the party struggles to find a way forward on their top legislative priority: repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act."

More Coverage. GOP Looks For ObamaCare Path As Right Lashes Out (The Hill, 2/28, Peter Sullivan and Scott Wong)

MCCONNELL SLAMS BESHEAR AHEAD OF TRUMP REBUTTAL

Politico (2/28, Burgess Everett)

Politico reports that even before Steve Beshear was supposed to give his rebuttal to President Trump's speech on Tuesday night, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) "pummeled the former Kentucky governor as the 'poster child' for Obamacare's failures." The article says "Beshear's selection by Democratic leaders revives a long-running feud between" McConnell "and Beshear over the health care law, which Beshear, a Democrat, embraced as governor," much to the GOP leader's dismay. According to McConnell, "Beshear's implementation of Obamacare on the Kynect exchange and Medicaid expansion has been a 'disaster' that is still hurting Kentucky more than a year after Beshear retired."

More Coverage. McConnell Rips Ex-Kentucky Governor Ahead Of Trump Rebuttal (The Hill, 2/28, Mark Hensch), McConnell: Dem Response Presenter 'Poster Child' For Obamacare Disaster (Washington Examiner, 2/28), Mitch McConnell Takes Swipe At Steve Beshear Ahead Of Trump Speech Tuesday (McClatchy, 2/28)

GOP LEADER: LEAKED OBAMACARE REPLACEMENT 'NO LONGER' VIABLE

The Hill (2/28, Scott Wong and Jessie Hellmann)

The Hill reports that after House conservatives strongly criticized "a leaked GOP draft ObamaCare replacement plan, a top Republican leader on Tuesday described the proposed legislation as 'no longer even a viable draft that we're working

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

off of.'" Majority Whip Steve Scalise (R-LA) said the draft is no longer valid, and that GOP leaders are working directly with conservative lawmakers to reach a consensus on a replacement for the Affordable Care Act.

GOP REP: EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE HEALTH COVERAGE
The Hill (2/28, Mallory Shelbourne)
The Hill reports Rep. Michael Burgess (R-TX) said GOP lawmakers' plan to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act "will include accessible and affordable health coverage." Burgess stated, "I think everyone should have a policy that is accessible and affordable." He added, "Again, that doesn't mean cheap, but it does mean affordable within what the disposable income a family has to spend each month. I do think that's possible."

WASHINGTON GOV: GOP IN 'HEAD-ON COLLISION WITH REALITY' OVER OBAMACARE
The Hill (2/28, Max Greenwood)
The Hill reports that GOP lawmakers have started "to grapple with the difficult reality of reforming healthcare, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee (D) said Tuesday, describing the current situation as 'confusion wrapped around chaos.'" According to Inslee, "Republicans are having a head-on collision with reality." He said that after meeting with President Trump and other governors on healthcare earlier this week, he remains concerned about efforts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. Indeed, Inslee stated on Tuesday that "he has 'zero confidence' that the White House has a coherent plan to replace ObamaCare."

COLON AND RECTAL CANCERS SURGE AMONG MILLENNIALS AND GENERATION X
USA Today (2/28, Kim Painter)
USA Today reports that research published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute indicates "colon and rectal cancers have increased dramatically and steadily in millennials and Generation X adults in the United States over the past four decades."

More Coverage: Print and Online. Colon And Rectal Cancers Rising In Young People (New York Times, 2/28, Roni Caryn Rabin), Born In The '90s? Your Colon Cancer Risk Could Be Rising (CNN, 2/28, Michael Nedelman), Colorectal Cancer Rates Soar In Younger People (NBC News, 2/28), Colon Cancer's Up Among Gen Xers And Millennials, But Scientists Say Reasons Are Elusive : Shots (NPR, 2/28), Colorectal Cancer Rates Rising Sharply Among Gen X And Millennials (Washington Post, 2/28, Laurie McGinley), Colorectal Cancer Rates Rising In Gen X And Millennials, Study Finds (CBS News, 2/28), Colon Cancer Rates Rise Among Gen X, Millennials: Study (AFP, 2/28), Colorectal Cancer Rare But Rising Among Millennials, Gen X (Associated Press, 2/28, Lauran Neergaard), Colorectal Cancer Rates Increasing Sharply Among Younger Adults, Study Finds (ABC News, 2/28), Colorectal Cancer Rates Are Rising Among Younger Americans Even As They're Falling For Others (Los Angeles Times, 2/28, Melissa Healy)

CURES ACT SPONSORS WARN AGAINST TRUMP'S HIRING FREEZE
The Hill (2/28, Peter Sullivan)
The Hill reports Reps. Fred Upton (R-MI) and Diana DeGette (R-CO) said that President Trump's hiring freeze could harm the implementation of the 21st Century Cures Act by preventing the Food and Drug Administration from hiring the additional workers needed "to expedite the approval of new drugs and devices" under the law. DeGette said, "If you don't have the staffing and resources at the FDA to actually do the drug and device approval process, then it doesn't really help you if you come up with the most fantastic new cures with the NIH money that we've gotten."

Blogs:

GOP HITS OBAMACARE REPEAL ROADBLOCKS
Business Insider (2/28, Bob Bryan)
Bob Bryan writes in a Business Insider blog post that the biggest obstacle for a Republican alternative to the ACA is the GOP itself. Conservatives are bickering over the details of what should go into their alternative, and it is slowing down progress of crafting a suitable alternative.

BERNIE SANDERS LAUGHS AFTER TRUMP COMPLICATED HEALTHCARE CLAIM
Business Insider (2/28, Bob Bryan)
Bob Bryan writes at Business Insider that Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) "burst into laughter" after President Trump claimed nobody knew healthcare was so complicated. Sanders claims it was obvious for anyone who sits on the Health and Education Committee.

HIGH-RISK POOLS OFFER LITTLE HELP AT A HIGH COST
Health Affairs (2/28, Jeanne Lambrew and Ellen Montz)
Jeanne Lambrew and Ellen Montz write for Health Affairs in its blog that High-Risk Pools create more problems than solutions, because it's hard for managers to "chart a steady course." The authors say it is "almost impossible to budget for

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the program due to the unpredictability of costs," and enrollment is limited.

REPUBLICANS' FINAL HEINOUS PUSH FOR OBAMACARE REPEAL
New Republic (2/28, Brian Beutler)
Brian Beutler writes in a New Republic blog post that GOP lawmakers are pitching the ACA as a failure in order to help cover themselves from criticism should the number of uninsured residents skyrocked after a repeal of the ACA. Beutler argues that the GOP reasoning falls flat because none of the elected officials are ever without insurance, so they have no idea as to the implications of throwing people off the healthcare roles.

ARE REPUBLICANS READY TO CHARGE AHEAD ON OBAMACARE REPEAL?
Talking Points Memo (2/28, Tierney Sneed)
Tierney Sneed writes in a blog post for Talking Points Memo that after seven years of railing against Obama's signature achievement, the movement to repeal the ACA is in a "do-or-die" moment for the GOP.

CONSERVATIVE GROUPS CHEER ON REVOLT AGAINST GOP DRAFT O'CARE REPLACEMENT
Talking Points Memo (2/28, Tierney Sneed)
Tierney Sneed writes at Talking Points Memo that hardline congressional Republicans who oppose the leaked draft of the ACA replacement have gained the support of conservative groups Club for Growth and FreedomWorks. FreedomWorks CEO Adam Brandon called the mainstream GOP efforts to replace the ACA stunningly hypocritical.

HOUSE CONSERVATIVES TORPEDO LEAKED OBAMACARE 'REPLACEMENT' PLAN
Think Progress (2/28, Josh Israel)
Josh Israel writes in a blog post for Think Progress that GOP leaders have abandoned the leaked draft legislation to replace the ACA after a large number of conservative Republicans began criticizing the proposal. Israel writes that despite abandoning the proposal, Republicans have promised to "eventually pass some repeal and replace legislation."

DONALD TRUMP NEARLY RESOLVED THE MAJOR GOP SPLIT OVER OBAMACARE. BUT THEN HE DIDN'T.
Slate (3/1, Jim Newell)
Jim Newell writes in a blog post for Slate that Trump effectively settled the debate over the future of the ACA's replacement legislation by advocating for tax credits. Newell writes that while Trump did not explicitly endorse the leaked draft of the ACA's replacement, he essentially give his support for the leadership's plan.

TRUMP STATE OF THE UNION SPEECH ON OBAMACARE REPEAL REPLACE
Business Insider (2/28, Bob Bryan)
Bob Bryan writes in a blog post for Business Insider that President Trump's vision for the future of the ACA leans more on tax credits to help cover the cost and less on his earlier pledge to guarantee coverage for people with pre-existing conditions. Bryan writes that much of what Trump claimed about the ACA is simply not true or is already in the law, despite his claims that a replacement is a necessity.

Opinion:

NOBODY KNEW HEALTH CARE COULD BE SO COMPLICATED OR A PRESIDENT SO STUPID
Washington Post (2/28, Tom Toles)
Tom Toles, the editorial cartoonist for the Washington Post, writes in an opinion piece that when President Donald Trump said, "Nobody knew that health care could be so complicated," the President admitted that "he hadn't understood health care during the campaign," that "he hadn't even looked into it during the campaign," and "he thinks that if he doesn't understand something, nobody else could either." Toles argues that Trump's statement is also an admission that his campaign plan on healthcare "was dreamed up without any understanding whatsoever of how the health-care system actually worked."

DONALD TRUMP LEARNS THAT REFORMING HEALTH CARE IS "COMPLICATED"
The New Yorker (2/28, Ryan Lizza)
In an opinion piece, New Yorker correspondent Ryan Lizza writes that the "environment" for healthcare reform under the Trump Administration "is far more precarious" than the environment under the Obama Administration. Lizza argues that Trump is unlikely to pass healthcare reform because he lacks the "passion" to pass such reform, and has less political capital than Obama had when he passed the Affordable Care Act.

GOP'S LEAKED 'REPEAL AND REPLACE' PLAN IS THE SCORPION STRIKING THE FROG
The Hill (2/28, M. Gregg Bloche)
M. Gregg Bloche, M.D., J.D., a law professor at Georgetown University, writes in an opinion piece in The Hill's "Pundits Blog" that Republicans' leaked healthcare reform proposal would hurt many people in their base, which Bloche compares

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to the parable of the frog and the scorpion. Bloche argues that the plan "will sting President Trump's older, lower-income base disproportionately," but that "unlike the frog, these Americans can deliver payback."

REPUBLICANS ARE HEADED FOR HUGE CLASHES WITH TRUMP

Washington Post (2/28, Jennifer Rubin)

In an opinion piece, the Washington Post "Right Turn" blog contributor Jennifer Rubin writes that Congressional Republicans are headed for a huge clash with President Trump on several issues including healthcare reform. Rubin argues that "the White House seems oblivious to the unworkability of its plans and the fundamental differences within the GOP ranks."

WILL REPUBLICANS INCREASE RED TAPE IN THE HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY?

The Hill (2/28, Jerry Rogers)

Jerry Rogers, the vice president of the Institute for Liberty, writes in an opinion piece in The Hill "Pundits Blog" that some Congressional Republicans are considering the Competitive Health Insurance Act of 2017, which would "allow for the sale of health insurance over state lines" and also "eliminate a long-standing exemption from federal antitrust laws for health insurance companies." Rogers argues that "the bill is still a Trojan Horse of federal government regulation," because eliminating the exemption would "lead to more bureaucracy and higher premiums for American families."

KILLING OBAMACARE COULD KILL ME: VOICES

USA Today (2/28, Will Cathcart)

Will Cathcart, a freelance journalist, writes in an opinion piece in USA Today that repealing the Affordable Care Act could kill him, because he has cystic fibrosis and he depends on the law for access to healthcare coverage. Cathcart says that "statistically" he only has seven years left, but that a new drug "has miraculously reversed the course of this disease for hundreds (and potentially thousands) of people, including me, with a certain form of CF." Cathcart says that without the Affordable Care Act he would not have health insurance and he would not be able to afford the potentially life-saving medication out-of-pocket.

NO, STEVE BANNON IS NOT GOING TO SAVE YOUR HEALTH CARE

Washington Post (3/1, Stephen Stromberg)

Stephen Stromberg writes for The Washington Post in its "Post Partisan" blog that Trump's address to a joint session of Congress Tuesday embraced Speaker Paul Ryan's (R-WI) repeal and replace template, notching a victory for traditional Republicans. Stromberg argues that Trump's address joined himself and Ryan around a replacement plan, which goes against the plan many conservative Republicans are pushing.

HOW OBAMACARE PUNISHES THE SICK

Wall Street Journal (2/28, Michael F. Cannon)

In a guest editorial piece for The Wall Street Journal Michael Cannon writes that the ACA disadvantages people who have preexisting conditions because insurance companies are forced to take a loss on every patient who uses more coverage than they pay for. As a result, insurers are engaging in a race to the bottom in terms of coverage in an attempt to cut their losses, which results in lower-quality coverage for expansive conditions. Thus, Cannon argues Republicans can't keep their promise of repealing the ACA and improving access for the sick without changing the ACA's penalties on high-quality coverage.

GOOD TALK, MR. PRESIDENT, BUT AMERICA IS STILL NOT BUYING WHAT YOU'RE SELLING

The Hill (2/28, Maria T. Cardona)

In an opinion piece for The Hill "Pundits Blog" Maria Cardona writes that the President did not convince most Americans he would be governing in the best interest of all Americans. Cardona challenges Trump's claim that surging optimism is sweeping the nation, saying it is especially untrue in Muslim neighborhoods and immigrant communities. Cardona finishes by arguing that "Trump does not let facts or truth get in the way of an applause line."

TRUMP DISCOVERS THE OBAMACARE REALITY: IT'S 'COMPLICATED'

Chicago Tribune (2/28, Clarence Page)

Clarence Page writes in the Chicago Tribune "Page's Page" blog that President Trump is continuing his "on-the-job training" after he revealed reforming healthcare is a difficult task. Page argues that despite Trump's claim that the ACA is terrible, he has begun to warm up to most of its policies. As a result, many GOP officials and former House Speaker John Boehner argue that instead of replacing the entire legislation, legislators will simply fix the flaws with the law.

OVERREGULATION IS FORCING WOMEN TO HAVE LATE-TERM ABORTIONS

Los Angeles Times (2/28, Daniel Grossman)

Daniel Grossman, professor of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences and director of the research group Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health at UC San Francisco, writes in an opinion piece in the Los Angeles

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Times that restricting access is causing patients to have late-term abortions. When the Texas Legislature passed "one of the most restrictive abortion laws in the nation" in 2013, over half of the state's clinics closed. In the year after the law's implementation, "second-trimester abortion increased 27%." Grossman also says the increased scrutiny of mifepristone has "limited the way the medication can be distributed," despite its "extensive positive safety record." Grossman concludes, "Adding hurdles that force women to obtain an abortion later in pregnancy...is bad for women's health."

HUMAN-ANIMAL HYBRIDS: A CURE FOR THE ORGAN SHORTAGE?
U.S. News & World Report (2/28, Elaine Cox, M.D.)
In her U.S. News & World Report column, Elaine Cox, MD, medical director of infection prevention and clinical safety officer at Riley Children's Health, suggests human-animal hybrids known as chimeras could help cut the organ waiting list by increasing the supply of organs, but the development of such hybrids also raises ethical concerns. Cox argues that chimeras could be a feasible solution for the long waiting lists for organs, but she points out that the National Institutes of Health has imposed a moratorium on funding such research in large part because of ethical concerns.

More Coverage. A Cure For The Organ Shortage? (Yahoo! News, 2/28)

TEXAS COULD RADICALLY STREAMLINE ITS MEDICAID ADMINISTRATION
The Hill (2/28, Dr. Deane Waldman)
Dr. Deane Waldman, the Director of the Texas Public Policy Foundation's Center for Health Care Policy, writes in an opinion piece in The Hill's "Pundits Blog" that Texas should submit a Sect. 1115 waiver request to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services seeking authorization to streamline administration of the state's Medicaid program at the state level. Waldman argues that states should have control of their own Medicaid programs, and that other states should follow an approach similar to one that was proposed in Texas several years ago.

National Front Page News:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
In Speech To Congress, Trump Looks To Jump-Start Momentum
Trump's New Order Would Likely Exempt Existing Visa Holders From Travel Ban
Inside Harvard's Radical Plan To Reverse A Decade Of Poor Returns
Target Gets A Lesson That Low Prices Matter

New York Times:
Trump, In Optimistic Address, Asks Congress To End "Trivial Fights"
Sessions Indicates Justice Department Will Stop Monitoring Troubled Police Agencies
Threats And Vandalism Leave American Jews On Edge In Trump Era
Russia And US Clash Over Syria In Security Council Vote
As France's Towns Wither, Fears Of A Decline In "Frenchness"
Metropolitan Museum's Director Resigns Under Pressure

Washington Post:
In Two Addresses, Trump Juggles Contradicting Worldviews
Ahead Of Speech, President Signals Flexibility On Legal Status Pathway
Colorectal Cancer Rates Rise In US Millennials
The Key To Unlock Their Autistic Son's Voice
FBI Was To Pay Author Of Trump Dossier

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: McGuffee, Tyler Ann (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 5:43 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Daravi, Kamran (HHS/IOS); Zebley, Kyle (HHS/IOS); Powers, Mary (HHS/IOS); Aramanda, Alec (HHS/IOS)
Subject: HHS Meeting Requets -Rep. Cuellar - March 8, 2017

Maggie,
Please see the clearance request below for CDC, NIH and ASPR.
Please let Alec and I know if you have any concerns.

ASPR

(b)(5)

CDC

(b)(5)

NIH

(b)(5)

Thank you,
TAM

From: Bradsher, Kris (HHS/ASL)
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 2:59 PM
To: McGuffee, Tyler Ann (HHS/IOS); Aramanda, Alec (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Khalife, Alexandra (HHS/ASL); Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL)
Subject: RE: HHS Meeting Requets -Rep. Cuellar - March 8, 2017

Hi Tyler Ann and Alec,

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Will be great to get feedback by Monday if possible.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Kris

Date Need Clearance: Monday, March 6

Request (include office/organization requesting): Briefing Request from Rep. Cuellar to meet with CDC, ASPR and NIH. Below is the request from Juan Sanchez (staffer for Rep. Cuellar)

ASPR

(b)(5)

CDC

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Audience/attendees: Congressman Henry Cuellar; City of Laredo -City Manager Jesus Olivarez; Dr. Hector Gonzalez Health Department Director

Background: The following information was provided by Juan Sanchez (Staffer for Rep. Cuellar)

The United States/Mexico Border is at high risk for infectious diseases and bioterrorism. We are an international border and Laredo is the number one (1) inland port of entry with 40% of all US inland goods passing through Laredo's four (4) international bridges, 16,000 trucks cross daily through one (1) international bridge. Laredo serves as a HUB for other rural and smaller counties further increasing growth (100,000 daily) and with our sister city of Nuevo Laredo, Mexico our MSA is over one million. These conditions promote daily health security and all hazardous threats by current, emerging and new diseases on the Texas/Mexico border. Some of these potential threats are new diseases; such as, Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERs), H1N1, Ebola, Zika and other highly infectious diseases. We also have the continued threat of Dengue and West Nile Virus, Botulism, Ricin, Multi Drug Resistant Tuberculosis and now Chikungunya Virus. Anyone of these could pose a serious health threat and/or serve as a bioterrorist attack.
Population - In 2010-2014, Laredo, Texas has a total population of 245,000 -- 126,200 (51 percent) females and 118,900 (49 percent) males. The median age was 28.3 years. An estimated 34 percent of the population was under 18 years and 8 percent was 65 years and older

Laredo is a at risk region that is medically underserved with a population that has pressing health and social needs. Is has is designated a Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) Geographic High Needs, and a Medically Underserved Area/ Populations It has among our nation's highest rates of poverty and uninsured residents. The residents are disproportionately affected by diabetes, substance abuse, mental health disorders, teen pregnancy, cervical cancer, obesity, sexually transmitted diseases and tuberculosis. There is a high demand for health care services but unfortunately the demand exceeds the supply of doctors.
Laredo and the border area have one of the lowest rates of physicians per capita in the nation.

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Disability - In Laredo, Texas, among the civilian noninstitutionalized population in 2010-2014, 12 percent reported a disability. The likelihood of having a disability varied by age - from 6 percent of people under 18 years old, to 10 percent of people 18 to 64 years old, and to 54 percent of those 65 and over.

The median income of households in Laredo, Texas was $39,408. An estimated 20 percent of households had income below $15,000 a year and 5 percent had income over $150,000 or more.

An estimated 83 percent of the households received earnings and 9 percent received retirement income other than Social Security. An estimated 24 percent of the households received Social Security. The average income from Social Security was $12,565. These income sources are not mutually exclusive; that is, some households received income from more than one source.

Poverty - In 2010-2014, 31 percent of people were in poverty. An estimated 42 percent of related children under 18 were below the poverty level, compared with 24 percent of people 65 years old and over. An estimated 27 percent of all families and 45 percent of families with a female householder and no husband present had incomes below the poverty level.
Health Insurance - Among the civilian noninstitutionalized population in Laredo, Texas in 2010-2014, 66 percent had health insurance coverage and 34 percent did not have health insurance coverage. For those under 18 years of age, 16 percent had no health insurance coverage. The civilian noninstitutionalized population had both private and public health insurance, with 35 percent having private coverage and 35 percent having public coverage.

Federal Participant seeking clearance: CDC, ASPR, and NIH

Slides or handouts? No

Time/Location: March 8, 2017 at 1 p.m. at Member Office 2209 RHOB

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

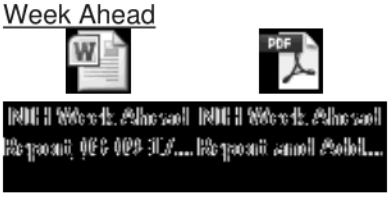
From: Hawkins, Jamar (HHS/OS)
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 3:07 PM
To: Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Zebley, Kyle (HHS/OS/OGA); Powers, Mary (HHS/IOS)
Subject: NIH Meeting -- Tomorrow at 10am

Mary-Sumpter:

Good afternoon, NIH is excited to meet you tomorrow during the weekly check-in. Attached is an agenda along with their updated submission for items that require your attention. I'm including Maggie and others on this message to help identify pending items that have overlap. I believe Drs. Collins and Tabak will be here in person.

Agenda

Week Ahead



Jamar M. Hawkins
Team Lead – Science & Public Health
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services | Executive Secretariat
200 Independence Ave., SW – Suite 615H – Washington, D.C. 20201
Office: 202.205.6380 | Fax: 202.205.2135

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 8:22 AM
To: McGuffee, Tyler Ann (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Daravi, Kamran (HHS/IOS); Zebley, Kyle (HHS/IOS); Powers, Mary (HHS/IOS); Aramanda, Alec (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: HHS Meeting Requets -Rep. Cuellar - March 8, 2017

Tyler Ann,

(b)(5)

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Maggie
(b)(6)

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(b)(5)

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(b)(5)

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Health Insurance - Among the civilian noninstitutionalized population in Laredo, Texas in 2010-2014, 66 percent had health insurance coverage and 34 percent did not have health insurance coverage. For those under 18 years of age, 16 percent had no health insurance coverage. The civilian noninstitutionalized population had both private and public health insurance, with 35 percent having private coverage and 35 percent having public coverage.

Federal Participant seeking clearance: CDC, ASPR, and NIH

Slides or handouts? No

Time/Location: March 8, 2017 at 1 p.m. at Member Office 2209 RHOB

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: McGuffee, Tyler Ann (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 10:05 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Aramanda, Alec (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: HHS Meeting Requets -Rep. Cuellar - March 8, 2017

Maggie,
ASL provided the additional information from NIH regarding Rep. Cuellar's request:

Request from Cuellar's office:
"We would like to meet with Office of Research Infrastructure Programs (ORIP) discuss funding opportunities for the certification of BLS lab 4 in Laredo through extramural construction funding account. Program CFDA Number: 93.351 Possible collaborations on research between the City of Laredo and Texas A&M International University."

(b)(5)

-TAM

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 8:22 AM
To: McGuffee, Tyler Ann (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Daravi, Kamran (HHS/IOS); Zebley, Kyle (HHS/IOS); Powers, Mary (HHS/IOS); Aramanda, Alec (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: HHS Meeting Requets -Rep. Cuellar - March 8, 2017

Tyler Ann,

(b)(5)

Thanks,
Maggie
260-7267

From: McGuffee, Tyler Ann (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 5:43 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Daravi, Kamran (HHS/IOS); Zebley, Kyle (HHS/IOS); Powers, Mary (HHS/IOS); Aramanda, Alec (HHS/IOS)
Subject: HHS Meeting Requets -Rep. Cuellar - March 8, 2017

Maggie,
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Please let Alec and I know if you have any concerns.

ASPR

(b)(5)

CDC

(b)(5)

NIH

(b)(5)

Thank you,
TAM

From: Bradsher, Kris (HHS/ASL)
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 2:59 PM
To: McGuffee, Tyler Ann (HHS/IOS); Aramanda, Alec (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Khalife, Alexandra (HHS/ASL); Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL)
Subject: RE: HHS Meeting Requets -Rep. Cuellar - March 8, 2017

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Will be great to get feedback by Monday if possible.

Kris

Date Need Clearance: Monday, March 6

Request (include office/organization requesting): Briefing Request from Rep. Cuellar to meet with CDC, ASPR and NIH. Below is the request from Juan Sanchez (staffer for Rep. Cuellar)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

ASPR

(b)(5)

CDC

(b)(5)

NIH

(b)(5)

Audience/attendees: Congressman Henry Cuellar; City of Laredo -City Manager Jesus Olivarez; Dr. Hector Gonzalez Health Department Director

Background: The following information was provided by Juan Sanchez (Staffer for Rep. Cuellar)

The United States/Mexico Border is at high risk for infectious diseases and bioterrorism. We are an international border and Laredo is the number one (1) inland port of entry with 40% of all US inland goods passing through Laredo's four (4) international bridges, 16,000 trucks cross daily through one (1) international bridge. Laredo serves as a HUB for other rural and smaller counties further increasing growth (100,000 daily) and with our sister city of Nuevo Laredo, Mexico our MSA is over one million. These conditions promote daily health security and all hazardous threats by current, emerging and new diseases on the Texas/Mexico border. Some of these potential threats are new diseases; such as, Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERs), H1N1, Ebola, Zika and other highly infectious diseases. We also have the continued threat of Dengue and West Nile Virus, Botulism, Ricin, Multi Drug Resistant Tuberculosis and now Chikungunya Virus. Anyone of these could pose a serious health threat and/or serve as a bioterrorist attack.
Population - In 2010-2014, Laredo, Texas has a total population of 245,000 -- 126,200 (51 percent) females and 118,900 (49 percent) males. The median age was 28.3 years. An estimated 34 percent of the population was under 18 years and 8 percent was 65 years and older

Laredo is a at risk region that is medically underserved with a population that has pressing health and social needs. Is has is designated a Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) Geographic High Needs, and a Medically Underserved Area/ Populations It has among our nation's highest rates of poverty and uninsured residents. The residents are disproportionately affected by diabetes, substance abuse, mental health disorders, teen pregnancy, cervical cancer, obesity, sexually transmitted diseases and tuberculosis. There is a high demand for health care services but unfortunately the demand exceeds the supply of doctors.
Laredo and the border area have one of the lowest rates of physicians per capita in the nation.

Disability - In Laredo, Texas, among the civilian noninstitutionalized population in 2010-2014, 12 percent reported a disability. The likelihood of having a disability varied by age - from 6 percent of people under 18 years old, to 10 percent of people 18 to 64 years old, and to 54 percent of those 65 and over.

The median income of households in Laredo, Texas was $39,408. An estimated 20 percent of households had income below $15,000 a year and 5 percent had income over $150,000 or more.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

An estimated 83 percent of the households received earnings and 9 percent received retirement income other than Social Security. An estimated 24 percent of the households received Social Security. The average income from Social Security was $12,565. These income sources are not mutually exclusive; that is, some households received income from more than one source.

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Time/Location: March 8, 2017 at 1 p.m. at Member Office 2209 RHOB

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 3:09 PM
To: McGuffee, Tyler Ann (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Aramanda, Alec (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: HHS Meeting Requets -Rep. Cuellar - March 8, 2017

Thanks, Tyler Ann.

(b)(5)

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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(b)(5)

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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Federal Participant seeking clearance: CDC, ASPR, and NIH

Slides or handouts? No

Time/Location: March 8, 2017 at 1 p.m. at Member Office 2209 RHOB

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 8:50 AM
To: Powers, Mary (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: HHS Secretary's News Briefing for Wednesday, March 01, 2017

Thanks. (b)(5)

From: Powers, Mary (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 7:33 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: Fwd: HHS Secretary's News Briefing for Wednesday, March 01, 2017

HUMAN-ANIMAL HYBRIDS: A CURE FOR THE ORGAN SHORTAGE?

U.S. News & World Report (2/28, Elaine Cox, M.D.)

In her U.S. News & World Report column, Elaine Cox, MD, medical director of infection prevention and clinical safety officer at Riley Children's Health, suggests human-animal hybrids known as chimeras could help cut the organ waiting list by increasing the supply of organs, but the development of such hybrids also raises ethical concerns. Cox argues that chimeras could be a feasible solution for the long waiting lists for organs, but she points out that the National Institutes of Health has imposed a moratorium on funding such research in large part because of ethical concerns

Mary Powers
Special Assistant
Department of Health and Human Services

From: "Bulletin Intelligence" <HHS@BulletinIntelligence.com>
Subject: HHS Secretary's News Briefing for Wednesday, March 01, 2017
Date: 01 March 2017 06:08
To: "HHS@BulletinIntelligence.com" <HHS@BulletinIntelligence.com>

HHS SECRETARY'S NEWS BRIEFING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2017 6:00 AM EST

Zika Virus News:

FEDERAL OFFICIALS ARE AUDITING D.C. PUBLIC HEALTH LAB IN WAKE OF BOTCHED ZIKA TESTS

Washington Post (2/28, Peter Jamison)

The Washington Post reports CMS officials are auditing DC's public health lab "in response to botched Zika testing that erroneously provided negative results to at least nine pregnant women, D.C. Department of Forensic Sciences Director Jenifer Smith said Tuesday." Subsequent testing by CDC were "inconclusive for eight of them and confirmed that one had a Zika infection, public-health officials said." Interviews and public documents have shown the "debacle unfolded over a period of months last year in which the District lab was in a state of turmoil – understaffed, lacking permanent leadership, spread thin on competing projects, and relying on new employees to test for the emerging public health threat in Zika."

Top National Stories:

DONALD TRUMP ASKS CONGRESS TO UNITE BEHIND HEALTH CARE, TAX OVERHAULS

Wall Street Journal (2/28, Michael C. Bender and Louise Radnofsky)

The Wall Street Journal reports on its front page that President Trump called on Congress to unite behind his calls for overhauling healthcare and the nation's tax laws. Trump referred to the surge in nationalism as a renewal of the American

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spirit.

More Coverage. Conservatives Rebel On Health Care, And GOP Looks To Trump (Associated Press, 2/28, Erica Werner and Alan Fram), Trump Declares It's 'Time To Join Forces' To Fix US Problems (Associated Press, 2/28, Julie Pace), Trump Opposes Required Health Benefits But Reveals Few Details Of His Plan To End The ACA (Washington Post, 2/28, Amy Goldstein), Trump Proposed 5 Specific Policies To Replace Obamacare. Here's How They Work. (Vox, 2/28), Trump Backs Healthcare Tax Credit Amid Conservative Opposition (The Hill, 2/28, Peter Sullivan), Trump Backs Health-Care Tax Credits That Have Split Republicans (Bloomberg News, 3/1, Anna Edney), BREAKING: Trump Calls For Tax Credits In Address To Congress (Modern Healthcare, 2/28), Donald Trump Talks Health Care To Congress But Doesn't Say Much (Huffington Post, 2/28), It Looks Like President Trump Just Took Sides In Republican Debate Over Obamacare (Washington Examiner, 3/1), Trump And Health Care: President Gives Congress Five Principles For Obamacare Replacement (CNBC, 2/28), Trump Lays Out Ambitious Plans For Healthcare And Immigration In A Disciplined Speech To Congress (Los Angeles Times, 2/28, Noah Bierman , Michael A. Memoli and Brian Bennett), No Bragging, No Booing: Trump Gives Presidential Speech, And Republicans Cheer (McClatchy, 2/28), Republicans Fight Over What Trump Meant On Obamacare (Politico, 3/1, Seung Min Kim and Rachael Bade), Trump Embraces Key GOP Healthcare Proposals In Address To Congress (Newsweek, 2/28, Emily Cadei), Trump Lays Out Details On Dismantling ObamaCare (Fox News, 2/28), Fact-checking Donald Trump's Claim About Soaring Obamacare Premiums (PolitiFact, 2/28), Trump's Pledge To Cut Health Care Costs Won't Come Cheap (CNBC, 2/28)

IN DEM REPLY, FORMER KY GOV SAYS TRUMP WOULD 'RIP' AWAY CARE

Associated Press (2/28, Alan Fram and Kevin Freking)

The AP reports former Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear accused President Trump of planning to "rip affordable health insurance" from Americans during his response to the presidents address to a joint session of Congress on Tuesday. During Beshear's rebuttal, he took a populist tone, and he criticized Trump for his negative tone towards the intelligence agencies, Federal courts, the press, and others.

More Coverage. Former Kentucky Governor Uses Trump Rebuttal To Defend Obamacare (New York Daily News, 2/28, Christopher Brennan), Response To Trump Address Portrays Obamacare As Working Class Pillar (Politico, 2/28, Politico Staff), Trump Is 'Wall Street's Champion,' Says Dem In Rebuttal (The Hill, 2/28, Jonathan Easley), Democratic Response On Obamacare: 'This Isn't A Game' (Washington Examiner, 3/1), Former Kentucky Gov Blasts Trump, GOP Over ObamaCare Claims In Dem Rebuttal (Fox News, 2/28), Democrat Steve Beshear Rallies Party To Protect Obamacare (Wall Street Journal, 2/28, Reid J. Epstein), Dems Give Thumbs Down For Trump's Push To Repeal And Replace ObamaCare (The Hill, 2/28, Rebecca Savransky)

DONALD TRUMP FACES A CONSERVATIVE REVOLT IN CONGRESS

Wall Street Journal (2/28, Kristina Peterson and Stephanie Armour)

The Wall Street Journal reports conservatives in Congress are in revolt and President Trump will need to quell the uprising if he hopes to move his legislative agenda. As an example, the Journal cites conservative opposition to the leaked Affordable Care Act repeal and replacement plan.

More Coverage: TV. Republicans Divided Over How To Replace The ACA, Hope Trump Will Be Unifying Force (ABC World News Tonight, 2/28), Republicans Divided Over How To Replace The ACA, Hope Trump Will Be Unifying Force (NBC Nightly News, 2/28), Republicans Divided Over How To Replace The ACA, Hope Trump Will Be Unifying Force (CBS Evening News, 2/28)

More Coverage: Print and Online. Trump's Speech Can't Mend GOP Schisms On Obamacare (Politico, 2/28, Jennifer Haberkorn), GOP Hopes Trump Will Unify Party Around Obamacare Replacement (Washington Examiner, 2/28), McConnell: GOP Not In 'Same Place' On ObamaCare Strategy (The Hill, 2/28, Jordain Carney), Conservatives Say They're Tired Of Seeing Obamacare Drafts Via Leaks (CNN, 2/28, Lauren Fox), Donald Trump Congressional Address: Obamacare Fight Splinters GOP (Fortune, 2/28), Republicans Near Make-or-break Moment On Obamacare Repeal (Politico, 2/28, Burgess Everett and Jennifer Haberkorn), Desperate For Presidential Leadership, Republicans Find Little (New York Times, 2/28, Jennifer Steinhauer and Emmarie Huetteman), The GOP Obamacare Repeal And Replace Plan Is Flailing. Will Trump Help Republicans? (Huffington Post, 2/28)

Health Insurance Marketplaces:

OBAMACARE DEDUCTIBLES TO CLIMB SHARPLY FOR 1/4 OF CUSTOMERS

Hartford (CT) Courant (2/28)

The Hartford (CT) Courant reports that on Tuesday, Access Health CT's board voted to increase deductibles for certain customers with Affordable Care Act plans. The article explains that for ACA plans, "customers' deductibles in Silver plans vary according to their income." Therefore, those with higher incomes will see their deductibles go up by 25 percent to $5,000 next year. This change will impact about 16 percent of the exchange's customers. Meanwhile, other customers will

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

also see higher deductibles or no increases at all.

Health Reform & Healthcare:

RYAN DISMISSES CONSERVATIVE OPPOSITION TO HIS OBAMACARE REPLACEMENT
Politico (2/28, Rachael Bade)
Politico reports that on Tuesday, House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) "dismissed growing conservative opposition to his Obamacare alternative...even as his allies simmer over the far-right's bid to derail GOP leadership's repeal strategy." Ryan denied claims that the GOP is divided over how to replace the Affordable Care Act, and he "would not commit to tweaking his draft proposal to accommodate hard-liners." He stated, "This is a plan that we are all working on together: the House, the Senate and the White House, so there aren't rival plans here. ... We're all working on this together with the administration."

More Coverage. Ryan: We Are Really 'In A Rescue Mission' With Healthcare (The Hill, 2/28, Nikita Vladimirov), U.S. House Speaker Vows Republican Unity On Healthcare Overhaul (Reuters, 2/28, David Morgan), Speaker Paul Ryan Downplays Divisions Over Health Plan (Washington Times, 2/28, Tom Howell Jr.)

PAUL RYAN: 'WE ARE HOSED' IF WE DON'T TACKLE ENTITLEMENTS LIKE MEDICARE
CNN (2/28, Dana Bash, Jim Acosta and Jake Tapper)
On its website, CNN reports that President Trump promised during the campaign not to cut Medicare benefits, but House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) "said he thinks that is still an 'open question.'" He said on Tuesday morning, "From all my conversations with the President, he says 'I don't want to change Medicare benefits for people in or near retirement,' and we agree with that." The article adds that Ryan has sought a Medicare overhaul for years, arguing that it is critical to shore up the program's finances. Ryan warned on Tuesday that "we are hosed" if lawmakers do not begin curtailing Medicare spending. Meanwhile, GOP lawmakers are working to overhaul the Affordable Care Act, and unnamed sources "say they expect Trump to embrace concepts they have been outlining – ideas Ryan along with Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price, a former congressman, have been pushing for years."

More Coverage. Paul Ryan: Repealing And Replacing Obamacare Is Entitlement Reform (Washington Times, 2/28, David Sherfinski), Ryan Not Bothered By Lack Of Entitlement Reform In Trump's Budget (Washington Examiner, 2/28)

WASHINGTON GOVERNOR: 'RED FLAGS' THAT AMERICANS COULD LOSE COVERAGE
CNN (2/28, Eugene Scott)
On its website, CNN reports that on Tuesday, Washington state Gov. Jay Inslee (D) said "the Trump administration's unwillingness to promise that Americans would not lose coverage if the Affordable Care Act is repealed is a 'red flag.'" He said HHS Secretary Tom Price's inability to assure governors that their citizens will not lose coverage when the ACA is replaced "is a red warning sign. And the red flags are going up big time in this effort."

CONSERVATIVE CHAIRMAN FACES BLOWBACK OVER OBAMACARE STATEMENT
The Hill (2/28, Scott Wong)
The Hill reports that several members of the Republican Study Committee are unhappy with Chairman Rep. Mark Walker (R-NC), who issued a statement on behalf of the group "opposing a leaked draft ObamaCare repeal and replacement plan." Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI) said on Tuesday that he "approached Walker on Monday night on the House floor to decry Walker's decision to release the statement using letterhead from the 172-member RSC." Said Walberg, "I asked him, 'Are you speaking on behalf of the RSC or yourself?' He said, 'Myself.' Well, I think it should have been done with no RSC letterhead. ... As far as I'm concerned, [the statement suggested that] he's speaking for me." The Hill describes this incident as "yet another example of GOP infighting as the party struggles to find a way forward on their top legislative priority: repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act."

More Coverage. GOP Looks For ObamaCare Path As Right Lashes Out (The Hill, 2/28, Peter Sullivan and Scott Wong)

MCCONNELL SLAMS BESHEAR AHEAD OF TRUMP REBUTTAL
Politico (2/28, Burgess Everett)
Politico reports that even before Steve Beshear was supposed to give his rebuttal to President Trump's speech on Tuesday night, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) "pummeled the former Kentucky governor as the 'poster child' for Obamacare's failures." The article says "Beshear's selection by Democratic leaders revives a long-running feud between" McConnell "and Beshear over the health care law, which Beshear, a Democrat, embraced as governor," much to the GOP leader's dismay. According to McConnell, "Beshear's implementation of Obamacare on the Kynect exchange and Medicaid expansion has been a 'disaster' that is still hurting Kentucky more than a year after Beshear retired."

More Coverage. McConnell Rips Ex-Kentucky Governor Ahead Of Trump Rebuttal (The Hill, 2/28, Mark Hensch),

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

McConnell: Dem Response Presenter 'Poster Child' For Obamacare Disaster (Washington Examiner, 2/28), Mitch McConnell Takes Swipe At Steve Beshear Ahead Of Trump Speech Tuesday (McClatchy, 2/28)

GOP LEADER: LEAKED OBAMACARE REPLACEMENT 'NO LONGER' VIABLE

The Hill (2/28, Scott Wong and Jessie Hellmann)

The Hill reports that after House conservatives strongly criticized "a leaked GOP draft ObamaCare replacement plan, a top Republican leader on Tuesday described the proposed legislation as 'no longer even a viable draft that we're working off of.'" Majority Whip Steve Scalise (R-LA) said the draft is no longer valid, and that GOP leaders are working directly with conservative lawmakers to reach a consensus on a replacement for the Affordable Care Act.

GOP REP: EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE HEALTH COVERAGE

The Hill (2/28, Mallory Shelbourne)

The Hill reports Rep. Michael Burgess (R-TX) said GOP lawmakers' plan to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act "will include accessible and affordable health coverage." Burgess stated, "I think everyone should have a policy that is accessible and affordable." He added, "Again, that doesn't mean cheap, but it does mean affordable within what the disposable income a family has to spend each month. I do think that's possible."

WASHINGTON GOV: GOP IN 'HEAD-ON COLLISION WITH REALITY' OVER OBAMACARE

The Hill (2/28, Max Greenwood)

The Hill reports that GOP lawmakers have started "to grapple with the difficult reality of reforming healthcare, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee (D) said Tuesday, describing the current situation as 'confusion wrapped around chaos.'" According to Inslee, "Republicans are having a head-on collision with reality." He said that after meeting with President Trump and other governors on healthcare earlier this week, he remains concerned about efforts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. Indeed, Inslee stated on Tuesday that "he has 'zero confidence' that the White House has a coherent plan to replace ObamaCare."

COLON AND RECTAL CANCERS SURGE AMONG MILLENNIALS AND GENERATION X

USA Today (2/28, Kim Painter)

USA Today reports that research published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute indicates "colon and rectal cancers have increased dramatically and steadily in millennials and Generation X adults in the United States over the past four decades."

More Coverage: Print and Online. Colon And Rectal Cancers Rising In Young People (New York Times, 2/28, Roni Caryn Rabin), Born In The '90s? Your Colon Cancer Risk Could Be Rising (CNN, 2/28, Michael Nedelman), Colorectal Cancer Rates Soar In Younger People (NBC News, 2/28), Colon Cancer's Up Among Gen Xers And Millennials, But Scientists Say Reasons Are Elusive : Shots (NPR, 2/28), Colorectal Cancer Rates Rising Sharply Among Gen X And Millennials (Washington Post, 2/28, Laurie McGinley), Colorectal Cancer Rates Rising In Gen X And Millennials, Study Finds (CBS News, 2/28), Colon Cancer Rates Rise Among Gen X, Millennials: Study (AFP, 2/28), Colorectal Cancer Rare But Rising Among Millennials, Gen X (Associated Press, 2/28, Lauran Neergaard), Colorectal Cancer Rates Increasing Sharply Among Younger Adults, Study Finds (ABC News, 2/28), Colorectal Cancer Rates Are Rising Among Younger Americans Even As They're Falling For Others (Los Angeles Times, 2/28, Melissa Healy)

CURES ACT SPONSORS WARN AGAINST TRUMP'S HIRING FREEZE

The Hill (2/28, Peter Sullivan)

The Hill reports Reps. Fred Upton (R-MI) and Diana DeGette (R-CO) said that President Trump's hiring freeze could harm the implementation of the 21st Century Cures Act by preventing the Food and Drug Administration from hiring the additional workers needed "to expedite the approval of new drugs and devices" under the law. DeGette said, "If you don't have the staffing and resources at the FDA to actually do the drug and device approval process, then it doesn't really help you if you come up with the most fantastic new cures with the NIH money that we've gotten."

Blogs:

GOP HITS OBAMACARE REPEAL ROADBLOCKS

Business Insider (2/28, Bob Bryan)

Bob Bryan writes in a Business Insider blog post that the biggest obstacle for a Republican alternative to the ACA is the GOP itself. Conservatives are bickering over the details of what should go into their alternative, and it is slowing down progress of crafting a suitable alternative.

BERNIE SANDERS LAUGHS AFTER TRUMP COMPLICATED HEALTHCARE CLAIM

Business Insider (2/28, Bob Bryan)

Bob Bryan writes at Business Insider that Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) "burst into laughter" after President Trump claimed

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nobody knew healthcare was so complicated. Sanders claims it was obvious for anyone who sits on the Health and Education Committee.

HIGH-RISK POOLS OFFER LITTLE HELP AT A HIGH COST
Health Affairs (2/28, Jeanne Lambrew and Ellen Montz)
Jeanne Lambrew and Ellen Montz write for Health Affairs in its blog that High-Risk Pools create more problems than solutions, because it's hard for managers to "chart a steady course." The authors say it is "almost impossible to budget for the program due to the unpredictability of costs," and enrollment is limited.

REPUBLICANS' FINAL HEINOUS PUSH FOR OBAMACARE REPEAL
New Republic (2/28, Brian Beutler)
Brian Beutler writes in a New Republic blog post that GOP lawmakers are pitching the ACA as a failure in order to help cover themselves from criticism should the number of uninsured residents skyrocked after a repeal of the ACA. Beutler argues that the GOP reasoning falls flat because none of the elected officials are ever without insurance, so they have no idea as to the implications of throwing people off the healthcare roles.

ARE REPUBLICANS READY TO CHARGE AHEAD ON OBAMACARE REPEAL?
Talking Points Memo (2/28, Tierney Sneed)
Tierney Sneed writes in a blog post for Talking Points Memo that after seven years of railing against Obama's signature achievement, the movement to repeal the ACA is in a "do-or-die" moment for the GOP.

CONSERVATIVE GROUPS CHEER ON REVOLT AGAINST GOP DRAFT O'CARE REPLACEMENT
Talking Points Memo (2/28, Tierney Sneed)
Tierney Sneed writes at Talking Points Memo that hardline congressional Republicans who oppose the leaked draft of the ACA replacement have gained the support of conservative groups Club for Growth and FreedomWorks. FreedomWorks CEO Adam Brandon called the mainstream GOP efforts to replace the ACA stunningly hypocritical.

HOUSE CONSERVATIVES TORPEDO LEAKED OBAMACARE 'REPLACEMENT' PLAN
Think Progress (2/28, Josh Israel)
Josh Israel writes in a blog post for Think Progress that GOP leaders have abandoned the leaked draft legislation to replace the ACA after a large number of conservative Republicans began criticizing the proposal. Israel writes that despite abandoning the proposal, Republicans have promised to "eventually pass some repeal and replace legislation."

DONALD TRUMP NEARLY RESOLVED THE MAJOR GOP SPLIT OVER OBAMACARE. BUT THEN HE DIDN'T.
Slate (3/1, Jim Newell)
Jim Newell writes in a blog post for Slate that Trump effectively settled the debate over the future of the ACA's replacement legislation by advocating for tax credits. Newell writes that while Trump did not explicitly endorse the leaked draft of the ACA's replacement, he essentially give his support for the leadership's plan.

TRUMP STATE OF THE UNION SPEECH ON OBAMACARE REPEAL REPLACE
Business Insider (2/28, Bob Bryan)
Bob Bryan writes in a blog post for Business Insider that President Trump's vision for the future of the ACA leans more on tax credits to help cover the cost and less on his earlier pledge to guarantee coverage for people with pre-existing conditions. Bryan writes that much of what Trump claimed about the ACA is simply not true or is already in the law, despite his claims that a replacement is a necessity.

Opinion:

NOBODY KNEW HEALTH CARE COULD BE SO COMPLICATED OR A PRESIDENT SO STUPID
Washington Post (2/28, Tom Toles)
Tom Toles, the editorial cartoonist for the Washington Post, writes in an opinion piece that when President Donald Trump said, "Nobody knew that health care could be so complicated," the President admitted that "he hadn't understood health care during the campaign," that "he hadn't even looked into it during the campaign," and "he thinks that if he doesn't understand something, nobody else could either." Toles argues that Trump's statement is also an admission that his campaign plan on healthcare "was dreamed up without any understanding whatsoever of how the health-care system actually worked."

DONALD TRUMP LEARNS THAT REFORMING HEALTH CARE IS "COMPLICATED"
The New Yorker (2/28, Ryan Lizza)
In an opinion piece, New Yorker correspondent Ryan Lizza writes that the "environment" for healthcare reform under the Trump Administration "is far more precarious" than the environment under the Obama Administration. Lizza argues that

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Trump is unlikely to pass healthcare reform because he lacks the "passion" to pass such reform, and has less political capital than Obama had when he passed the Affordable Care Act.

GOP'S LEAKED 'REPEAL AND REPLACE' PLAN IS THE SCORPION STRIKING THE FROG

The Hill (2/28, M. Gregg Bloche)

M. Gregg Bloche, M.D., J.D., a law professor at Georgetown University, writes in an opinion piece in The Hill's "Pundits Blog" that Republicans' leaked healthcare reform proposal would hurt many people in their base, which Bloche compares to the parable of the frog and the scorpion. Bloche argues that the plan "will sting President Trump's older, lower-income base disproportionately," but that "unlike the frog, these Americans can deliver payback."

REPUBLICANS ARE HEADED FOR HUGE CLASHES WITH TRUMP

Washington Post (2/28, Jennifer Rubin)

In an opinion piece, the Washington Post "Right Turn" blog contributor Jennifer Rubin writes that Congressional Republicans are headed for a huge clash with President Trump on several issues including healthcare reform. Rubin argues that "the White House seems oblivious to the unworkability of its plans and the fundamental differences within the GOP ranks."

WILL REPUBLICANS INCREASE RED TAPE IN THE HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY?

The Hill (2/28, Jerry Rogers)

Jerry Rogers, the vice president of the Institute for Liberty, writes in an opinion piece in The Hill "Pundits Blog" that some Congressional Republicans are considering the Competitive Health Insurance Act of 2017, which would "allow for the sale of health insurance over state lines" and also "eliminate a long-standing exemption from federal antitrust laws for health insurance companies." Rogers argues that "the bill is still a Trojan Horse of federal government regulation," because eliminating the exemption would "lead to more bureaucracy and higher premiums for American families."

KILLING OBAMACARE COULD KILL ME: VOICES

USA Today (2/28, Will Cathcart)

Will Cathcart, a freelance journalist, writes in an opinion piece in USA Today that repealing the Affordable Care Act could kill him, because he has cystic fibrosis and he depends on the law for access to healthcare coverage. Cathcart says that "statistically" he only has seven years left, but that a new drug "has miraculously reversed the course of this disease for hundreds (and potentially thousands) of people, including me, with a certain form of CF." Cathcart says that without the Affordable Care Act he would not have health insurance and he would not be able to afford the potentially life-saving medication out-of-pocket.

NO, STEVE BANNON IS NOT GOING TO SAVE YOUR HEALTH CARE

Washington Post (3/1, Stephen Stromberg)

Stephen Stromberg writes for The Washington Post in its "Post Partisan" blog that Trump's address to a joint session of Congress Tuesday embraced Speaker Paul Ryan's (R-WI) repeal and replace template, notching a victory for traditional Republicans. Stromberg argues that Trump's address joined himself and Ryan around a replacement plan, which goes against the plan many conservative Republicans are pushing.

HOW OBAMACARE PUNISHES THE SICK

Wall Street Journal (2/28, Michael F. Cannon)

In a guest editorial piece for The Wall Street Journal Michael Cannon writes that the ACA disadvantages people who have preexisting conditions because insurance companies are forced to take a loss on every patient who uses more coverage than they pay for. As a result, insurers are engaging in a race to the bottom in terms of coverage in an attempt to cut their losses, which results in lower-quality coverage for expansive conditions. Thus, Cannon argues Republicans can't keep their promise of repealing the ACA and improving access for the sick without changing the ACA's penalties on high-quality coverage.

GOOD TALK, MR. PRESIDENT, BUT AMERICA IS STILL NOT BUYING WHAT YOU'RE SELLING

The Hill (2/28, Maria T. Cardona)

In an opinion piece for The Hill "Pundits Blog" Maria Cardona writes that the President did not convince most Americans he would be governing in the best interest of all Americans. Cardona challenges Trump's claim that surging optimism is sweeping the nation, saying it is especially untrue in Muslim neighborhoods and immigrant communities. Cardona finishes by arguing that "Trump does not let facts or truth get in the way of an applause line."

TRUMP DISCOVERS THE OBAMACARE REALITY: IT'S 'COMPLICATED'

Chicago Tribune (2/28, Clarence Page)

Clarence Page writes in the Chicago Tribune "Page's Page" blog that President Trump is continuing his "on-the-job training" after he revealed reforming healthcare is a difficult task. Page argues that despite Trump's claim that the ACA is

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terrible, he has begun to warm up to most of its policies. As a result, many GOP officials and former House Speaker John Boehner argue that instead of replacing the entire legislation, legislators will simply fix the flaws with the law.

OVERREGULATION IS FORCING WOMEN TO HAVE LATE-TERM ABORTIONS
Los Angeles Times (2/28, Daniel Grossman)
Daniel Grossman, professor of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences and director of the research group Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health at UC San Francisco, writes in an opinion piece in the Los Angeles Times that restricting access is causing patients to have late-term abortions. When the Texas Legislature passed "one of the most restrictive abortion laws in the nation" in 2013, over half of the state's clinics closed. In the year after the law's implementation, "second-trimester abortion increased 27%." Grossman also says the increased scrutiny of mifepristone has "limited the way the medication can be distributed," despite its "extensive positive safety record." Grossman concludes, "Adding hurdles that force women to obtain an abortion later in pregnancy...is bad for women's health."

HUMAN-ANIMAL HYBRIDS: A CURE FOR THE ORGAN SHORTAGE?
U.S. News & World Report (2/28, Elaine Cox, M.D.)
In her U.S. News & World Report column, Elaine Cox, MD, medical director of infection prevention and clinical safety officer at Riley Children's Health, suggests human-animal hybrids known as chimeras could help cut the organ waiting list by increasing the supply of organs, but the development of such hybrids also raises ethical concerns. Cox argues that chimeras could be a feasible solution for the long waiting lists for organs, but she points out that the National Institutes of Health has imposed a moratorium on funding such research in large part because of ethical concerns.

More Coverage. A Cure For The Organ Shortage? (Yahoo! News, 2/28)

TEXAS COULD RADICALLY STREAMLINE ITS MEDICAID ADMINISTRATION
The Hill (2/28, Dr. Deane Waldman)
Dr. Deane Waldman, the Director of the Texas Public Policy Foundation's Center for Health Care Policy, writes in an opinion piece in The Hill's "Pundits Blog" that Texas should submit a Sect. 1115 waiver request to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services seeking authorization to streamline administration of the state's Medicaid program at the state level. Waldman argues that states should have control of their own Medicaid programs, and that other states should follow an approach similar to one that was proposed in Texas several years ago.

National Front Page News:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
In Speech To Congress, Trump Looks To Jump-Start Momentum
Trump's New Order Would Likely Exempt Existing Visa Holders From Travel Ban
Inside Harvard's Radical Plan To Reverse A Decade Of Poor Returns
Target Gets A Lesson That Low Prices Matter

New York Times:
Trump, In Optimistic Address, Asks Congress To End "Trivial Fights"
Sessions Indicates Justice Department Will Stop Monitoring Troubled Police Agencies
Threats And Vandalism Leave American Jews On Edge In Trump Era
Russia And US Clash Over Syria In Security Council Vote
As France's Towns Wither, Fears Of A Decline In "Frenchness"
Metropolitan Museum's Director Resigns Under Pressure

Washington Post:
In Two Addresses, Trump Juggles Contradicting Worldviews
Ahead Of Speech, President Signals Flexibility On Legal Status Pathway
Colorectal Cancer Rates Rise In US Millennials
The Key To Unlock Their Autistic Son's Voice
FBI Was To Pay Author Of Trump Dossier

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 11:47 PM
To: Valentine, Steven (HHS/IOS)
Subject: FW: Follow UP -- Item #11
Attachments: NIH Week Ahead Report and Addendum 03 02 2017.pdf

Steven,

(b)(5)

There is a hyperlink in the title to Item 11 in the attached document that takes you to the text of the article.

Thank you,
Maggie

From: Hawkins, Jamar (HHS/OS)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 10:18 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Zebley, Kyle (HHS/IOS); Powers, Mary (HHS/IOS)
Subject: Follow UP -- Item #11

Maggie:

(b)(5)

Jamar M. Hawkins
Team Lead – Science & Public Health
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services | Executive Secretariat
200 Independence Ave., SW – Suite 615H – Washington, D.C. 20201
Office: 202.205.6380 | Fax: 202.205.2135

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Hawkins, Jamar (HHS/OS)
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2017 9:46 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Powers, Mary (HHS/IOS); Zebley, Kyle (HHS/OS/OGA)
Subject: NIH Week Ahead Report 03.09.2017
Attachments: NIH Week Ahead Report and Addendum 03 09 2017.pdf; NIH Week Ahead Report_ 03-09-17.docx; 2017-03-15_Policy Team Meeting Agenda_rev.docx

Maggie:

Attached is NIH's week ahead submission. They do not have a meeting with you this week. The next meeting is currently scheduled for March 15.

You will meet with me and other members of the Exec Sec team today at 4pm. I will use that meeting to highlight items on NIH's list.

From: Di Mantova, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] [mailto:emma.dimantova@nih.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 11:53 AM
To: Hawkins, Jamar (HHS/OS)
Cc: Allen-Gifford, Patrice (NIH/OD) [E]; Koeneman, Sandy (NIH/OD) [E]; Doswell, Greta (NIH/OD) [E]
Subject: NIH Week Ahead Report 03.09.2017

Hi Jamar,

Please see attached NIH's Week Ahead Report Submission for 03.09.2017. As in previous weeks, we are providing the report as a word document and as part of a bookmarked PDF that includes an addendum of documents supporting discussions at the next Policy Team meeting. We will also upload in SPS.

Please let us know if you or the Policy Team need any further information.

Thank you,

Emma Di Mantova
Office of the Executive Secretariat / Office of the NIH Director
emma.dimantova@nih.gov / 301.594.1476
NIH Director's Meeting Materials: NIHDirectorMeetings@mail.nih.gov

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Zebley, Kyle (HHS/OS/OGA)
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 1:24 PM
To: Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Alexander, Thomas (OS/OGA)
Subject: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

On: 29 March 2017 12:57, "Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC)" <Matthew.Bowman@hhs.gov> wrote:

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

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Confidential pre-decisional deliberative process and attorney client privilege

---

Matt Bowman
Deputy General Counsel
HHS OGC
(b)(6)
matthew.bowman@hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 1:36 PM
To: Zebley, Kyle (HHS/OS/OGA); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Alexander, Thomas (OS/OGA)
Subject: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Matt Bowman
Deputy General Counsel
HHS OGC
(b)(6)
matthew.bowman@hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Zebley, Kyle (HHS/OS/OGA)
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 1:24 PM
To: Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Alexander, Thomas (OS/OGA)
Subject: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

On: 29 March 2017 12:57, "Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC)" <Matthew.Bowman@hhs.gov> wrote:

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(b)(5)

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Confidential pre-decisional deliberative process and attorney client privilege

---

Matt Bowman
Deputy General Counsel
HHS OGC
(b)(6)
matthew.bowman@hhs.gov

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Shipley, Samuel (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 8:42 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Burris, Hannah (HHS/OGA)
Subject: $ Clean_ACF Comments -2017-3-1 written replies (ACF).docx
Attachments: $ Clean_ACF Comments -2017-3-1 written replies (ACF).docx

Morning Maggie – you asked me to share the ACF comments when I received them; they are attached.

I have not received anything from ASPE or OGC yet, but will follow-up now.

CC'ing Hannah for awareness.

- Sam

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Shipley, Samuel (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 10:21 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Burris, Hannah (HHS/OGA)
Subject: 00372634 U.S. OSPC written replies OGC Markup 20170306 17-09790.docx
Attachments: 00372634 U.S. OSPC written replies OGC Markup 20170306 17-09790.docx

Hi again Maggie – attached, please find a handful of comments from OGC. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Still waiting on ASPE.

- Sam

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Shipley, Samuel (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2017 10:28 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: FW: Rights of the Child
Attachments: 2017-03-01 U.S. OSPC written replies.docx; 2016-11-08 OPSC list of issues -- as released.pdf

Morning Maggie – I just placed the revised answers from State into Department clearance with ACF, ASPE, and OGC – due COB tomorrow. Can you also provide a review by then?

The Word doc is the revised answers, and the PDF includes a list of issues to be considered.

We can discuss further at our 10:30 OGA check-in today.

Thanks,
Sam
202 205 9162

From: Schaeffer, Alison (HHS/OS/OGA) (CTR)
Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2017 9:35 AM
To: Shipley, Samuel (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: Rights of the Child

I just uploaded the docs with a few comments.

- there is a word limit, and we are very close, so please no long additions to the text

(b)(5)

Best,
Alison

Alison Schaeffer
Executive Assistant
Office of Global Affairs
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Office: 202.205.7733 | Mobile (b)(6)

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, March 07, 2017 11:03 AM
To: Shipley, Samuel (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Burris, Hannah (HHS/OGA)
Subject: RE: $ Clean_ACF Comments -2017-3-1 written replies (ACF).docx
Attachments: $ Clean_ACF Comments -2017-3-1 written replies_ACF.OGC.PT.docx

Sam,

The attached version includes ACF's edits, a few additional Policy Team edits, and edits based on OGC comments.

Thanks!
Maggie

From: Shipley, Samuel (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, March 07, 2017 9:21 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Burris, Hannah (HHS/OGA)
Subject: RE: $ Clean_ACF Comments -2017-3-1 written replies (ACF).docx

Hi Maggie – just following-up on your review. (b)(5) Thanks! - Sam

---

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 9:28 AM
To: Shipley, Samuel (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Burris, Hannah (HHS/OGA)
Subject: RE: $ Clean_ACF Comments -2017-3-1 written replies (ACF).docx

Thank you, Sam. I will complete my review today.
Maggie

From: Shipley, Samuel (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 8:42 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Burris, Hannah (HHS/OGA)
Subject: $ Clean_ACF Comments -2017-3-1 written replies (ACF).docx

Morning Maggie – you asked me to share the ACF comments when I received them; they are attached.

I have not received anything from ASPE or OGC yet, but will follow-up now.

CC'ing Hannah for awareness.

- Sam

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: OS HHSPress (HHS/ASPA)
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2017 7:26 PM
To: OS HHSPress (HHS/ASPA); OS - ASPA - Clearance; OS - ASPA - Human Services Clearance; OS - ASPA - Public Health Clearance; Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Brennan, Patrick (OS/ASPA); Bult, Nathan (OS/ASPA); Avula, Deepa (SAMHSA/OFR); Hendriksson, Marla (SAMHSA/OC); Walls, Phillip (SAMHSA/OC); Dominguez, Brian (SAMHSA/OC); Riccio, Peggy (SAMHSA/OC); Lodato, August (SAMHSA/OC); Oakley, Caitlin B. (OS/ASPA); Tatem, Anne (HHS/ASL); Kemper, Laura (HHS/ASL); Donley, Katherine (HHS/ASFR); Weber, Mark (HHS/ASPA); Barber, Daniel (OS/IEA); Pollock, Rachel (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: RE: CLEARANCE_0943: Draft press release opioid bundle - 2nd Round Review
Attachments: Opioid-grantees-city-state-amount.xlsx; Draft 3 press release opioid bundle CD.DOCX

The updated tick-tock is as follows:

Tick Tock

(b)(5)

Carla L. Daniels
Public Affairs Specialist
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
OS/ASPA
Office: 202-690-4595
Cell: (b)(6)
www.hhs.gov/news

From: OS HHSPress (HHS/ASPA)
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2017 7:20 PM
To: OS HHSPress (HHS/ASPA); OS - ASPA - Clearance; OS - ASPA - Human Services Clearance; OS - ASPA - Public Health

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Clearance; Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Brennan, Patrick (OS/ASPA); Bult, Nathan (OS/ASPA); Avula, Deepa (SAMHSA/OFR); Hendriksson, Marla (SAMHSA/OC); Walls, Phillip (SAMHSA/OC); Dominguez, Brian (SAMHSA/OC); Riccio, Peggy (SAMHSA/OC); Lodato, August (SAMHSA/OC); Oakley, Caitlin B. (OS/ASPA); Tatem, Anne (HHS/ASL); Kemper, Laura (HHS/ASL); Donley, Katherine (HHS/ASFR); Weber, Mark (HHS/ASPA); Barber, Daniel (OS/IEA); Pollock, Rachel (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: CLEARANCE_0943: Draft press release opioid bundle - 2nd Round Review
Importance: High

****This is a second round review****

Agency/Office: SAMHSA/ HHS

Subject (or headline): HHS commits over $144.1 million in additional funding for opioid crisis

Material: Draft news release, rollout plan, list of grantees

Deadline for comments: **12pm, Thursday, September 14**

Planned release date: Friday, Sept. 15

Carla L. Daniels
Public Affairs Specialist
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
OS/ASPA
Office: 202-690-4595
Cell: (b)(6)
www.hhs.gov/news

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Berger, Dan P. (ACL/CMB)
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 3:44 PM
To: Mansdoerfer, David (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Lagomarsino, Katie (OS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: ACL - Committee on Disabilities
Attachments: Charter_renewal_16-PCPID.pdf; ACL PCPID FACA Overview.docx; PCPID appointments - 5 from late Oct - Dec 2016.docx; 13708-CO 9-30-15.pdf

David,

(b)(5)

Dan

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Dan Berger
Deputy Administrator for Management and Budget
Administration for Community Living
330 C Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20201
phone: (202) 795-7307
dan.berger@acl.hhs.gov

IMPORTANT NOTICE:
Please be advised that the Department of Health and Human Services is implementing a records retention policy change. As of Monday, December 1, 2014 all messages sent to this official government email account will be automatically retained indefinitely. As a result, please refrain from sending personal messages to this address.

From: Mansdoerfer, David (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 10:51 AM
To: Berger, Dan P. (ACL/CMB)
Cc: Lagomarsino, Katie (OS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: ACL - Committee on Disabilities
Importance: High

Hi Dan,

(b)(5)

-DM

David Mansdoerfer
Office of the White House Liaison

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 8:04 PM
To: Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS); Palmer, Ashley (OS/ASFR); Graham, John (HHS/ASPE); Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Bardis, John (HHS/ASA); Brady, Will (HHS/IOS); Caliguiri, Laura (HHS/IOS); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Cochran, Norris (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: RE: CLEARANCE: Budget and Appropriations Update Memo for Secretary
Attachments: DRAFT memo to EH_FY 18 Budget Approps Update _ 10.13.17_ACS edits ps edits.docx

I've made a few revisions on top of Amanda's.

Paula

From: Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 5:53 PM
To: Palmer, Ashley (OS/ASFR); Graham, John (HHS/ASPE); Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Bardis, John (HHS/ASA); Brady, Will (HHS/IOS); Caliguiri, Laura (HHS/IOS); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Cochran, Norris (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: RE: CLEARANCE: Budget and Appropriations Update Memo for Secretary

Hey Ashley,

I caught just a few edits in the attached.

Thank you so much!
Amanda

From: Palmer, Ashley (OS/ASFR)
Sent: Saturday, October 14, 2017 5:50 PM
To: Graham, John (HHS/ASPE); Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Bardis, John (HHS/ASA); Brady, Will (HHS/IOS); Caliguiri, Laura (HHS/IOS); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Cochran, Norris (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: RE: CLEARANCE: Budget and Appropriations Update Memo for Secretary

(b)(5)

From: Graham, John (HHS/ASPE)
Sent: Saturday, October 14, 2017 1:23 PM
To: Palmer, Ashley (OS/ASFR); Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Bardis, John (HHS/ASA); Brady, Will (HHS/IOS); Caliguiri, Laura (HHS/IOS); Keckler, Charles

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Cochran, Norris (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: RE: CLEARANCE: Budget and Appropriations Update Memo for Secretary

(b)(5)

From: Palmer, Ashley (OS/ASFR)
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2017 12:49 PM
To: Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Bardis, John (HHS/ASA); Graham, John (HHS/ASPE); Brady, Will (HHS/IOS); Caliguiri, Laura (HHS/IOS); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Cochran, Norris (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: CLEARANCE: Budget and Appropriations Update Memo for Secretary

Good afternoon – For your review, attached is a draft informational memo for Acting Secretary Hargan providing an overview of the Fiscal Year 2018 congressional budget and appropriations process, as well as a detailed summary of the FY18 Senate Labor-HHS appropriation bill.

In anticipation of a possible briefing with the Acting Secretary in the next week or so, **please provide any comments or questions you may have by COB Monday, October 16**.

Thanks in advance,

-Ashley

202-690-6883 (direct)
(b)(6) (cell)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL)
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2017 4:34 PM
To: Brown, Joshua H. (HHS/OGC); Curtis, Jillian (HHS/ASFR); Pugliese1, Alanna (HHS/ASFR); Kennedy, Gavin (HHS/ASPE); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Katz, Ruth (HHS/ASPE); OS GCL, EMAIL (HHS/OGC); Blackwell, Edith (HHS/OGC)
Subject: FOR REVIEW: TA request on Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act
Attachments: Updated Grandparents Language.pdf

We were asked for technical assistance by Senators Collins' and Casey staff on their latest draft of a bill you will probably recognize, the Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act (attached).

ACL provided their comments, see below. Please review their TA for comments, as well as providing any additional comments you may have on the bill. Please provide your comments by noon Wednesday, Oct 4th.

Thank you.

Barbara

Barbara Pisaro Clark
Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 690-7627
(202) 260-7193 (direct)
Barbara.clark@hhs.gov

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Page 284 of 550

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Nicholls, Richard (ACL/OA)
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2017 6:06 PM
To: Balenger, Juanita (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS); Berger, Dan P. (ACL/CMB)
Subject: ACL FOA for Review: Elder Justice Innovation Grants FOA
Attachments: ACL EJIG_AoA_FOA 05.30.17.docx

Juanita,

See attached for review the Elder Justice Innovation Grants FOA.

Thanks and we look forward to your feedback.

Rick Nicholls
Chief of Staff and Executive Secretary
Administration for Community Living
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 795-7415
rick.nicholls@acl.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Nelson, Thayer (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2017 4:05 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: (b)(5)
Attachments:

(b)(5)

Thanks!

Thayer
(b)(6)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2017 3:50 PM
To: Nelson, Thayer (HHS/OGC)
Subject: (b)(5)

Hi Thayer,
(b)(5)

Thank you,
Maggie

From: Nelson, Thayer (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2017 10:23 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Thanks.

Thayer
(b)(6)

****
(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Page 287 of 550

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Nelson, Thayer (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 2:28 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Thayer
(b)(6)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 2:24 PM
To: Nelson, Thayer (HHS/OGC)
Subject: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Maggie

From: Nelson, Thayer (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 10:43 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: (b)(5)

Maggie—

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thanks.

Thayer
(b)(6)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2017 5:23 PM
To: Nelson, Thayer (HHS/OGC)
Cc: OS GCGL, EMAIL (HHS/OS)
Subject: (b)(5)

Thayer,

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

Maggie Wynne
Counselor for Human Services Policy
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(b)(6)
Margaret.Wynne@hhs.gov

From: Willoughby, Michelle (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 11:34 AM
To: Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL); McGuffee, Tyler Ann (HHS/ASL); Whitley, Edward (HHS/ASL); Kemper, Laura (HHS/ASL); Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Aramanda, Alec (OS/ASL); Davis, Ms. Cynthia (ACF); Logan, Scott (ACF); Sulton, Jae (ACF); Talbert, Ada L. (CMS/OL); Wikelius, Kristin (CMS/OL); ASPEClearances (OS/ASPE); East, Janet (HHS/OASH); Stallion, Vivian (HHS/OS); ASAIO Staff; Barcus, Lea (PSC/OD); Earles, Vertrice (HHS/ASA) (CTR); Chletsos, Lori (PSC/OD) (CTR); Molloy, Paula (OS/ASA); Becton, Reginal (OS/ASA/OHR/SPD); Hoffman, Darrell (HHS/ASA); Major, Christine (HHS/ASA); Zuco, Paola (OS/ASA); Jackson, Caldwell (ACL/OA); Lutz, Brian T. (ACL/OEA); Nicholls, Richard (ACL/OA); Stauffer, Rachel (OS/ONC); Duncan, Constance (HHS/ASFR); Smith-Simpson, Jacqlyn (HHS/ASFR); Atkinson, Leslie (HRSA); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Groves, Garrick (HRSA); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Adams, Claudia (HHS/OS); Brockett, Sharon (HHS/OCR); Householder, Donna (HHS/OS); Lawson, Heather (HHS/OCR); Morgan, Sherri (OS/OCR); Schmidt, Peggy (HHS/OCR)
Cc: Nelson, Thayer (HHS/OGC); Davis, Jeffrey (HHS/OGC); Friedman, Richard (HHS/OGC); Malliou, Ekaterini (OS/IOS); Blackwell, Edith (HHS/OGC); Johnson, Linda (OS/OGC); Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC); Stimson, Brian (HHS/OGC); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); Cleary, Kelly (HHS/OGC); Huff, Bonita (HHS/OGC); Schuham, Aaron (HHS/OGC); Benor, David E.(HHS/OGC); Naimon, David (HHS/OGC); OGC PH and S BRANCH CONTROLS; Fisher, Barbara (HHS/OGC); Haron, Judith (HHS/OGC); Jeffries, Elizabeth (HHS/OGC); Terry, Minnie (HHS/OGC); Barry, Daniel J (HHS/OGC); OS GCGL, EMAIL (HHS/OS); OIGClearances@oig.hhs.gov
Subject: (b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

TO:

L(HS)	L(H)
ACF	ACL
CMS	ONC
ASPE	ASFR
ASH	HRSA
ASA/PSC/OHR	IOS/OS

FROM: Office of the General Counsel/Legislation Division

SUBJECT: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

Attachments

cc: OIG
GC/IO
GC/CMS
GC/CFA
GC/GLD
GC/PH
IOS/OS
GCL (R Friedman)

Michelle Lawrence Willoughby
Office of the General Counsel/Legislation Division
Legislative Reference Service
202.690.7750 fax 202.690.7309
Michelle.Willoughby@hhs.gov

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Nelson, Thayer (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2017 10:23 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: (b)(5)
Attachments:

(b)(5)

Thanks.

Thayer
(b)(6)

****
(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

From: Nelson, Thayer (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 2:28 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Thayer
(b)(6)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 2:24 PM
To: Nelson, Thayer (HHS/OGC)
Subject: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Maggie

From: Nelson, Thayer (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 10:43 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: (b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Maggie—

(b)(5)

Thanks.

Thayer

(b)(6)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2017 5:23 PM
To: Nelson, Thayer (HHS/OGC)
Cc: OS GCGL, EMAIL (HHS/OS)
Subject: (b)(5)

Thayer,

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

Maggie Wynne
Counselor for Human Services Policy
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(6)

Margaret.Wynne@hhs.gov

From: Willoughby, Michelle (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 11:34 AM
To: Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL); McGuffee, Tyler Ann (HHS/ASL); Whitley, Edward (HHS/ASL); Kemper, Laura (HHS/ASL); Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Aramanda, Alec (OS/ASL); Davis, Ms. Cynthia (ACF); Logan, Scott (ACF); Sulton, Jae (ACF); Talbert, Ada L. (CMS/OL); Wikelius, Kristin (CMS/OL); ASPEClearances (OS/ASPE); East, Janet (HHS/OASH); Stallion, Vivian (HHS/OS); ASAIO Staff; Barcus, Lea (PSC/OD); Earles, Vertrice (HHS/ASA) (CTR); Chletsos, Lori (PSC/OD) (CTR); Molloy, Paula (OS/ASA); Becton, Reginal (OS/ASA/OHR/SPD); Hoffman, Darrell (HHS/ASA); Major, Christine (HHS/ASA); Zuco, Paola (OS/ASA); Jackson, Caldwell (ACL/OA); Lutz, Brian T. (ACL/OEA); Nicholls, Richard (ACL/OA); Stauffer, Rachel (OS/ONC); Duncan, Constance (HHS/ASFR); Smith-Simpson, Jacqlyn (HHS/ASFR); Atkinson, Leslie (HRSA); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Groves, Garrick (HRSA); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Adams, Claudia (HHS/OS); Brockett, Sharon (HHS/OCR); Householder, Donna (HHS/OS); Lawson, Heather (HHS/OCR); Morgan, Sherri (OS/OCR); Schmidt, Peggy (HHS/OCR)
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Subject: (b)(5)

TO:

L(HS)	L(H)
ACF	ACL
CMS	ONC
ASPE	ASFR
ASH	HRSA
ASA/PSC/OHR	IOS/OS

FROM: Office of the General Counsel/Legislation Division

SUBJECT: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

Attachments

cc: OIG
GC/IO
GC/CMS
GC/CFA
GC/GLD
GC/PH
IOS/OS
GCL (R Friedman)

Michelle Lawrence Willoughby
Office of the General Counsel/Legislation Division
Legislative Reference Service
202.690.7750 fax 202.690.7309
Michelle.Willoughby@hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Nelson, Thayer (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 10:43 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: (b)(5)
Attachments:

Maggie—

(b)(5)

Thanks.

Thayer
(b)(6)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2017 5:23 PM
To: Nelson, Thayer (HHS/OGC)
Cc: OS GCGL, EMAIL (HHS/OS)
Subject: (b)(5)

Thayer,

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Page 301 of 550

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of the Freedom of Information Act

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

Maggie Wynne
Counselor for Human Services Policy
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(b)(6)
Margaret.Wynne@hhs.gov

From: Willoughby, Michelle (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 11:34 AM
To: Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL); McGuffee, Tyler Ann (HHS/ASL); Whitley, Edward (HHS/ASL); Kemper, Laura (HHS/ASL); Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Aramanda, Alec (OS/ASL); Davis, Ms. Cynthia (ACF); Logan, Scott (ACF); Sulton, Jae (ACF); Talbert, Ada L. (CMS/OL); Wikelius, Kristin (CMS/OL); ASPEClearances (OS/ASPE); East, Janet (HHS/OASH); Stallion, Vivian (HHS/OS); ASAIO Staff; Barcus, Lea (PSC/OD); Earles, Vertrice (HHS/ASA) (CTR); Chletsos, Lori (PSC/OD) (CTR); Molloy, Paula (OS/ASA); Becton, Reginal (OS/ASA/OHR/SPD); Hoffman, Darrell (HHS/ASA); Major, Christine (HHS/ASA); Zuco, Paola (OS/ASA); Jackson, Caldwell (ACL/OA); Lutz, Brian T. (ACL/OEA); Nicholls, Richard (ACL/OA); Stauffer, Rachel (OS/ONC); Duncan, Constance (HHS/ASFR); Smith-Simpson, Jacqlyn (HHS/ASFR); Atkinson, Leslie (HRSA); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Groves, Garrick (HRSA); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Adams, Claudia (HHS/OS); Brockett, Sharon (HHS/OCR); Householder, Donna (HHS/OS); Lawson, Heather (HHS/OCR); Morgan, Sherri (OS/OCR); Schmidt, Peggy (HHS/OCR)
Cc: Nelson, Thayer (HHS/OGC); Davis, Jeffrey (HHS/OGC); Friedman, Richard (HHS/OGC); Malliou, Ekaterini (OS/IOS); Blackwell, Edith (HHS/OGC); Johnson, Linda (OS/OGC); Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC); Stimson, Brian (HHS/OGC); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); Cleary, Kelly (HHS/OGC); Huff, Bonita (HHS/OGC); Schuham, Aaron (HHS/OGC); Benor, David E.(HHS/OGC); Naimon, David (HHS/OGC); OGC PH and S BRANCH CONTROLS; Fisher, Barbara (HHS/OGC); Haron, Judith (HHS/OGC); Jeffries, Elizabeth (HHS/OGC); Terry, Minnie (HHS/OGC); Barry, Daniel J (HHS/OGC); OS GCGL, EMAIL (HHS/OS); OIGClearances@oig.hhs.gov
Subject: (b)(5)

TO:	L(HS)	L(H)
	ACF	ACL
	CMS	ONC
	ASPE	ASFR
	ASH	HRSA
	ASA/PSC/OHR	IOS/OS

FROM: Office of the General Counsel/Legislation Division

SUBJECT: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

Attachments

cc: OIG
GC/IO
GC/CMS
GC/CFA
GC/GLD
GC/PH
IOS/OS

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

GCL (R Friedman)

Michelle Lawrence Willoughby
Office of the General Counsel/Legislation Division
Legislative Reference Service
202.690.7750 fax 202.690.7309
Michelle.Willoughby@hhs.gov

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Mack, Kelly (ACL)
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2017 11:34 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Balenger, Juanita (HHS/IOS); Merkt, Toby (OS/ASPA); Berger, Dan P. (ACL/CMB); Logan, Robert D. (ACL/ORO); Nicholls, Richard (ACL/OA); Toews, James (ACL/OA); Walker, Edwin L. (ACL/AOA); Williams, Bob (ACL); Phillips, Christine (ACL); Gottlich, Vicki (ACL/OA); Devine, Percy (ACL/ORO/Region VIII); Ishida, David A. (ACL/ORO/Region IX); Miskis, Constantinos (ACL/ORO/Region IV); Otte, Kathleen F. (ACL/ORO/Region II); Varpness, Jim (ACL/ORO/Region V); Hodges, Josh (ACL/AOA); Hill, Kristi (ACL/NIDILRR); Johnson, Jennifer (ACL/AIDD); Kulinski, Kristie (ACL/AOA)
Cc: McKay, Hunter (ACL/OEA); Samuels, Christy (ACL); Mosher, Ann (ACL/OA)
Subject: ACL Articles of Interest 5/25/17

Hello,

Please see the articles of interest for today below, including CMS issuing a termination for a Maryland nursing home with compliance failures, coverage of the CBO's analysis of AHCA, and coverage about the President's 2018 budget.

Regards,
Kelly Mack
ACL Public Affairs Specialist

Not included in HHS clips:

Associated Press (May 24)
Poor and Disabled Big Losers in Trump Budget; Military Wins
The poor and the disabled are big losers in President Donald Trump's $4.1 trillion budget proposal while the Pentagon is a big winner. Trump's plan for the budget year beginning Oct. 1 makes deep cuts in safety net programs, including Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. The proposal also includes big cuts in Social Security's disability program.

New York Times (May 24)
A 1-Hour Walk, 3 Times a Week Has Benefits for Dementia
Regular, brisk walks improved thinking skills in older people with a common form of age-related memory loss.

New York Times (May 24)—Disability column series
The Price of 'Disability Denial'
Future Bills and Cathys need more fresh ideas like these about disabled people. Once freed from prejudice and shame, they can teach the largest class of all — society — to imagine people with disabilities as innovators, problem-solvers and true agents for change.

Disability Scoop (May 23)
Trump Budget Guts Medicaid, Disability Programs
Deep cuts to Medicaid and other programs that people with disabilities rely on are at the heart of President Donald Trump's first budget proposal.

USA Today (May 23)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Health care advocates say the Trump budget plan would gut Medicaid
Advocates for low income people struggled to find the words to describe the likely effect of the proposed $800 billion in cuts proposed to Medicaid in the Trump administration's budget released Tuesday. Depending who you ask, it will be devastating or "just awful" to the lowest income Americans, especially children and those with chronic health conditions, mental illness or substance use disorder.

Disability Scoop / St. Louis Post-Dispatch (May 22)
Transition a Struggle for Young Man with Autism
For people such as Holt who have autism, leaving school means losing a daily circle of friends, a full schedule to keep busy and a network of teachers who are there to help. For Holt, it was a consistent structure that gave him responsibility and purpose.

Seattle Times (May 22)
Opinion: Rep. McMorris Rodgers, we beg to disagree: Those with pre-existing conditions will suffer
IN a recent Washington Post Op-Ed ["My son has a pre-existing condition. He's one of the reasons I voted for the AHCA," May 4] U.S. Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-Spokane, wrote that the Affordable Care Act was a disaster, failing and "wrong for America." In contrast, the recently passed American Health Care Act, McMorris Rodgers stated, would provide coverage for her son, who has Down syndrome. The AHCA, McMorris Rodgers wrote, maintains the "safety nets and protections" for the "most vulnerable in our communities."

Millions of Americans with disabilities, and their families and friends, do not share McMorris Rodgers' confidence in the AHCA. Consider the differences in how the existing Affordable Care Act and the AHCA deal with pre-existing conditions:

New York Times (May 17)—Disability column series
If You're in a Wheelchair, Segregation Lives
These are just a few variations on the sort of ableism that people with physical conditions like mine face every day. Ableism is at work when disability is not an inclusive part of the design process, where the space flows and is welcoming to all bodies. Instead, accommodations are tacked on haphazardly, leading to hostile and hard-to-navigate spaces. With the passage of the Americans With Disabilities Act in 1990 — which sets standards of compliance for buildings in public spaces — progress has been made, but inclusive thinking and design are still the exception, not the norm. Today, segregation and limiting the movement of disabled persons in public spaces is commonplace and accepted.

From HHS clips:

CMS ISSUES TERMINATION NOTICE TO HAGERSTOWN NURSING HOME FOR MEDICARE, MEDICAID COMPLIANCE FAILURES. The Hagerstown (MD) Herald-Mail Media (5/23, Greene, 4K) reports NMS Healthcare, a nursing home in Hagerstown, Maryland, received notice from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services that CMS "is terminating the nursing home's participation in Medicare as of June 6" for what the agency called failure "to attain substantial compliance" with federal Medicaid and/or Medicare participation. The nursing home may continue to receive Medicare payments "for up to 30 days for services provided on or after June 6 so long as NMS and the state Medicaid agency are 'making reasonable efforts to relocate the patients,' the termination notice states."

DISTRICT WORKING TO ENACT ASSISTED SUICIDE LAW DESPITE OBSTACLES IN FEDERAL BUDGET. The Washington Post (5/23, Nirappil, 11.43M) reports Washington, DC "would be barred from spending its own tax dollars to implement its new assisted suicide law under President Trump's proposed budget, but a spokesman for" DC Mayor Muriel E. Bowser "says she is determined to implement the law anyway." According to the Post, officials in Bowser's Administration "say they are working with the D.C. Council to use existing funds to create the monitoring and physician training systems required" for the DC law "before October." Kevin Harris, Bowser's spokesperson, "said city officials did not believe that the proposed budget language would block the assisted suicide law once the initial costs are out of the way."

NEVADA LEGISLATURE ADVANCES RIGHT-TO-DIE BILL. USA Today (5/23, Richardson, 5.28M) reports the Nevada state Senate on Tuesday "voted 11-10 to approve a physician-assisted suicide bill that gives terminally ill patients the option to end their life." Under the bill, physicians would be able to "prescribe pharmaceuticals intended to end the

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patient's life to terminally ill residents of the state who are at least 18 years old," but patients have to be diagnosed as terminally ill "by two doctors and be found competent." Democratic state Sen. David Parks, who sponsored the bill, said, "Medical advances have been a double-edged sword, often prolonging life but creating situations in which patients are kept alive with extensive suffering and diminished quality of life."

CMS APPROVES KANSAS PRIVATIZED MEDICAID PROGRAM. The Kansas City (MO) Star (5/23, Lowry, 581K) reports the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced it has accepted a corrective plan for Kansas' privatized Medicaid program that will allow the program to operate in 2018. CMS previously "rejected the state's request to extend its KanCare program," a privatized Medicaid program that depends on state and federal funding, "through 2018...after finding that the program was 'substantively out of compliance' with federal regulations," but sent a letter to state health officials on Monday "saying it had accepted the state's corrective action plan." CMS has yet to approve the state's extension, "but the agency's acceptance of the corrective action plan is a positive sign."

ACADEMIC MEDICAL CENTERS APPEAR TO HAVE LOWER DEATH RATES FOR OLDER ADULTS THAN OTHER FACILITIES, STUDY FINDS. Reuters (5/23, Rapaport) reports that although academic medical centers tend to be more expensive than community hospitals, they "appear to have lower death rates for older adults than other facilities," according to a study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association. Researchers "found 8.3 percent of patients died within 30 days of hospitalization at major teaching hospitals, compared with 9.2 percent at minor teaching hospitals and 9.5 percent at community hospitals."

CBO SAYS 23 MILLION MORE AMERICANS WOULD BE UNINSURED UNDER REVISED AHCA. This morning, there is extensive television, print and online coverage of the Congressional Budget Office's analysis of the American Health Care Act, which seeks to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. Several news outlets say the findings could be a problem for the GOP as Senate Republicans begin crafting their version of an ACA repeal bill.

On its front page, the New York Times (5/24, A1, Pear, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that on Wednesday, the Congressional Budget Office unveiled the results of its analysis of the American Health Care Act which "narrowly passed the House" earlier this month. According to the CBO, the bill would increase the number of uninsured Americans by 14 million in 2018, and by 23 million in 2026. In addition, it would lower "the federal deficit by $119 billion over a decade, less than the $150 billion in savings projected in late March for an earlier version of the bill." The CBO also predicted that for "states that seek waivers from rules mandating essential health coverage, the new law could make insurance economically out of reach for some sick consumers."

CBO Shows AHCA Would Raise Premiums For Elderly, Cut Federal Deficit. The Washington Post (5/24, Soffen, Uhrmacher, 11.43M) reports the CBO report found that the American Health Care Act would leave 51 million Americans "uninsured within a decade" and premiums for elderly citizens would see "700 to 800 percent" increases among those with an annual income of about $26,500, while premiums could drop for younger people "because some sicker people would not be able to get insurance at all." The AHCA will also permit states to determine changes to the "essential health benefits" marketplace insurance plans can offer, resulting in a decline in insurance value. The bill's "upside" shows it would "meaningfully" reduce the deficit by "$119 billion over 10 years," although "it is unlikely that the House's bill will be enacted."

PRICE, HOUSE GOP LAWMAKERS PUSHING SENATE REPUBLICANS TO PASS ACA REPEAL BILL BEFORE SUMMER RECESS. The Hill (5/24, Carney, 1.25M) reports there is growing pressure on Senate GOP lawmakers "to pass an ObamaCare repeal-and-replace bill before the congressional recess in August." Although Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) "is wary of committing to a specific deadline after the House struggled to pass a bill, the White House wants the upper chamber to hit the gas." The article adds that HHS Secretary Tom Price "and House GOP lawmakers are publicly nudging the Senate to vote before lawmakers leave town at the end of July."

AARP CAMPAIGN WILL TARGET REPUBLICANS WHO OPPOSE AHCA. The Hill (5/24, Roubein, 1.25M) reports on AARP's "TV ad buy" to pressure Republican senators Jeff Flake (AZ), Cory Gardner (CO), Dean Heller (NV), Lisa Murkowski (AK) and Dan Sullivan (AK). The piece says the 38-million-member group "has been vocal in its opposition to the House GOP healthcare bill" that "would make coverage more expensive and unaffordable for older people" via "age tax" provisions and which has the potential to "weaken protections for those with pre-existing conditions and Medicare." AARP executive vice president Nancy LeaMond said in a statement that "older Americans are very worried about the cost of their health insurance."

The campaign will cost the organization "at least six figures on the ads in each of the four states," which the Huffington Post (5/24, Marans, 237K) says will target senators who are "either moderate, or...up for re-election in 2018." The ad highlights the "House bill's most controversial features," as portrayed in the Washington Post, and urges viewers to "call one of the five senators and tell them to vote 'no on the health care bill.'" In what the Post calls "early signs that AARP

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could get its wish that the Senate start from scratch," several Republican senators "declared their intention to craft an entirely different law" after the Congressional Budget Office said the AHCA would increase the ranks of the uninsured by 23 million.

CMS APPROVES NEBRASKA'S REQUEST FOR MEDICAID WAIVERS. The Omaha (NE) World-Herald (5/24, Stoddard, 544K) reports the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has approved both of Nebraska's Medicaid waiver requests. Courtney Miller, director of the state developmental disabilities division, on Wednesday said that means "federal Medicaid dollars will continue flowing to Nebraska to help pay for community-based services for developmentally disabled people." The state's program pays "for community-based services for people who might otherwise need to be in an institution." Miller said the state is still working with CMS on a review of "some $32 million worth of previously paid claims."

AMOUNT OF MEDICAID CUTS IN TRUMP BUDGET PROPOSAL UNCLEAR. CNN Money (5/24, Luhby, 3.59M) reports it "has spent the past two days trying to figure out exactly how much President Trump wants to carve out of Medicaid, which covers more than 70 million low-income children, adults, senior citizens and disabled Americans." Depending on how the numbers are viewed, the cuts can be anywhere between $610 billion and $1.4 trillion over the next 10 years. The article clarifies, "The president's budget assumes that the House bill becomes law." The Concord Coalition, a watchdog group, says, if the proposal does become law, the cuts would be cumulative of Medicaid spending cuts of $610 billion and the House bill's reductions of $839 billion equaling about $1.4 trillion over the course of 10 years. The article reports, "The conservative Heritage Foundation and the liberal Center on Budget and Policy Priorities agreed [with Concord Coalition] Tuesday that the spending reductions appeared to be additive."

CMS ACCEPTS KANSAS' PLAN TO BRING PRIVATIZED MEDICAID PROGRAM INTO COMPLIANCE. The Wichita (KS) Eagle (5/24, Lowry, 265K) reports on Monday that CMS told Kansas state officials that it has accepted the corrective plan for the state's privatized Medicaid program after it "had rejected the state's request to extend its KanCare program through 2018 in January" for being "'substantively out of compliance' with federal regulations." In particular, CMS officials found in January the state did not have proper oversight of the private insurance companies and lacked clear communication with progam beneficiaries. The state is still awaiting approval for the extension of the program.

THERAPISTS, PARENTS ASK STATE OFFICIALS TO NOT CUT MEDICAID BENEFITS FOR DISABLED CHILDREN. The Austin (TX) American Statesman (5/24, Price, Subscription Publication, 407K) reports parents and therapists "pleaded on Wednesday with state official" to not move forward with planned Medicaid cuts for disabled children that were approved in 2015 by the state legislature. The article says, "Opponents of the cuts have argued that the reduced rates would cut revenue for providers by 18 to 28 percent and force physical, occupational and speech therapists to close their doors, interrupting vital services to an estimated 60,000 disabled Texas children." The legislature based its cuts "on data that showed that Texas reimbursed therapists at higher rates than other states and commercial insurance programs." The article says that some state Senate Republicans are standing by the cuts, while House Republicans have stated they will revisit the issue.

OPINION: MEDICAID BLOCK GRANTS IMPROVED SENIOR HEALTHCARE IN RHODE ISLAND. Charlie Katebi, a policy fellow at the Millennial Policy Center, writes in an opinion piece in the Washington Examiner (5/24, 400K) that President Trump's budget proposal would reform Medicaid by allowing states to choose between a block grant or capping "Medicaid funding through a per-capita spending allotment." Katebi argues that Medicaid is "costly for taxpayers" and "downright disastrous for patients," but Trump's proposal "would refocus Medicaid's resources towards truly needy patients by capping federal reimbursements and offering states greater flexibility to streamline and modernize the program." Katebi highlights Rode Island's 2009 "Consumer Choice Compact Waiver" block grant that "enrolled beneficiaries in private, managed care plans to improve primary care access and reduce emergency room visits" and "shifted elderly enrollees out of traditional nursing homes and into more affordable home-and-community-based facilities." Two years later, a Lewin Group report found that the block grant was "highly effective in controlling costs and improving patients' access to appropriate physician services," which led to AARP Rhode Island State Director Kathleen Connell to acknowledge that "seniors [on Medicaid] have absolutely benefited from being moved out of nursing homes into home and community-based care. The program is moving in the right direction for seniors."

HIGH-FIBER DIET MAY BE TIED TO LOWER RISK FOR KNEE ARTHRITIS, STUDY SUGGESTS. In "Well," the New York Times (5/24, Bakalar, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports a higher-fiber diet may be tied to a lower risk for knee arthritis, according to a study published in the Annals of Rheumatic Diseases. Researchers used data from two long-term studies and found that "as fiber intake increased, the prevalence of arthritis decreased."

FEWER ELDERLY PATIENTS WHO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE WITH DAILY REGIMENS EXPERIENCE POST-OPERATIVE DELIRIUM, STUDY SUGGESTS. Reuters (5/24, Emery) reports a study examining the effects of daily, 30-minute regimens to assist elderly patients showed that half experienced reductions in post-operation delirium, according

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to a test of 377 volunteers in Taipei. Among participants, 15.1 percent who received "conventional treatment experienced delirium," while those assisted by hospital workers in performing activities such as brushing their teeth and performing facial exercises reduced the delirium rate to 6.6. percent. The study was published in JAMA Surgery.

STUDY FINDS CANADIANS REQUESTING LETHAL INJECTION FEARED LOSS OF AUTONOMY. The Washington Post (5/24, Cha, 11.43M) reports on a study published in the New England Journal of Medicine which found that of the "74 people who inquired about assistance in dying from March 2016 to March 2017" at the University Health Network in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, it was not pain, but what professor Madeline Li of the University of Toronto described as "existential distress," that led them to request death. She said, "Their quality of life is not what they want. They are mostly educated and affluent — people who are used to being successful and in control of their lives, and it's how they want their death to be."

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Mack, Kelly (ACL)
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 10:01 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Balenger, Juanita (HHS/IOS); Merkt, Toby (OS/ASPA); Berger, Dan P. (ACL/CMB); Logan, Robert D. (ACL/ORO); Nicholls, Richard (ACL/OA); Toews, James (ACL/OA); Walker, Edwin L. (ACL/AOA); Williams, Bob (ACL); Phillips, Christine (ACL); Gottlich, Vicki (ACL/OA); Devine, Percy (ACL/ORO/Region VIII); Ishida, David A. (ACL/ORO/Region IX); Miskis, Constantinos (ACL/ORO/Region IV); Otte, Kathleen F. (ACL/ORO/Region II); Varpness, Jim (ACL/ORO/Region V); Hodges, Josh (ACL/AOA); Hill, Kristi (ACL/NIDILRR); Johnson, Jennifer (ACL/AIDD); Kulinski, Kristie (ACL/AOA)
Cc: McKay, Hunter (ACL/OEA); Samuels, Christy (ACL); Mosher, Ann (ACL/OA)
Subject: ACL Articles of Interest 5/12/17

Hello,

Please see the articles of interest for today below, including coverage about CMS delaying the home and community-based settings rule, a column written by a teen girl living with a disability, and advice for nursing home facilities on how to work with their long-term care ombudsman.

Regards,
Kelly Mack
ACL Public Affairs Specialist

Not included in HHS clips:

Kaiser Health News (May 11)
CMS Gives States Until 2022 to Meet Medicaid Standards of Care
The Trump administration has given states three extra years to carry out plans for helping elderly and disabled people receive Medicaid services without being forced to go into nursing homes. Federal standards requiring states find ways of delivering care to Medicaid enrollees in home and community-based settings will take effect in 2022 instead of 2019, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced this week.

Los Angeles Times (May 10)
L.A. city attorney accuses home healthcare firm of stealing workers' wages
The Los Angeles city attorney filed suit Wednesday against a home healthcare business operator, accusing her companies of bilking hundreds of mostly immigrant workers out of their pay while violating minimum wage and overtime laws. "Stealing wages from hardworking men and women is reprehensible," Mike Feuer said. "No worker should be forced into poverty because an employer denies them their basic rights to a minimum wage and overtime. My office will aggressively combat wage theft and fight to ensure all workers are paid what the law demands."

Teen Vogue (May 10)
What to Know About Living with a Disability
As a young woman living with Cerebral Palsy, a neurological condition affecting movement and muscle tone, it's hard not to notice that disabled people — the world's largest minority — could benefit from some more representation. Because there's such a lack of visibility in mainstream media, disabled people are still very much misunderstood. I recently shared my feelings about the disabled identity on the Body Pos Project, an online

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platform for sharing stories about overcoming issues regarding body positivity. People responded with so much love. Still, there are some things I wish they knew.

McKnight's (May 9)—Mentions long-term care ombudsman program

Opening the door for ombudsmen

Last week during a talk at the Pennsylvania Department of Aging 2017 Ombudsman Conference, audience members told me that they're having difficulty speaking to administrators and other senior staff when they visit the facilities. In fact, some people reported that the administrators close their office doors when they find out the ombudsman is in the building!

While I can imagine from an administrator's point of view that an unexpected interruption from someone complaining about problems is not exactly a welcome visit, perhaps there's a way to shift the relationship to mutual advantage.

In fact, ombudsmen may be able to use their resources to help you solve problems within your facility.

Modern Healthcare (May 9)

CMS may repeal ban on nursing home arbitration agreements

The Trump administration hinted to consumer organizations last week that it may repeal an Obama-era regulation that prohibits nursing homes from requiring patients to enter binding arbitration agreements.

From HHS clips:

CBO TO RELEASE ANALYSIS OF AHCA IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. The Washington Post (5/10, Goldstein, 11.43M) reports the Congressional Budget Office intends to release "an assessment of how the health-care legislation that the House just passed will impact federal spending" during the week of May 22. The CBO did not indicate if "the analysis of the Republicans' Affordable Health Care Act will include a forecast of how the bill would affect the number of Americans with health insurance." The article says the projections "are significant because the House GOP leadership rushed through Thursday's vote on the legislation – which polarized even factions within the chamber's Republican conference – without waiting for the CBO's budget analysts to size up its fiscal and insurance coverage impact."

PRICE, VERMA URGED TO STOP CAREGIVERS UNDER MEDICAID BEING CHARGED UNION DUES. Maxford Nelsen, director of labor policy for the Freedom Foundation, writes in the Washington Examiner (5/10, Nelsen, 400K) against unionization of "caregivers serving the elderly and disabled," arguing that as a result of reclassification decisions by governors and ballot measures, these caregivers are now "forced to pay union dues as a condition of serving their clients." Nelsen points out that often the caregivers are helping family members or friends and are paid under the Medicaid program. He argues that the ability to change this "is well within the regulatory authority" of HHS Secretary Tom Price, and CMS Administrator Seema Verma. He urges them to do so.

DEMOCRATS WANT PRICE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT ACA NON-DISCRIMINATION RULE. NBC News (5/10, O'Hara, 2.67M) reports on its website that a group of 21 Senators, many of whom are leading Democrats, sent a letter on Wednesday to HHS Secretary Price asking him to "provide answers about reported plans to overturn a non-discrimination rule in the Affordable Care Act." The letter comes in the wake of last week's court filing, which NBC says "strongly suggest[s] that HHS may overturn Rule 1557 of the Affordable Care Act," which "prohibits discrimination in health care on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability." The letter said "each person in our country is entitled to protection against [health care] discrimination ... Your Department's enforcement of the law is their first line of defense, and the Administration's recent efforts to roll back enforcement are unacceptable."

ATTORNEYS GENERAL PETITION HHS TO LET STATES USE FEDERAL FUNDS TO PROSECUTE MORE ABUSE AND NEGLECT CASES OF MEDICAID BENEFICIARIES. The AP (5/11) reports that Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring "is calling on federal officials to let the states use federal funds to target more cases of abuse and neglect committed against Medicaid beneficiaries." In a letter to HHS Secretary Tom Price, Herring and over three dozen other attorneys general said they want to be able to prosecute cases of abuse and neglect using federal funds in cases with Medicaid patients in non-institutional settings, such as home healthcare.

NIH SAYS NEW TREATMENTS ARE NEEDED TO HELP US SERVICEMEN WHO ARE SUFFERING LONG-TERM NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF MILD CONCUSSIONS. The Washington Times (5/10, Kelly, 272K) reports the National

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Institutes of Health said in a statement that new treatments are needed to help US servicemen who have suffered mild concussions while serving overseas because the negative effects of such injuries can persist for up to five years. Dr. Walter Koroshetz, the director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, said, "We need to identify effective, long-term treatment strategies that will help these brave men and women enjoy the highest quality of life possible following their service to our country." The article points out that the statement follows a recent study, funded by the National Institutes of Health, "that found negative health affects continued for at least five years in US military personnel who suffered even mild concussions during their service in Iraq or Afghanistan."

POLICY ANALYST: AHCA COULD "BATTER" MARKET FOR LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE. Urban Institute resident fellow and author of "Caring for Our Partners," Howard Gleckman, writes in Forbes (5/10, Gleckman, 15.17M) that the healthcare bill recently passed by the House "could further batter the already-beaten down market for long-term care insurance." It could, he says, "drive even more middle income seniors into impoverishment and onto Medicaid long-term care." Gleckman explains that is because the AHCA "would significantly raise health insurance premiums and out-of-pocket medical costs for buyers aged 50-64," which is when people begin to consider long-term care (LTC) insurance. With increased costs under AHCA, "they will be far less likely to buy long-term care insurance."

JURY CONVICTS FOUR PHYSICIANS, TWO OTHERS IN $13.6 MILLION MEDICARE HOME CARE FRAUD SCHEME. The New Orleans Times-Picayune (5/10, Lane, 656K) reports, "A jury convicted four New Orleans doctors and two others on Tuesday (May 9) in federal court for participating in a Medicare fraud scheme prosecutors say netted more than $13.6 million in fraudulent Medicare reimbursements." The six defendants worked for Abide Home Care Services which "routinely falsified diagnoses so Medicare reimbursements were inflated. Abide also falsified medical records that supported medically unnecessary home health services, prosecutors said." The four doctors in particular would order unnecessary home health services for Medicare beneficiaries.

HOME CARE RULE COMPLIANCE DATE EXTENDED THREE YEARS BY CMS. Modern Healthcare (5/10, Subscription Publication, 241K) reports CMS announced on Tuesday that states will have an additional three years from the existing deadline to implement federally approved plans "meant to encourage states to use Medicaid funds to keep the elderly and beneficiaries with physical or mental disabilities out of nursing homes." The original deadline was March 17, 2019 and was extended "in light of the difficult and complex nature of this task," as per CMS.

NOISE FROM KNEES MAY BE INDICATOR OF EARLY ARTHRITIS, STUDY SUGGESTS. The New York Times (5/10, Reynolds, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) "Well" blog reports that research suggests "if your knees creak and pop, the noises could be an indicator of early arthritis, even if the joint does not hurt." The research "was published...in Arthritis Care & Research and funded primarily through the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases."

NEW GUIDELINES RECOMMEND AGAINST USE OF ARTHROSCOPIC SURGERY FOR PATIENTS WITH DEGENERATIVE KNEE PROBLEMS. Kaiser Health News (5/10, Rodriguez, 2K) reports arthroscopic surgery should not be used "for patients with degenerative knee problems," according to new guidelines from an international panel of experts and patients that were published in BMJ. The panel reviewed 13 studies on the procedure and concluded that the operation was not reliably effective for improving function or providing lasting pain relief.

OPINION: PEOPLE WITH AUTISM SHOULD PLAY A BIGGER ROLE IN DIRECTING AUTISM RESEARCH. John Elder Robison, an adult with autism "and advocate for people with neurological differences," writes in STAT (5/10) "First Opinion" that people with autism should be more involved in discussions about autism research. Robison argues that "when it comes to autism research, if we want science to address our concerns, we first need to make sure that researchers know what those concerns are." Robison mentions that he has worked with the National Institute of Mental Health as an adviser, and he encourages scientists and people with autism to look for more opportunities to engage with one another.

OPINION: RESEARCHERS SHOULD SEEK TO UNDERSTAND WHY WOMEN ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTED BY ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE. Roberta Diaz Brinton, PhD, the director of the University of Arizona Health Sciences' Center for Innovation in Brain Science, writes in STAT (5/10) "First Opinion" that "the prevailing theory for why Alzheimer's disease disproportionately affects women is that they generally live longer than men," but there is "mounting evidence" that suggests "longevity alone may not account for the difference." Brinton argues that based on this new evidence, "we must dig deeper into how the relationship between genetic, hormonal, and lifestyle factors affect the brain over time," in order to develop better approaches and treatment for women and men.

HEART ATTACK RISKS MAY INCREASE AFTER JUST DAYS OF NSAID USE, STUDY SUGGESTS. In continuing coverage, the CBS Evening News (5/10, story 7, 1:45, Pelley, 11.17M) reported a new study indicates increased risk for heart attack "after just days of use" of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). CBS News chief medical

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correspondent Jon Lapook, MD, interviewed cardiologist Steven Nissen, MD, of the Cleveland Clinic, who "says NSAIDS always carry some risk, so people should take the lowest dose for the shortest time."

SENATE CONSERVATIVES SEEK CHANGES WHICH INCLUDE DROPPING MILLIONS FROM MEDICAID ROLLS. The Washington Post (5/11, Weigel, Viebeck, 11.43M) reports that Senate conservatives are pushing for changes to the healthcare system "that would drop millions of adults from Medicaid, limit the value of tax credits over concerns about funding abortion and weaken or cancel consumer protections." While they believe the changes "will help reduce health-care spending, prevent tax-credit dollars from paying for abortions and expand access to health insurance by lowering premiums," and the changes are "looked on favorably by some House Republicans who don't expect their version of the American Health Care Act to survive the Senate," the "effort to nudge the Senate's health-care bill to the right could alienate moderates and complicate leaders' push to keep the GOP conference united for a vote in which only two members can defect."

SENATE CONSERVATIVES SEEK TO WEAKEN ACA PROTECTIONS. The AP (5/11, Fram) reports conservative senators want to weaken "insurance coverage requirements imposed by" the Affordable Care Act "as Senate Republicans try fashioning legislation overhauling the nation's health care system." For instance, they want to end protections for people with pre-existing conditions, although states could impose those rules if they choose. In contrast, the AHCA which was approved by the House last week would retain the protections, but allow states to apply for waivers to opt out. These conservatives argue that removing the coverage requirements would help to reduce premiums.

VETERANS GROUPS CALL FOR HEALTHCARE PROTECTION AS SENATE DEBATES ACA REPLACEMENT. Modern Healthcare (5/11, Lee, Subscription Publication, 241K) reports veterans advocacy groups and Democratic Senators are calling on Republican lawmakers "to protect veterans' access to healthcare in their Obamacare replacement bill," over concerns that the recently passed House healthcare bill "could be particularly dangerous for veterans." Advocates are saying the House version "bar[s] veterans eligible for care from the Veterans Affairs Department from receiving tax credits to buy insurance on the individual markets, reducing federal support for Medicaid and effectively ending Medicaid expansion." On Tuesday, the group "Paralyzed Veterans of America" voiced opposition to the AHCA.

ANALYSIS: AHCA TARGETS YOUNGER CUSTOMERS TO OFFSET OLDER CUSTOMERS COVERED BY ACA. CNBC (5/11, Mangan, 2.17M) online reports the Republican-backed American Health Care Act "would increase the number of people who would qualify for subsidies" but also "increase average premiums over the next two years higher than they would be under Obamacare." According to a report by eHealth, average premiums under the Affordable Care Act have risen by 39 percent since 2014. The piece offers extensive comparisons between subsidized and unsubsidized coverage under both plans and examines who may be impacted most, saying the AHCA "is expected to lower premium costs for younger customers, whose participation in insurance pools is crucial to offsetting the cost of older customers."

OPINION: Physician and medical analyst Ford Vox writes in CNN (5/11, 29.79M) that that congressional lawmakers "are poised to heedlessly cut off access to reliable health care for a projected 24 million people (by 2026)," in what he says is a "rushed effort to appease a detail-disoriented President who'll apparently take whatever legislation he's offered so long as it dismantles Obamacare." Vox highlights the work of a Denver-based clinic, the Rehabilitation Services Volunteer Project (RSVP), whose employees are "doing the real work of health care, treating uninsured people with disabilities at a newly launched free rehabilitation clinic in Denver." He says this could represent the future of healthcare and that "Republicans aren't getting us closer to fixing the ACA's gaps that necessitate such clinics, they're making them catastrophically worse."

VIRGINIA AG ASKS FEDS TO CHANGE POLICY, USE FUNDS TO GO AFTER MEDICAID ABUSE, NEGLECT CASES. The AP (5/11) reports Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring called "on federal officials to let the states use federal funds to target more cases of abuse and neglect committed against Medicaid beneficiaries." The letter, signed by more than three dozen attorneys general, was sent to HHS Secretary Tom Price. The article reports, "Herring's office says Medicaid Fraud Control Units are currently only allowed to investigate and prosecute abuse and neglect cases that happen in connection with Medicaid-funded services, like nursing homes."

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Mack, Kelly (ACL)
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 10:13 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Balenger, Juanita (HHS/IOS); Merkt, Toby (OS/ASPA); Berger, Dan P. (ACL/CMB); Logan, Robert D. (ACL/ORO); Nicholls, Richard (ACL/OA); Toews, James (ACL/OA); Walker, Edwin L. (ACL/AOA); Williams, Bob (ACL); Phillips, Christine (ACL); Devine, Percy (ACL/ORO/Region VIII); Ishida, David A. (ACL/ORO/Region IX); Miskis, Constantinos (ACL/ORO/Region IV); Otte, Kathleen F. (ACL/ORO/Region II); Varpness, Jim (ACL/ORO/Region V); Hodges, Josh (ACL/AOA); Hill, Kristi (ACL/NIDILRR); Johnson, Jennifer (ACL/AIDD)
Cc: McKay, Hunter (ACL/OEA); Samuels, Christy (ACL); Mosher, Ann (ACL/OA)
Subject: ACL Articles of Interest 5/10/17

Hello,

Please see the articles of interest for today below, including an essay about palliative care, training for Alzheimer's patients' caregivers, and a piece from the LA Daily News about Older Americans Month.

Regards,
Kelly Mack
ACL Public Affairs Specialist

Not included in HHS clips:

New York Times (May 10)—Disability column series
Disability and the Right to Choose
My disability is not genetic and it does not hamper pregnancy. Being pregnant was physically, emotionally and spiritually easy for me, but socially, it was complicated. Moving around in New York City as a pregnant woman with a disability opened me up for constant commentary. I am used to having my body be an object of attention. The real difficulty came from elsewhere — it was dealing with the medical establishment during my pregnancy that I was not prepared for.

New York Times (May 10)
We're Bad at Death. First, We Need a Good Talk.
For years the medical profession has largely fumbled the question of what we should do when there's nothing more we can do. A new wave of research sheds light on what patients want at the end of life, and who is — or isn't — getting it.

Disability Scoop (May 9)
Feds Urged to Improve Transition Services
Congress' investigative arm is calling on federal officials to consider earlier transition planning and to take other steps to meet the needs of youth with autism entering adulthood.

In a wide-ranging report released this month, the Government Accountability Office said that federal agencies can do more to improve outcomes for those on the spectrum who the agency said often fare poorer than individuals with other types of disabilities in the transition to work and postsecondary education.

Kaiser Health New (May 9)
'Boot Camp' Helps Alzheimer's Dementia Caregivers Take Care of Themselves, Too

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Gary Carmona thought he could do it all. He's run companies and chaired nonprofit boards. But since his wife was diagnosed with dementia, Carmona, 77, has felt overwhelmed. "I really see myself at times crashing," he said. "In my mind, I'm saying, 'You know, I can't really handle all this.'" There was the time his wife, Rochelle, wandered outside and fell down. And the time she boiled water and walked away, leaving the burner on. "I'm always double-, triple-, quadruple-checking everything that she's around," he said.

New York Times (May 9)

Designing for All Abilities

Shopping for and choosing clothes is challenging enough that an entire industry of stylists, magazine editors and fashion bloggers has been created to help. But imagine if your parameters included more than finding a sweater to complement your eye color, or a backpack to match your sneakers. Imagine if you were unable to use your arms to do anything (let alone get dressed), or used a wheelchair and needed to have easy access to a catheter, or had a spine with a significant convex curve that made pressing up against any flat surface painful, or had muscles that spasm.

LA Daily News (May 8)

Successful Aging: Celebrating Older Americans Month and the benefits of aging

Older adults are taking center stage, not as members of a dance troupe, chorale or symphony, but to be featured performers for Older Americans Month. And that month is May.

This year's theme is "Age out Loud," a take-off on the acronym LOL, meaning laugh out loud in Internet communications. According to the Administration for Community Living, the theme gives aging a new voice highlighting important issues and trends. We know that older Americans are working longer, trying new things and engaging in their communities. They're striving for wellness, focusing on independence, and advocating for themselves and others. They expect to live their lives with boldness, confidence and passion.

From HHS clips:

GOP SENATORS, WHITE HOUSE HOPE FOR QUICK TURNAROUND ON AHCA. The Washington Times (5/8, Howell, 272K) reports Republican senators plan to "write their own legislation that looks substantially different than the embattled plan that cleared the House last week" by allaying concerns about Medicaid coverage, passing the "Kimmel test" to offer coverage for pre-existing conditions, and attracting support from Democrats "to forge a bipartisan solution to Obamacare's wobbly markets." The piece says "a working group of 13 senators, all men," will "lead the rewrite." The group is comprised of "moderate-leaning senators in Sens. Rob Portman of Ohio and Cory Gardner of Colorado, whose states vastly expanded their Medicaid populations under Obamacare, and conservative stalwarts in Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas and Mike Lee of Utah, who'd like to scrap the 2010 health care law outright."

STAND-ALONE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN FOR MEDICARE RECIPIENTS INCENTIVIZED TO MAKE DRUGS TOO COSTLY FOR CONSUMERS, ECONOMIST SAYS. In a piece for "The Upshot" blog of the New York Times (5/8, Subscription Publication, 13.9M), economist Austin Frakt writes that as some insurers "dissuade" Medicare recipients from using the drug benefits of their stand-alone prescription drug plan through higher co-payments, they end up taking fewer medications to cut costs, which can "make them worse off than if they'd selected a higher-premium plan with a lower co-payment" due to costly hospitalizations. According to Frakt, "stand-alone drug plans are less invested than Medicare Advantage plans in keeping people healthy enough to avoid some hospital visits" because "a stand-alone plan never has to pay for hospital or physician visits – those are covered by traditional Medicare."

DEBATE OVER MEDICARE'S SPECIALTY DRUG TIER EXAMINED. Bloomberg BNA (5/8, Yochelson, 7K) examines the debate over whether Medicare should do away with specialty drug tiers. Proponents of the move say the specialty tier "penalizes beneficiaries who require treatment with a specialty medication through onerous use management edits, along with the high out-of-pocket costs that stem from the coinsurance." However, opponents say that doing away with specialty tiers "could potentially lead to higher costs for beneficiaries."

AHCA COULD CUT MEDICAID FUNDS USED FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION. The Christian Science Monitor (5/8, Rosen, Kenworthy, 387K) reports that under the AHCA passed by the House, projected Medicaid spending is to be reduced by $880 billion and "$4 to $5 billion" of Medicaid spending "goes to elementary and secondary schools to pay for special education services and equipment." Medicaid has helped to fund special education since 1988, because "Congress has

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

never lived up to its pledge to pay for 40 percent of the average cost required to educate a child with disabilities." Medicaid funds are used by school districts to cover expenses as varied as "the salary and benefits of staff specialists, including speech pathologists, physical and occupational therapists, and school nurses" as well as "student evaluations and equipment such as wheelchairs and assistive technology for the classroom."

RESEARCH LOOKS AT INEQUALITIES IN LIFE EXPECTANCY AMONG US COUNTIES. NBC Nightly News (5/8, story 9, 0:40, Holt, 16.61M) reported, "Finally tonight, how long you live may depend on where you live. A new study finds average life expectancy varies by decades across the US."

HHS TO DEVELOP INSURANCE RISK SHARING PROGRAM. Modern Healthcare (5/9, Dickson, Subscription Publication, 241K) reports the Trump Administration does not plan to "penalize insurers for failing to verify the number severely ill patients they've enrolled through the insurance exchanges," but instead intends "to spread the insurance risk" through allowing companies which cover patients with complex illnesses to "receive money from companies that have generally healthier members." While the Affordable Care Act "mandated that third-party auditors and HHS validate that plans receiving risk-adjustment payments do indeed have sicker patients...HHS has struggled to get the program off the ground." In 2016, HHS "said it would financially penalize plans if auditors found inconsistencies in the number of reported high-risk enrollees," though shortly after the CMS "said it again would not hold plans accountable for non-validated high risk claims from 2016." The piece says, "Insurance companies are thrilled with the agency's decision and say it could be key to keeping them on the exchanges."

ACA ASSISTED SOME PATIENTS WITH QUALIFIED MEDICAL BURDENS, STUDY SUGGESTS. Reuters (5/9, Cohen) reports a study published in Health Affairs "found a nearly 7 percent drop in the number of consumers under age 65 with non-group health insurance who experienced a qualified 'medical financial burden' between 2013 and 2015," in which a qualified burden is "defined...as when a family spends more than 10 percent of its annual income on health insurance and medical costs." According to the lead author, "the data provide a pretty clear signal that nonelderly people with non-group health insurance coverage did experience financial relief after the implementation of the ACA."

STUDY FINDS INCREASED RISK OF HEARING LOSS AMONG MENOPAUSAL WOMEN ON HRT. The Telegraph (UK) (5/10, Donnelly, 1.04M) reports a "landmark study" published in the journal Menopause found that hormone-replacement therapy increased the risk of hearing loss among menopausal women by 15 percent for those using HRT for between five and ten years. Moreover, researchers said "the use of oral HRT for long periods was linked with a higher risk of hearing loss," and that the effect was also heightened for women who experienced a late menopause. In their commentary on the study, which included more than self-reporting from more than 80,000 women, the North American Menopause Society said that "women considering taking HRT should consider the risk of hearing loss when weighing up the risks and benefits of the treatment," according to the article.

US SPENDS MORE MONEY TREATING ELDERLY, POOR COUNTRIES SPEND MORE TREATING CHILDREN, RESEARCH SHOWS. NPR (5/9, 1.92M) reports in its "Goats and Soda" section that the US spends more money treating the elderly than the young, evidenced by CMS data showing that in 2010, "each person 65 and older received $18,424 in health care services...five times more than the $3,628 in spending per child under 18, and three times more than the $6,125 per working-age adult." In contrast, research appearing in the journal Health Affairs Centers analyzing "the $36.4 billion spent on health assistance from development agencies and nonprofit donors to low- and middle-income countries" found that 90 percent "is spent on people under the age of 60," mostly to children. The report is said to have fueled the debate about age discrimination and the best allocation of resources in healthcare.

Kelly Mack
Public Affairs Specialist
Administration for Community Living
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
kelly.mack@acl.hhs.gov
Telephone: 202-795-7378

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 12:48 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Balenger, Juanita (HHS/IOS)
Subject: National Survey of Older Americans Act Program Background
Attachments: Responses to 3.22.17 Policy Team Questions on OAA National Survey.doc.docx; Ninth_National_Survey_of_OAA_Participants_March_18_2014.docx

Hi Maggie and Juanita,

Attached is follow-up you requested from last week's ACL weekly meeting on the National Survey of Older Americans Act Program.

Thanks.
Matt

From: Lutz, Brian T. (ACL/OEA)
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 12:41 PM
To: Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Cc: Nicholls, Richard (ACL/OA); Jackson, Caldwell (ACL/OA); Berger, Dan P. (ACL/CMB)
Subject: ACL Responses to Policy Team Questions During 3/22 Meeting

Hi Matt,

During last week's Policy Team meeting, ACL was asked to provide additional background information related to the National Survey of Older Americans Act program participants. Attached are the responses to the questions, as well as a copy of the justification submitted to OMB in 2014 regarding the SOGI questions, which was also requested. Thanks,

Brian

Brian Lutz
Administration for Community Living
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20201
Brian.Lutz@acl.hhs.gov
202-795-7393

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 1:18 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Balenger, Juanita (HHS/IOS)
Subject: FW: ACL week ahead
Attachments: ACL Week Ahead Report update- 03-24-17.docx; Policy Team Letter - PATBI.DOCX; 30-Day PATBI Notice-Final 3-23-2017 .docx; PATBI-PPR-Form.docx; LRLR Lifespan New States.FOA.DOCX; IL CIL. FOA.DOCX; DDTI Minority Serving Institutions.docx; DDUC UCEDD Diversity Fellowships.FOA.docx

There is a small change associated with the second bullet below in the ACL week ahead report. There are actually now four FOAs for approval, not three. ACL just contacted me about the change. The additional FOA is attached along with an updated report and the other attachments I previously sent this morning.

Thanks.

From: Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 9:11 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Balenger, Juanita (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Shelton, Carrie A (HHS/IOS)
Subject: ACL week ahead

Good morning Maggie and Juanita,

Here is ACL's week ahead report. Only two items for approval; the third item is an FYI. Their report is attached and also pasted below.

The first three attachments after the report are associated with the first item below (PATBI). The next three attachments are the three FOAs mentioned in the second item.

Thanks.
Matt

HHS Week Ahead Report
3/24/17

(b)(5)

HHS-OS EF Lit 18-0241-001136
EXT-18-241-E-000319
AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

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Senior Policy Coordinator/Services Policy Team Lead
Immediate Office of the Secretary-Executive Secretariat
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave SW - Room 627H
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: (202) 205-8154 Fax: (202) 205-2135
Matthew.Grove@hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 9:11 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Balenger, Juanita (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Shelton, Carrie A (HHS/IOS)
Subject: ACL week ahead
Attachments: ACL Week Ahead Report - 03-24-17.docx; Policy Team Letter - PATBI.DOCX; 30-Day PATBI Notice-Final 3-23-2017 .docx; PATBI-PPR-Form.docx; LRLR Lifespan New States.FOA.DOCX; IL CIL. FOA.DOCX; DDTI Minority Serving Institutions.docx

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Thanks.
Matt

HHS Week Ahead Report
3/24/17

(b)(5)

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(b)(5)

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Washington, DC 20201
Phone: (202) 205-8154 Fax: (202) 205-2135
Matthew.Grove@hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Berger, Dan P. (ACL/CMB)
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 4:09 PM
To: Mansdoerfer, David (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Lagomarsino, Katie (OS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: ACL - Committee on Disabilities
Attachments: Charter_renewal_16-PCPID.PDF; ACL PCPID FACA Overview.docx; PCPID appointments - 5 from late Oct - Dec 2016.docx; 13708-CO 9-30-15.pdf

Adding Jennifer and Cory.

From: Berger, Dan P. (ACL/CMB)
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 3:44 PM
To: Mansdoerfer, David (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Lagomarsino, Katie (OS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: ACL - Committee on Disabilities

David,

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

Dan

Dan Berger
Deputy Administrator for Management and Budget
Administration for Community Living
330 C Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20201
phone: (202) 795-7307
dan.berger@acl.hhs.gov

IMPORTANT NOTICE:
Please be advised that the Department of Health and Human Services is implementing a records retention policy change. As of Monday, December 1, 2014 all messages sent to this official government email account will be automatically retained indefinitely. As a result, please refrain from sending personal messages to this address.

From: Mansdoerfer, David (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 10:51 AM
To: Berger, Dan P. (ACL/CMB)
Cc: Lagomarsino, Katie (OS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: ACL - Committee on Disabilities
Importance: High

Hi Dan,

(b)(5)

-DM

David Mansdoerfer
Office of the White House Liaison

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Balenger, Juanita (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2017 5:37 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: FW: ACL FOA - SBIR Program Phase II
Attachments: ACL Draft FOA - SBIR Program Phase II .docx

Maggie,

(b)(5)

Juanita

From: Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2017 2:34 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Balenger, Juanita (HHS/IOS)
Subject: ACL FOA - SBIR Program Phase II

(b)(5)

Thanks.

From: Nicholls, Richard (ACL/OA)
Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2017 1:18 PM
To: Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Cc: Berger, Dan P. (ACL/CMB)
Subject: RE: ACL FOAs for Policy Team

Matt, see attached the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program Phase II FOA for review.

We'll provide the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Health and Exercise FOA to you for review next week.

Thanks,

Rick Nicholls
Chief of Staff and Executive Secretary
Administration for Community Living
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 795-7415
rick.nicholls@acl.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2017 2:34 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Balenger, Juanita (HHS/IOS)
Subject: ACL FOA - SBIR Program Phase II
Attachments: ACL Draft FOA - SBIR Program Phase II .docx

(b)(5)

Thanks.

From: Nicholls, Richard (ACL/OA)
Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2017 1:18 PM
To: Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Cc: Berger, Dan P. (ACL/CMB)
Subject: RE: ACL FOAs for Policy Team

Matt, see attached the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program Phase II FOA for review.

We'll provide the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Health and Exercise FOA to you for review next week.

Thanks,

Rick Nicholls
Chief of Staff and Executive Secretary
Administration for Community Living
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 795-7415
rick.nicholls@acl.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 4:37 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Balenger, Juanita (HHS/IOS)
Subject: FW: ACL FOAs for Policy Team - 4 more
Attachments: (b)(5)

4 more ACL FOAs

From: Nicholls, Richard (ACL/OA)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 4:27 PM
To: Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Cc: Berger, Dan P. (ACL/CMB)
Subject: RE: ACL FOAs for Policy Team

Matt, see attached 4 additional FOAs for Maggie's and Juanita's review.

Two additional FOAs will be provided in the coming day or two:
(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Thanks again,
Rick

From: Nicholls, Richard (ACL/OA)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 3:26 PM
To: 'Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)'
Cc: Berger, Dan P. (ACL/CMB)
Subject: ACL FOAs for Policy Team

Matt,

See attached 8 of the FOAs for Maggie's and Juanita's review and consideration, which we've been working to release by March 1st. We look forward to receiving feedback, and stand ready to aid their review in any way helpful.

More FOAs will follow once they are ready in Word format. The Grants Solutions system these are developed in outputs the FOAs in PDF format, and a conversion to Word is not always as simple and dependable as one would think.

Thanks,

Rick Nicholls
Chief of Staff and Executive Secretary
Administration for Community Living
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(202) 795-7415
rick.nicholls@acl.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 3:33 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Balenger, Juanita (HHS/IOS)
Subject: FW: ACL FOAs for Policy Team
Attachments: ACL Draft FOA - DRRP ADA National Network Collaborative Research Project.docx; ACL Draft FOA - DRRP Burn Model System Centers Program.docx; ACL Draft FOA - DRRP Center on Knowledge Translation for Disability and Rehab Research.docx; ACL Draft FOA - DRRP TBI Model System Centers.docx; ACL Draft FOA - Evidence Based Falls Prevention.docx; ACL Draft FOA - National Resource Center on Nutrition and Aging.docx; ACL Draft FOA - RERC Rehab Strategies Techniques and Interventions.docx; ACL Draft FOA - Spinal Cord Injury Systems Multi-Site Collaborative Research Project.docx

Here are 8 of the 15 FOAs. I will share the others when I receive them. Thanks.

From: Nicholls, Richard (ACL/OA)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 3:30 PM
To: Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Cc: Berger, Dan P. (ACL/CMB)
Subject: ACL FOAs for Policy Team

Matt,

See attached 8 of the FOAs for Maggie's and Juanita's review and consideration, which we've been working to release by March 1st. We look forward to receiving feedback, and stand ready to aid their review in any way helpful.

More FOAs will follow once they are ready in Word format. The Grants Solutions system these are developed in outputs the FOAs in PDF format, and a conversion to Word is not always as simple and dependable as one would think.

Thanks,

Rick Nicholls
Chief of Staff and Executive Secretary
Administration for Community Living
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 795-7415
rick.nicholls@acl.hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Shelton, Carrie A (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 9:45 AM
To: Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Flick, Heather (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Robinson, Wilma (HHS/IOS)
Subject: 03/03/17 Week Ahead Report
Attachments: HHS Week Ahead Report - 03-03-17.docx

Good morning,
Attached please find the compilation of the Op/StaffDiv week ahead reports for next week. Please let your PC know if you need additional information (e.g., a referenced document) pertaining to any of the items.
Thanks,
Carrie

Carrie Shelton, Policy Coordinator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Team
Immediate Office of the Secretary/Executive Secretariat
US Department of Health and Human Services | www.hhs.gov
200 Independence Ave, SW, Room 617H | Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202.205.8806 | E-mail: Carrie.Shelton@hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Horska, Katerina (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2017 5:27 PM
To: Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Zebley, Kyle (HHS/OS/OGA); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Hawkins, Jamar (HHS/OS)
Subject: Follow-ups from CDC based on Updated CDC Week Ahead Report 03-09-2017 + 5 new FOAs
Attachments: CDC Week Ahead Report - 03-09-2017 FOLLOWUPS.DOCX; Supplemental Info_CDC Week Ahead Report - 03-09-2017.docx; CDC Week Ahead Report - 03-09-2017 post meeting kh_CDC Followup.docx

Importance: High

Nina and Mary-Sumpter –

Please find attached per the email below the follow-ups that were promised from CDC based on yesterday's meeting (First Attachment). Please note that also attached in the follow up document from CDC are 5 new FOAs, the first of which is scheduled to post March 20.

Also attached (for Mary-Sumpter to have all the background information) are the week ahead report from yesterday (Second Attachment) and the supplemental info (Third Attachment).
It should all now be in one place (except for the one Gillibrand letter that will be on next week's report).

Nina – please let me know once you have a chance to review the items flagged for your review in the Third Attachment if any are cleared or anything further is needed.

Thank you!

Katerina

From: Horska, Katerina (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 3:41 PM
To: Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Zebley, Kyle (HHS/OS/OGA); Hawkins, Jamar (HHS/OS); Shelton, Carrie A (HHS/IOS)
Subject: Updated CDC Week Ahead Report 03-09-2017
Importance: High

Good afternoon, Nina –

Please find attached the revised CDC Week Ahead report based on our meeting this morning.
The annotated report highlights the status of each action item. It also includes some more information on the location of the TBI Hill Day and an additional awareness item of the MMWR being published March 16.

The rest of CDC's follow-up information is expected tomorrow.

(I've reattached the supplemental info doc so you have it in one place, but that has not changed since I sent it yesterday.)

Thank you!

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Katerina

Katerina Horska
Policy Coordinator
Immediate Office of the Secretary, Executive Secretariat
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Room 629H, Humphrey Building
Phone: 202-690-6819

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, March 07, 2017 7:58 PM
To: Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS)
Subject: FW: For your review: Sen. Durbin on water contamination in Rockford, IL Case
Attachments: Ltr to ATSDR TCE Rockford.pdf; 2379432 TCE Rockford IL Durbin v6.docx; Enclosure 3 National Exposure Registry TCE Follow-up 3 Technical Report.pdf; Enclosure 1 TCE final mailout to registrant -Understanding TCE.PDF; Enclosure 2 National Exposure Registries TCE Follow-up 3 Registrant Repo....pdf

Importance: High

Ann,

Here is a draft response from ATSDR to a request from Sen. Durbin. It came in a couple of weeks ago for Policy Team review, but I neglected to respond earlier.

Katrina just checked in with Nina – cc'ing me – to see about our clearance of the response.

Maggie

From: Horska, Katerina (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 10:29 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Zebley, Kyle (HHS/OS/OGA)
Subject: For your review: Sen. Durbin on water contamination in Rockford, IL Case
Importance: High

Maggie –

Please find attached a response to Sen. Durbin regarding concerns about contaminated water in Rockford, IL. The response has three enclosures. I've attached the incoming letter, response, and enclosures.

For your reference, the letter was flagged on CDC's last report as the below item:

_____

(b)(5)

Thank you!
Katerina

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Katerina Horska
Policy Coordinator
Immediate Office of the Secretary, Executive Secretariat
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Room 629H, Humphrey Building
Phone: 202-690-6819

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 3:15 PM
To: Brennan, Patrick (OS/ASPA); Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC)
Cc: Lloyd, Matt (OS/ASPA); Murphy, Ryan (OS/ASPA); Oakley, Caitlin B. (OS/ASPA); Pasch, David (OS/ASPA); Smith, Amanda (OS/ASPA); Pence, Laura (HHS/IOS); Bell, Kathryn (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: For review by 1 PM: Draft flu shot remarks
Attachments: 09 26 17 CDC flu kickoff ps.docx

A few suggestions in the attached.

Paula

From: Brennan, Patrick (OS/ASPA)
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 10:42 AM
To: Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC)
Cc: Lloyd, Matt (OS/ASPA); Murphy, Ryan (OS/ASPA); Oakley, Caitlin B. (OS/ASPA); Pasch, David (OS/ASPA); Smith, Amanda (OS/ASPA); Pence, Laura (HHS/IOS); Bell, Kathryn (HHS/IOS)
Subject: For review by 1 PM: Draft flu shot remarks

Hello all,

Attached are draft remarks for Secretary Price to deliver tomorrow morning at a press conference at the National Press Club, co-hosted by CDC and the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases, about recommendations and data on the annual flu shot. This hews very closely to what the CDC provided us.

Please let me know if you have edits or concerns by 1 PM if possible. Thank you!

Best,
Patrick

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 9:15 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); McGuffee, Tyler Ann (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Daravi, Kamran (HHS/IOS); Zebley, Kyle (HHS/IOS); Powers, Mary (HHS/IOS); Aramanda, Alec (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: HHS Meeting Requets -Rep. Cuellar - March 8, 2017

(b)(5)

Thanks

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 8:22 AM
To: McGuffee, Tyler Ann (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Daravi, Kamran (HHS/IOS); Zebley, Kyle (HHS/IOS); Powers, Mary (HHS/IOS); Aramanda, Alec (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: HHS Meeting Requets -Rep. Cuellar - March 8, 2017

Tyler Ann,

(b)(5)

Thanks,
Maggie
260-7267

From: McGuffee, Tyler Ann (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 5:43 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Daravi, Kamran (HHS/IOS); Zebley, Kyle (HHS/IOS); Powers, Mary (HHS/IOS); Aramanda, Alec (HHS/IOS)
Subject: HHS Meeting Requets -Rep. Cuellar - March 8, 2017

Maggie,
Please see the clearance request below for CDC, NIH and ASPR.
Please let Alec and I know if you have any concerns.

ASPR

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

CDC

(b)(5)

NIH

(b)(5)

Thank you,
TAM

From: Bradsher, Kris (HHS/ASL)
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 2:59 PM
To: McGuffee, Tyler Ann (HHS/IOS); Aramanda, Alec (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Khalife, Alexandra (HHS/ASL); Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL)
Subject: RE: HHS Meeting Requets -Rep. Cuellar - March 8, 2017

Hi Tyler Ann and Alec,

This is the Rep. Cuellar visit that Barbara, Alex and I had discussed this morning. The agencies the Congressman wants to meet with will be able to discuss their programs related to infectious disease and response.

Will be great to get feedback by Monday if possible.

Kris

Date Need Clearance: Monday, March 6

Request (include office/organization requesting): Briefing Request from Rep. Cuellar to meet with CDC, ASPR and NIH. Below is the request from Juan Sanchez (staffer for Rep. Cuellar)

ASPR

(b)(5)

CDC

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

NIH

(b)(5)

Audience/attendees: Congressman Henry Cuellar; City of Laredo -City Manager Jesus Olivarez; Dr. Hector Gonzalez Health Department Director

Background: The following information was provided by Juan Sanchez (Staffer for Rep. Cuellar)

The United States/Mexico Border is at high risk for infectious diseases and bioterrorism. We are an international border and Laredo is the number one (1) inland port of entry with 40% of all US inland goods passing through Laredo's four (4) international bridges, 16,000 trucks cross daily through one (1) international bridge. Laredo serves as a HUB for other rural and smaller counties further increasing growth (100,000 daily) and with our sister city of Nuevo Laredo, Mexico our MSA is over one million. These conditions promote daily health security and all hazardous threats by current, emerging and new diseases on the Texas/Mexico border. Some of these potential threats are new diseases; such as, Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERs), H1N1, Ebola, Zika and other highly infectious diseases. We also have the continued threat of Dengue and West Nile Virus, Botulism, Ricin, Multi Drug Resistant Tuberculosis and now Chikungunya Virus. Anyone of these could pose a serious health threat and/or serve as a bioterrorist attack.
Population - In 2010-2014, Laredo, Texas has a total population of 245,000 -- 126,200 (51 percent) females and 118,900 (49 percent) males. The median age was 28.3 years. An estimated 34 percent of the population was under 18 years and 8 percent was 65 years and older

Laredo is a at risk region that is medically underserved with a population that has pressing health and social needs. Is has is designated a Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) Geographic High Needs, and a Medically Underserved Area/ Populations It has among our nation's highest rates of poverty and uninsured residents. The residents are disproportionately affected by diabetes, substance abuse, mental health disorders, teen pregnancy, cervical cancer, obesity, sexually transmitted diseases and tuberculosis. There is a high demand for health care services but unfortunately the demand exceeds the supply of doctors.
Laredo and the border area have one of the lowest rates of physicians per capita in the nation.

Disability - In Laredo, Texas, among the civilian noninstitutionalized population in 2010-2014, 12 percent reported a disability. The likelihood of having a disability varied by age - from 6 percent of people under 18 years old, to 10 percent of people 18 to 64 years old, and to 54 percent of those 65 and over.

The median income of households in Laredo, Texas was $39,408. An estimated 20 percent of households had income below $15,000 a year and 5 percent had income over $150,000 or more.

An estimated 83 percent of the households received earnings and 9 percent received retirement income other than Social Security. An estimated 24 percent of the households received Social Security. The average income from Social Security was $12,565. These income sources are not mutually exclusive; that is, some households received income from more than one source.

Poverty - In 2010-2014, 31 percent of people were in poverty. An estimated 42 percent of related children under 18 were below the poverty level, compared with 24 percent of people 65 years old and over. An estimated 27 percent of all families and 45 percent of families with a female householder and no husband present had incomes below the poverty level.
Health Insurance - Among the civilian noninstitutionalized population in Laredo, Texas in 2010-2014, 66 percent had health insurance coverage and 34 percent did not have health insurance coverage. For those under 18 years of age, 16 percent had no health insurance coverage. The civilian noninstitutionalized population had both private and public health insurance, with 35 percent having private coverage and 35 percent having public coverage.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Federal Participant seeking clearance: CDC, ASPR, and NIH

Slides or handouts? No

Time/Location: March 8, 2017 at 1 p.m. at Member Office 2209 RHOB

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

HHS-OS EF Lit 18-0241-001156

EXT-18-241-E-000339

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Horska, Katerina (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 3:42 PM
To: Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Zebley, Kyle (HHS/OS/OGA); Hawkins, Jamar (HHS/OS); Shelton, Carrie A (HHS/IOS)
Subject: Updated CDC Week Ahead Report 03-09-2017
Attachments: CDC Week Ahead Report - 03-09-2017 post meeting kh_CDC Followup.docx; Supplemental Info_CDC Week Ahead Report - 03-09-2017.docx

Importance: High

Good afternoon, Nina –

Please find attached the revised CDC Week Ahead report based on our meeting this morning.
The annotated report highlights the status of each action item. It also includes some more information on the location of the TBI Hill Day and an additional awareness item of the MMWR being published March 16.

The rest of CDC's follow-up information is expected tomorrow.

(I've reattached the supplemental info doc so you have it in one place, but that has not changed since I sent it yesterday.)

Thank you!
Katerina

Katerina Horska
Policy Coordinator
Immediate Office of the Secretary, Executive Secretariat
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Room 629H, Humphrey Building
Phone: 202-690-6819

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Horska, Katerina (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, March 07, 2017 6:38 PM
To: Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Zebley, Kyle (HHS/OS/OGA); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: Post Meeting Follow up on 2 CDC Director Letters
Attachments: For your review: Sen. Durbin on water contamination in Rockford, IL Case ; RE: Request for your clearance today: Revised Letter on Drug Combos to Senator Richard Durbin; CDC_Letter on Tribune Combinations Story.pdf

Hi Nina –

As discussed in our meeting today, please find attached the two correspondence items below:

- CDC Congressional correspondence regarding prescription drug interactions
- CDC Congressional correspondence regarding drinking water in Rockford.

I'm sending them as the emails that went to Maggie so that you have all the documents and background. Also attached separately is the incoming letter for the first bulleted item.

Please let me know if you have any concerns or when they can move forward (to Ann Agnew).

Thank you!

Katerina

Katerina Horska
Policy Coordinator
Immediate Office of the Secretary, Executive Secretariat
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Room 629H, Humphrey Building
Phone: 202-690-6819

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, October 03, 2017 10:40 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: PEPFAR China MSM

Maggie,

Here are some quick notes on the NOFO in SPS I mentioned last night:

(b)(5)

SL
Deliberative and pre-decisional communication

Sarah-Lloyd Stevenson
Policy Advisor
Immediate Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(b)(6)
(202) 260-6255
Sarah-Lloyd.Stevenson@hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2017 7:04 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: PEPFAR China MSM

Hi Maggie,

Hope you're having a productive but fun and educational time in Uganda. Thank you for letting me know and the reasoning behind it.

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, October 20, 2017 12:01 PM
To: Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: PEPFAR China MSM

Mary-Sumpter and Sarah-Lloyd,

(b)(5)

Maggie

From: Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, October 03, 2017 10:40 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
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(b)(5)

SL

Deliberative and pre-decisional communication

Sarah-Lloyd Stevenson
Policy Advisor
Immediate Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(b)(6)
(202) 260-6255
Sarah-Lloyd.Stevenson@hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, October 20, 2017 12:01 PM
To: Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: PEPFAR China MSM

Mary-Sumpter and Sarah-Lloyd,

(b)(5)

Maggie

From: Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, October 03, 2017 10:40 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: PEPFAR China MSM

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

SL

Deliberative and pre-decisional communication

Sarah-Lloyd Stevenson
Policy Advisor
Immediate Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(b)(6)
(202) 260-6255
Sarah-Lloyd.Stevenson@hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2017 4:14 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: PEPFAR China MSM

(b)(5)

Pre-decisional and deliberative communication

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2017 3:33 PM
To: Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: PEPFAR China MSM

HI SL,
(b)(5)

Thanks,
Maggie

Deliberative and pre-decisional communication

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, October 03, 2017 10:40 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: PEPFAR China MSM

Maggie,

Here are some quick notes on the NOFO in SPS I mentioned last night:

(b)(5)

SL
Deliberative and pre-decisional communication

Sarah-Lloyd Stevenson
Policy Advisor
Immediate Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(b)(6)
(202) 260-6255
Sarah-Lloyd.Stevenson@hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: OS HHSPress (HHS/ASPA)
Sent: Tuesday, May 09, 2017 12:54 PM
To: Colson, Angela S. (CDC/OD/OADC); Daniel, Katherine Lyon (CDC/OD/OADC); Honein, Margaret (Peggy) (CDC/ONDIEH/NCBDDD); McGuire, Delaney (CDC/OD/OADC); OS - ASPA - Clearance; OS - ASPA - Public Health Clearance; OS - ASPA - Human Services Clearance; OS - ASPA - Health Care Clearance; Sarasohn, Judy (HHS/ASPA); Garlow, Nicholas (HHS/ASPA)
Cc: OS HHSPress (HHS/ASPA)
Subject: CLEARANCE_0429: ASPA "Zika and Pregnancy: Protecting the Babies"
Attachments: 05-11-2017 Zika babies blog-CDC.DOCX

Agency/Office: ASPA

Subject (or headline): *Zika and Pregnancy: Protecting the Babies*

Material: Draft blog

Deadline for comments: Before 1 p.m. Wednesday, May 10

Planned release date: Thursday, May 11

Driver: Warmer season, promotion of new Zika resources website

Best,

Mike Robinson
Strategic Planning, ASPA

202-690-6885 –desk
(b)(6) -mobile

INTERNAL HHS USE ONLY! INFORMATION NOT RELEASABLE TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS AUTHORIZED BY LAW:
This information has not been publically disclosed and may be privileged and confidential. This document must not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive the information. Unauthorized disclosure may result in prosecution to the full extent of the law.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Horska, Katerina (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 10:26 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Ross, Lindsey (OS/IOS)
Subject: For your review by Tuesday 3/7: Response to Sen. Nelson Zika Letter
Attachments: Nelson Rewrite clean 03032017.docx; Nelson Rewrite redline 03032017.docx

Maggie and Lindsey –

(b)(5)

Can you please let me know if you have any further concerns/edits or if the letter is good to go for signature by next Tuesday?

Thank you so much!

Katerina

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2017 7:06 PM
To: Ross, Lindsey (OS/IOS); Horska, Katerina (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS); Robinson, Wilma (HHS/IOS); Hawkins, Jamar (HHS/OS)
Subject: RE: Ready for review: Response to Sen. Nelson Zika Letter

Katerina,

(b)(5)

Maggie

From: Ross, Lindsey (OS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 9:16 AM
To: Horska, Katerina (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS); Robinson, Wilma (HHS/IOS); Hawkins, Jamar (HHS/OS)
Subject: RE: Ready for review: Response to Sen. Nelson Zika Letter

Thank you Katerina. Will get you edits by Monday.

From: Horska, Katerina (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 7:09 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Ross, Lindsey (OS/IOS)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS); Robinson, Wilma (HHS/IOS); Hawkins, Jamar (HHS/OS)
Subject: Ready for review: Response to Sen. Nelson Zika Letter

Maggie and Lindsey –

Please find attached CDC's draft of the response to Senator Nelson on Zika funding.

(b)(5)

Thank you!
Katerina

From: Horska, Katerina (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 4:42 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Ross, Lindsey (OS/IOS)
Cc: Robinson, Wilma (HHS/IOS); Hawkins, Jamar (HHS/OS)
Subject: Congressional Zika Letter

Maggie and Lindsey –

Please see attached a letter from Senator Nelson to the Secretary on Zika funding.
I've assigned CDC to draft the response and will share that with you when it's ready for clearance.
Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns in the meantime.

Thank you,
Katerina

Katerina Horska
Policy Coordinator
Immediate Office of the Secretary, Executive Secretariat
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Room 629H, Humphrey Building
Phone: 202-690-6819

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 6:38 PM
To: Horska, Katerina (HHS/IOS)
Subject: FW: UCG Options memo
Attachments: PR UCG Options Paper_02-24-17 Final.docx; Letter from PR Sec. of Health.pdf

Katerina,

(b)(5)

Thank you,
Maggie

From: Ross, Lindsey (OS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2017 10:46 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Zebley, Kyle (HHS/IOS); Valentine, Steven (HHS/IOS); Moorhead, Dolly (HHS/IOS); Daravi, Kamran (HHS/IOS)
Subject: UCG Options memo

Hello Maggie,

(b)(5)

Please let me know if you have any questions/comments/suggestions. (I will be on a plane this afternoon ~2-4pm but will have my laptop with me this evening and weekend)

Thank you,
Lindsey

Lindsey Ross, M.D.
Health Policy Counselor
White House Fellow
Immediate Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Cell: (b)(6)
Email: Lindsey.ross@hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: McGuffee, Tyler Ann (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 4:23 PM
To: Daravi, Kamran (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: HHS Meeting Requets -Rep. Cuellar - March 8, 2017

Same page.

-TAM

From: Daravi, Kamran (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 4:16 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); McGuffee, Tyler Ann (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: HHS Meeting Requets -Rep. Cuellar - March 8, 2017

Thank you Maggie. (b)(5)

Kamran Daravi
(b)(6)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 3:07 PM
To: Daravi, Kamran (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); McGuffee, Tyler Ann (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Zebley, Kyle (HHS/IOS); Powers, Mary (HHS/IOS); Aramanda, Alec (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: HHS Meeting Requets -Rep. Cuellar - March 8, 2017

Kamran and Tyler Ann,

(b)(5)

Thanks,
Maggie

From: Daravi, Kamran (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 9:55 AM
To: Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); McGuffee, Tyler Ann (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Zebley, Kyle (HHS/IOS); Powers, Mary (HHS/IOS); Aramanda, Alec (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: HHS Meeting Requets -Rep. Cuellar - March 8, 2017

Hello Tyler Ann,

(b)(5)

Thanks,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Kamran Daravi
(b)(6)

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To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); McGuffee, Tyler Ann (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Daravi, Kamran (HHS/IOS); Zebley, Kyle (HHS/IOS); Powers, Mary (HHS/IOS); Aramanda, Alec (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS)
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(b)(5)

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(b)(5)

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260-7267

From: McGuffee, Tyler Ann (HHS/IOS)
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Cc: Daravi, Kamran (HHS/IOS); Zebley, Kyle (HHS/IOS); Powers, Mary (HHS/IOS); Aramanda, Alec (HHS/IOS)
Subject: HHS Meeting Requets -Rep. Cuellar - March 8, 2017

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ASPR

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

CDC

(b)(5)

NIH

(b)(5)

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Cc: Khalife, Alexandra (HHS/ASL); Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL)
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Will be great to get feedback by Monday if possible.

Kris

Date Need Clearance: Monday, March 6

Request (include office/organization requesting): Briefing Request from Rep. Cuellar to meet with CDC, ASPR and NIH. Below is the request from Juan Sanchez (staffer for Rep. Cuellar)

ASPR

(b)(5)

CDC

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

NIH

(b)(5)

Audience/attendees: Congressman Henry Cuellar; City of Laredo -City Manager Jesus Olivarez; Dr. Hector Gonzalez Health Department Director

Background: The following information was provided by Juan Sanchez (Staffer for Rep. Cuellar)

The United States/Mexico Border is at high risk for infectious diseases and bioterrorism. We are an international border and Laredo is the number one (1) inland port of entry with 40% of all US inland goods passing through Laredo's four (4) international bridges, 16,000 trucks cross daily through one (1) international bridge. Laredo serves as a HUB for other rural and smaller counties further increasing growth (100,000 daily) and with our sister city of Nuevo Laredo, Mexico our MSA is over one million. These conditions promote daily health security and all hazardous threats by current, emerging and new diseases on the Texas/Mexico border. Some of these potential threats are new diseases; such as, Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERs), H1N1, Ebola, Zika and other highly infectious diseases. We also have the continued threat of Dengue and West Nile Virus, Botulism, Ricin, Multi Drug Resistant Tuberculosis and now Chikungunya Virus. Anyone of these could pose a serious health threat and/or serve as a bioterrorist attack.
Population - In 2010-2014, Laredo, Texas has a total population of 245,000 -- 126,200 (51 percent) females and 118,900 (49 percent) males. The median age was 28.3 years. An estimated 34 percent of the population was under 18 years and 8 percent was 65 years and older

Laredo is a at risk region that is medically underserved with a population that has pressing health and social needs. Is has is designated a Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) Geographic High Needs, and a Medically Underserved Area/ Populations It has among our nation's highest rates of poverty and uninsured residents. The residents are disproportionately affected by diabetes, substance abuse, mental health disorders, teen pregnancy, cervical cancer, obesity, sexually transmitted diseases and tuberculosis. There is a high demand for health care services but unfortunately the demand exceeds the supply of doctors.
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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Federal Participant seeking clearance: CDC, ASPR, and NIH

Slides or handouts? No

Time/Location: March 8, 2017 at 1 p.m. at Member Office 2209 RHOB

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

HHS-OS EF Lit 18-0241-001176

EXT-18-241-E-000359

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Horska, Katerina (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 9:19 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: Re: UCG Options memo
Attachments: PR UCG Options Paper_02-24-17 Final.docx; Letter from PR Sec. of Health.pdf

Sherri passes on her thank you!

On: 03 March 2017 18:37, "Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)" <Margaret.Wynne@hhs.gov> wrote:
Katerina,

(b)(5)

Thank you,
Maggie

From: Ross, Lindsey (OS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2017 10:46 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Zebley, Kyle (HHS/IOS); Valentine, Steven (HHS/IOS); Moorhead, Dolly (HHS/IOS); Daravi, Kamran (HHS/IOS)
Subject: UCG Options memo

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(b)(5)

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Thank you,
Lindsey

Lindsey Ross, M.D.
Health Policy Counselor
White House Fellow

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Immediate Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Cell: (b)(6)
Email: Lindsey.ross@hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wright, Natasha (OS/IOS)
Sent: Wednesday, October 04, 2017 3:42 PM
To: Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Bell, Kathryn (HHS/IOS); Pence, Laura (HHS/IOS); Graham, John (HHS/ASPE); Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); Abram, Anna (FDA/OC); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA); Caliguiri, Laura (HHS/IOS); Bush, Laina (HHS/ASPE); Hargan, Eric (OS/OGC); Udutha, Pranay (HHS/IOS); Nelson, Beth (HHS/IOS); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); Brady, Will (HHS/IOS); Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC)
Cc: Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS); Robinson, Wilma (HHS/IOS); Hawkins, Jamar (HHS/OS); Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS); Shelton, Carrie A (HHS/IOS); Pelekoudas, Kristina (HHS/IOS); Malliou, Ekaterini (OS/IOS)
Subject: Compiled September Deregulatory Actions Update
Attachments: Compiled September Submissions.xlsx

Good Afternoon,

For your reference, please see attached for the compiled **September** Deregulatory Actions Update. In preparation for the October 16 submission, today we shared this with the Regulatory Reform Officers.

Please note the following changes to the Excel spreadsheet:

- On Sheet 2, we have included a Legend/Key indicating what colors and symbols on the list of Deregulatory Actions mean. The Legend/Key is summarized below:

Asterisk* in Column B=Deregulatory, but does not require Task Force Approval
~~Red Strikethrough~~=Removed from Consideration
Yellow= New Items
Green= Approved by Task Force

- We have also added one new column on the Excel spreadsheet capture additional information:
    - Column P is designated for **Publication Date of Deregulatory Action**. As deregulatory actions are being published to the Federal Register, we ask that you add the publication date and link to the action in the Federal Register.

Please let us know if you have questions.

Thanks,
Natasha

Natasha Wright, MA, MPH | Policy Coordinator
Executive Secretariat |Immediate Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
o. (202)260.7513 | Natasha.wright2@hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2017 11:07 AM
To: Bell, Kathryn (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); Brady, Will (HHS/IOS); Caliguiri, Laura (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS); Robinson, Wilma (HHS/IOS); Pence, Laura (HHS/IOS); Nelson, Beth (HHS/IOS); Udutha, Pranay (HHS/IOS); Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: FOR FINAL REVIEW: Statement of Regulatory Priorities Outline
Attachments: Statement of Regulatory Priorities Fall FY18 - 9.13 draft ps edits.docx

Some additional comments and suggestions in the attached.

Paula

From: Bell, Kathryn (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2017 5:24 PM
To: Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); Brady, Will (HHS/IOS); Caliguiri, Laura (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS); Robinson, Wilma (HHS/IOS); Pence, Laura (HHS/IOS); Nelson, Beth (HHS/IOS); Udutha, Pranay (HHS/IOS); Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS)
Subject: FOR FINAL REVIEW: Statement of Regulatory Priorities Outline

Hi again, everyone. Please see attached for the final draft of the reg plan statement for our OMB submission on Monday.

(b)(5)

Please let me know if you have any edits by **noon tomorrow, September 14th.** We will be sending the final document home with the Secretary in his book tomorrow. Thank you all in advance for reviewing.

Kathryn

From: Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 9:51 AM
To: Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Bell, Kathryn (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); Brady, Will (HHS/IOS); Caliguiri, Laura (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS); Robinson, Wilma (HHS/IOS); Pence, Laura (HHS/IOS); Nelson, Beth (HHS/IOS); Udutha, Pranay (HHS/IOS); Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: Statement of Regulatory Priorities Outline

Missed a word, so use this version.

Paula

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 9:33 AM
To: Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Bell, Kathryn (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); Brady, Will (HHS/IOS); Caliguiri, Laura (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS); Robinson, Wilma (HHS/IOS); Pence, Laura (HHS/IOS); Nelson, Beth (HHS/IOS); Udutha, Pranay (HHS/IOS); Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: Statement of Regulatory Priorities Outline

Some additional suggestions.

Paula

From: Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 3:34 PM
To: Bell, Kathryn (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); Brady, Will (HHS/IOS); Caliguiri, Laura (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS); Robinson, Wilma (HHS/IOS); Pence, Laura (HHS/IOS); Nelson, Beth (HHS/IOS); Udutha, Pranay (HHS/IOS); Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: Statement of Regulatory Priorities Outline

Kathryn – thank you for pulling this together!

Some suggested nits in to the narrative in the attached.

From: Bell, Kathryn (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 12:20 PM
To: Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); Brady, Will (HHS/IOS); Caliguiri, Laura (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS); Robinson, Wilma (HHS/IOS); Pence, Laura (HHS/IOS); Nelson, Beth (HHS/IOS); Udutha, Pranay (HHS/IOS); Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: Statement of Regulatory Priorities Outline

Hi again everyone,

Please see attached for the most recent completed draft of the full narrative, as well as an updated outline that reflects the examples that are currently highlighted. I'm still working on tweaking the document but in the interest of time want to get it out to all of you for review.

(b)(5)

Along with your other comments, let me know if you think the subcategories are helpful or if you would rather stick with the broader three themes, as Nina mentioned below. Let me know if I can clarify anything.

Thanks,
Kathryn

From: Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 8:35 AM
To: Bell, Kathryn (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS);

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); Brady, Will (HHS/IOS); Caliguiri, Laura (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS); Robinson, Michael J (HHS/ASPA); Pence, Laura (HHS/IOS); Nelson, Beth (HHS/IOS); Udutha, Pranay (HHS/IOS); Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: Statement of Regulatory Priorities Outline

(b)(5)

From: Bell, Kathryn (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, September 08, 2017 12:45 PM
To: Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); Brady, Will (HHS/IOS); Caliguiri, Laura (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS); Robinson, Michael J (HHS/ASPA); Pence, Laura (HHS/IOS); Nelson, Beth (HHS/IOS); Udutha, Pranay (HHS/IOS); Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS)
Subject: Statement of Regulatory Priorities Outline

Hi all,

(b)(5)

Kathryn

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS)
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 10:05 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Robinson, Wilma (HHS/IOS)
Subject: ACF - Reg Agenda
Attachments: ACF Reg Agenda.docx

Hi Maggie,

(b)(5)

Thanks.

(b)(5)

Matthew R. Grove
Senior Policy Coordinator/Services Policy Team Lead
Immediate Office of the Secretary-Executive Secretariat
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

200 Independence Ave SW - Room 627H
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: (202) 205-8154 Fax: (202) 205-2135
Matthew.Grove@hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wright, Natasha (OS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2017 12:26 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: Spring Unified Agenda: ACF Withdrawls to LTA
Attachments: Administration for Children and Families.docx

Importance: High

Hi Maggie,

Please see the attached list and one-pagers of ACF rules that we submitted to be withdrawn, but OIRA is asking us to reconsider and park as long-term actions.

Could you please let me know, by COB today, whether it is ok to make these long-term actions or if you'd prefer that they be removed entirely?

Thanks,
Natasha

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Robinson, Wilma (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 6:47 PM
To: Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Shipley, Samuel (HHS/IOS)
Subject: Draft Spring Reg Agenda Decision Memo and Draft HHS 2017 Spring Reg Agenda Submission
Attachments: UA Memo to STEPclean.docx; Secretary Briefing UA.XLSX

Hi All,
Please find attached the draft 2017 Spring Reg Agenda Decision memo for the Secretary and Draft HHS 2017 Spring Reg Agenda submission (Note this does not include the CMS submission as we still have not received their submission). These materials are still being reviewed by Ann but we wanted to get them to you in advance of the briefing with the Secretary tomorrow. If we make any additional changes we will bring copies to the briefing.

Wilma M. Robinson, PhD, MPH
Deputy Executive Secretary
Immediate Office of the Secretary
US Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence AV SW, Rm 603H
Washington, DC 20201

Wilma.Robinson@hhs.gov
202-690-5627 (office)
(b)(6) (BB)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Shipley, Samuel (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 2:17 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Wright, Natasha (OS/IOS)
Subject: ACF Spring 2017 Unified Agenda Info Memo 031717.pdf - Adobe Acrobat Professional
Attachments: ACF Spring 2017 Unified Agenda Info Memo 031717.pdf

Hi Maggie – As you're probably aware, agencies have been sending us their Spring 2017 Unified Agenda submissions. The full HHS response is due to OMB on 3/31. And we will be briefing Secretary Price on 3/29.

With the exception of CMS and FDA, HHS will only have one submission this year (from SAMHSA).

But I wanted to share with you a memo that ACF prepared about their non-response. It includes the three rules that they were working on, the rationale for not submitting them, and a discussion of the potential ramifications of not including them.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss.

- Sam
202 205 9162

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wright, Natasha (OS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, September 07, 2017 2:23 PM
To: Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Bell, Kathryn (HHS/IOS); Pence, Laura (HHS/IOS); Graham, John (HHS/ASPE); Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); Abram, Anna (FDA/OC); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Brookes, Brady (CMS/OA); Caliguiri, Laura (HHS/IOS); Bush, Laina (HHS/ASPE); Cochran, Norris (HHS/ASFR); Hargan, Eric (OS/OGC); Udutha, Pranay (HHS/IOS); Nelson, Beth (HHS/IOS); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); Brady, Will (HHS/IOS); Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC); Colas, Brian (CMS/OA)
Cc: Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS); Robinson, Wilma (HHS/IOS); Hawkins, Jamar (HHS/OS); Grove, Matthew R. (HHS/OS); Shelton, Carrie A (HHS/IOS); Pelekoudas, Kristina (HHS/IOS); Malliou, Ekaterini (OS/IOS)
Subject: 9/7 RRTF Meeting Follow-up & compiled August Spreadsheet
Attachments: August Dereg Updates.xlsx

Good Afternoon Task Force Members,

Thank you for a very productive meeting today! The Task Force approved all of the following deregulatory actions discussed at today's meeting.

1 NIH action: National Cancer Institute Clinical Cancer Education Program Regulation at 42 CFR Part 52d
1 ACF action: Adoption Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
8 OCR actions: HIPAA sub-regulatory guidance documents

For your reference, please see attached for the compiled August Deregulatory Actions Update. In preparation for the September 15 submission, we will be sharing this with Regulatory Reform Officers later today.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,
Natasha

Natasha Wright, MA, MPH | Policy Coordinator
Executive Secretariat |Immediate Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
o. (202)260.7513 | Natasha.wright2@hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL)
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 9:53 PM
To: alexandra.gourdikian (b)(6)
Cc: trevor.smith (b)(6) Meyer, Katie; Harrison, Jessica (OS/IOS); Conrad, Patricia (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: Meeting with HHS Secretary Price
Attachments: Letter to Secretary Price re CA Abortion Mandate (March 2017).pdf

Alexandra,

I write to respond to the attached letter from Leader McCarthy requesting a meeting with HHS Secretary Tom Price.

Dr. Price will be happy to meet with the group after the April recess. CC'd here are his schedulers, Jessica Harrison and Patty Conrad. You are in good hands.

Sincerely,
Sarah

Sarah Arbes
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Legislation
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 690-6047 (direct)
sarah.arbes@hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL)
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2017 4:32 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC)
Subject: RE: Meeting with HHS Secretary Price
Attachments: Letter to Secretary Price re CA Abortion Mandate (March 2017).pdf

Thank you for flagging. Reattaching the letter and adding them here.

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2017 8:54 AM
To: Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL)
Cc: Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: Meeting with HHS Secretary Price

Hi Sarah,

Thank you for copying me on this email.

(b)(5)

Maggie

From: Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL)
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 9:53 PM
To: alexandra.gourdikian(b)(6)
Cc: trevor.smith(b)(6) Meyer, Katie; Harrison, Jessica (OS/IOS); Conrad, Patricia (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: Meeting with HHS Secretary Price

Alexandra,

I write to respond to the attached letter from Leader McCarthy requesting a meeting with HHS Secretary Tom Price.

Dr. Price will be happy to meet with the group after the April recess. CC'd here are his schedulers, Jessica Harrison and Patty Conrad. You are in good hands.

Sincerely,
Sarah

Sarah Arbes
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Legislation
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 690-6047 (direct)
sarah.arbes@hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Groves, Garrick (HHS/ASL)
Sent: Monday, October 02, 2017 9:56 AM
To: Groves, Garrick (HHS/ASL)
Subject: Daily Memo for October 2, 2017

Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Legislation

Daily Memo for October 2, 2017
(* denotes new or updated item)

The Senate convenes at 3 p.m. and is expected to resume consideration of the nomination of Ajit V. Pai, of Kansas, to be a member of the Federal Communications Commission and will vote on confirmation at approximately 5:30 p.m.

- Ajit V. Pai, of Kansas, to be a member of the Federal Communications Commission.

The House reconvenes at 2 p.m. for legislative business and is expected to consider measures under suspension of the rules. Roll call votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.
Time TBA
Bills:

- HR 2316 — Cooperative Management of Mineral Rights Act
- HR 1547 — Udall Park Land Exchange Completion Act
- HR 2582 — Confirming State Land Grants for Education Act
- HR 965 — Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park Redesignation Act
- HR 2937 — Community Reclamation Partnerships Act
- HR 289 — Guides and Outfitters (GO) Act

SENATE

***COMMITTEE**: Senate Committee on Finance
SUBJECT: Full Committee Markup CHIP Funding
DATE/TIME: October 4, Time 9:30 a.m.; 215 Dirksen
BILLS: S. 1827, the "Keeping Kind' Insurance Dependable and Secure (KIDS)"

COMMITTEE: Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
SUBJECT: Opioid Crisis Federal Response
DATE/TIME: October 5, 10:00, a.m.; 430 Dirksen
WITNESSES:

- Elinore F. McCance-Katz, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, SAMHSA
- Brenda Fitzgerald, M.D., Director, CDC
- Francis Collins, M.D., Ph.D., Director, NIH
- Scott Gottlieb, M.D., Commissioner, FDA

HOUSE

COMMITTEE: House Committee on Rules
SUBJECT: Full-Committee Business Meeting
DATE/TIME: October 2, 5 p.m.; H-313
BILLS:

- HR 36 – Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

***COMMITTEE**: House Committee on Energy & Commerce Health Subcommittee
SUBJECT: Examining Patient Access to Investigational Drugs
DATE/TIME: October 3, 10:15 a.m.; 2322 Rayburn
WITNESSES:

- Dr. Alison Bateman-House, Assistant Professor, New York University (NYU) Langone Health, Department of Population Health
- Lieutenant Commander Matthew Bellina
- The Honorable Andy Biggs, Member of Congress, Washington, DC
- Mr. John Dicken, Director for Health Care, U.S. Government Accountability Office
- The Honorable Brian K. Fitzpatrick, Member of Congress, Washington, DC
- Dr. Scott Gottlieb, M.D., Commissioner, FDA
- Ms. Naomi Lopez-Bauman, Director of Health Care Policy, Goldwater Institute
- Mr. Kenneth I. Moch, President & CEO, Cognition Therapeutics, Inc.
- Dr. Ellen V. Sigal, Chairperson and Founder, Friends of Cancer Research

BILLS:

- HR 1020, Compassionate Freedom of Choice Act of 2017
- S 204, Trickett Wendler, Frank Mongiello, Jordan McLinn, and Matthew Bellina Right to Try Act of 2017

COMMITTEE: House Committee on Energy & Commerce
SUBJECT: Full Committee Markup Extending Funding for CHIP, Community Health Centers the Special Diabetes Programs, the National Health Service Corps, Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education, and other important public health priorities
DATE/TIME: October 4, Time TBA
BILLS: TBA

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Bradsher, Kris (HHS/ASL)
Sent: Monday, October 02, 2017 10:23 AM
To: Bradsher, Kris (HHS/ASL)
Subject: Daily Memo for October 2, 2017

Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Legislation

Daily Memo for October 2, 2017
(* denotes new or updated item)

The Senate convenes at 3 p.m. and is expected to resume consideration of the nomination of Ajit V. Pai, of Kansas, to be a member of the Federal Communications Commission and will vote on confirmation at approximately 5:30 p.m.

The House reconvenes at 2 p.m. for legislative business and is expected to consider measures under suspension of the rules. Roll call votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.

SENATE

***COMMITTEE**: Senate Judiciary
SUBJECT: Administration's Decision to End DACA
DATE/TIME: October 3, 10:00, a.m.; 216 Hart
WITNESSES:

- Chad Readler, Acting Assistant Attorney General in the Justice Department's Civil Division
- Michael Dougherty, Assistant Homeland Security Secretary for Border Immigration and Trade Policy in the Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans
- James McCament, Acting Director of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services

***COMMITTEE**: Senate Finance
SUBJECT: CHIP Funding – S. 1827 Keep Kids' Insurance Dependable and Secure Act
DATE/TIME: October 4, 9:30, a.m.; 215 Dirksen

***COMMITTEE**: Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs
SUBJECT: Equifax Cybersecurity Breach
DATE/TIME: October 4, 10:00, a.m.; 538 Dirksen
WITNESSES:

- Richard Smith, Former Chairman and CEO of Equifax, Inc.

***COMMITTEE**: Senate Budget
SUBJECT: FY 2018 Budget Resolution
DATE/TIME: October 4, 2:30, p.m.; 608 Dirksen

***COMMITTEE**: Senate Judiciary
SUBJECT: Equifax/Data-Broker Cybersecurity
DATE/TIME: October 4, 2:30, p.m.; 226 Dirksen
WITNESSES:
TBA

COMMITTEE: Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
SUBJECT: Opioid Crisis Federal Response
DATE/TIME: October 5, 10:00, a.m.; 430 Dirksen
WITNESSES:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

- Elinore F. McCance-Katz, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, SAMHSA
- Brenda Fitzgerald, M.D., Director, CDC
- Francis Collins, M.D., Ph.D., Director, NIH
- Scott Gottlieb, M.D., Commissioner, FDA

***COMMITTEE**: Senate Budget
SUBJECT: FY 2018 Budget Resolution
DATE/TIME: October 5, 2:30, p.m.; 608 Dirksen

HOUSE

COMMITTEE: House Committee on Rules
SUBJECT: Full-Committee Business Meeting
DATE/TIME: October 2, 5 p.m.; H-313
BILLS:
- HR 36 – Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act

***COMMITTEE**: House Committee on Energy & Commerce Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Subcommittee
SUBJECT: Equifax Data Breach
DATE/TIME: October 3, 10:00 a.m.; 2123 Rayburn
WITNESSES:
- Richard Smith, Former Chairman and CEO of Equifax Inc.

***COMMITTEE**: House Judiciary
SUBJECT: Online Sex Trafficking
DATE/TIME: October 3, 10:00 a.m.; 2141 Rayburn
WITNESSES:
- Chris Cox, President of Morgan Lewis Consulting
- Jeff Kosseff, Assistant Professor at the United States Naval Academy
- Mary Leary, Professor of Law in the Catholic University Columbus School of Law
- Evan Engstrom, Executive Director of Engine

***COMMITTEE**: House Homeland Security
SUBJECT: DHS Cybersecurity Mission
DATE/TIME: October 3, 10:00 a.m.; HVC-210 U.S. Capitol
WITNESSES:
- Christopher Krebs, senior official performing the duties of the under secretary of the National Protection and Programs Directorate in the Homeland Security Department
- Jeanette Manfra, Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Cybersecurity and Communications National Protection and Programs Directorate
- Patricia Hoffman, acting assistant secretary of Energy in the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability

COMMITTEE: House Committee on Energy & Commerce Health Subcommittee
SUBJECT: Examining Patient Access to Investigational Drugs
DATE/TIME: October 3, 10:15 a.m.; 2322 Rayburn
WITNESSES: TBA
BILLS:
- HR 1020, Compassionate Freedom of Choice Act of 2017
- S 204, Trickett Wendler, Frank Mongiello, Jordan McLinn, and Matthew Bellina Right to Try Act of 2017

***COMMITTEE**: House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Information Technology
SUBJECT: Internet of Thing Cybersecurity
DATE/TIME: October 3, 2:00 p.m.; 2247 Rayburn
WITNESSES:
- Matthew Eggers, executive director of cybersecurity policy for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

- Josh Corman, director of the Cyber Statecraft Initiative at the Atlantic Council
- Tommy Ross, senior director of policy for The Software Alliance (BSA)
- Ray O'Farrell, chief technology officer of VMware

***COMMITTEE**: House Foreign Affairs
SUBJECT: Iraq and Syria Genocide
DATE/TIME: October 3, 2:00 p.m.; 2172 Rayburn
WITNESSES:

- Former Rep. Frank Wolf, R-Va., Distinguished Senior Fellow in the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative
- Shireen, a Yazidi survivor of ISIS enslavement
- Stephen Rasche, Legal Counsel and Director of internationally displaced persons assistance in the Chaldean Catholic Archdiocese of Erbil

***COMMITTEE**: House Rules
SUBJECT: Budget Resolution, H Con Res 71 – Fiscal 2018 House Budget Resolution
DATE/TIME: October 3, 3:00 p.m.; H-313, U.S. Capitol

***COMMITTEE**: House Financial Services Committee
SUBJECT: Equifax Data Breach
DATE/TIME: October 4, 9:15 a.m.; 2128 Rayburn
WITNESSES:

- Richard Smith, Former Chairman and CEO of Equifax Inc.

***COMMITTEE**: House Homeland Security
SUBJECT: Border Security, H.R. 3548 – Border Security for America Act
DATE/TIME: October 4, 10:00 a.m.; HVC-210, U.S. Capitol
WITNESSES:

***COMMITTEE**: House Foreign Affairs
SUBJECT: Response to Burma Tragedy
DATE/TIME: October 5, 9:00 a.m.; 2172 Rayburn
WITNESSES:

- Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Southeast Asia W. Patrick Murphy of the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs
- Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees and Migration Mark Storella
- V. Kate Somvongsiri, Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator in the U.S. Agency for International Development's Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Groves, Garrick (HHS/ASL)
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2017 9:45 AM
To: Groves, Garrick (HHS/ASL)
Subject: Daily Memo for September 29, 2017

Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Legislation

Daily Memo for September 29, 2017
(* denotes new or updated item)

The Senate is not in session.

The House meets in pro forma session.

SENATE

COMMITTEE: Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
SUBJECT: Opioid Crisis Federal Response
DATE/TIME: October 5, 10:00, a.m.; 430 Dirksen
WITNESSES:

- Elinore F. McCance-Katz, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, SAMHSA
- Brenda Fitzgerald, M.D., Director, CDC
- Francis Collins, M.D., Ph.D., Director, NIH
- Scott Gottlieb, M.D., Commissioner, FDA

HOUSE

***COMMITTEE**: House Committee on Rules
SUBJECT: Full-Committee Business Meeting
DATE/TIME: October 2, 5 p.m.; H-313
BILLS:

- HR 36 – Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act

COMMITTEE: House Committee on Energy & Commerce Health Subcommittee
SUBJECT: Examining Patient Access to Investigational Drugs
DATE/TIME: October 3, 10:15 a.m.; 2322 Rayburn
WITNESSES: TBA
BILLS:

- HR 1020, Compassionate Freedom of Choice Act of 2017
- S 204, Trickett Wendler, Frank Mongiello, Jordan McLinn, and Matthew Bellina Right to Try Act of 2017

***COMMITTEE**: House Committee on Energy & Commerce
SUBJECT: Full Committee Markup Extending Funding for CHIP, Community Health Centers the Special Diabetes Programs, the National Health Service Corps, Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education, and other important public health priorities
DATE/TIME: October 4, Time TBA
BILLS: TBA

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Page 382 of 550

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Page 383 of 550

Withheld pursuant to exemption

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of the Freedom of Information Act

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Page 384 of 550

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Taylor, Kelly (IHS/HQ) <Kelly.Taylor@ihs.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 06, 2017 8:36 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Swenson-O'Brien, Alicia (HHS/OS); Stimson, Brian (HHS/OGC); Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR)
Cc: Weahkee, Michael (IHS/HQ); Buchanan, Chris (IHS/HQ); Newman, Emily (IHS/HQ); Czajkowski, Julie A (IHS/HQ)
Subject: Briefing document for IHS meeting today
Attachments: IHS 30-Day Look Ahead Report 10 06 17 FINAL.docx

Attached is the briefing document (30 Day Look Ahead Report) for your meeting with IHS Leadership today.

Kelly M. Taylor
RADM U.S. Public Health Service
Acting Chief of Staff
Indian Health Service
5600 Fishers Lane, Mail Stop 08E53A
(Room Number 08E51)
Rockville, MD 20857
Office Phone: 301-443-1593
Cell Phone: (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Buschick, Jennifer (IHS/HQ) <Jennifer.Buschick@ihs.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 01, 2017 5:59 PM
To: Donley, Katherine (HHS/ASFR); Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Barnett, Joshua (IHS/HQ); Daniels, Carla (HHS/ASPA); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Aramanda, Alec (OS/ASL); Hunt, Gregorio (HHS/IEA); Mason, James (HHS/IEA); Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL); Ecoffey, Stacey (HHS/IEA); Carr, Elizabeth (OS/IEA); Weahkee, Michael (IHS/HQ); Buchanan, Chris (IHS/HQ); Newman, Emily S.(CMS/OHI); Dooley, Sean M (IHS/HQ); Crites, Allison J (IHS/HQ); Levchuk, Leonda (IHS/HQ); Tracy, June (IHS/HQ); Church, Ann M. (IHS/HQ); Merrell, Jonathan D (IHS/POR)
Cc: Weber, Mark (HHS/ASPA); ASPA Strategic Planning
Subject: Re: ROLLOUT GO: Pine Ridge plan of correction; Rosebud SIA completion and Patient Wait Times

Thank you!

All Tribal and Hill notifications are complete.

Jen

From: Donley, Katherine (HHS/ASFR) <Katherine.Donley@hhs.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2017 5:22 PM
To: Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Barnett, Joshua (IHS/HQ); Daniels, Carla (HHS/ASPA); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Aramanda, Alec (OS/ASL); Hunt, Gregorio (HHS/IEA); Mason, James (HHS/IEA); Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL); Ecoffey, Stacey (HHS/IEA); Carr, Elizabeth (OS/IEA); Weahkee, Michael (IHS/HQ); Buchanan, Chris (IHS/HQ); Newman, Emily S.(CMS/OHI); Dooley, Sean M (IHS/HQ); Crites, Allison J (IHS/HQ); Buschick, Jennifer (IHS/HQ); Levchuk, Leonda (IHS/HQ); Tracy, June (IHS/HQ); Church, Ann M. (IHS/HQ); Merrell, Jonathan D (IHS/POR)
Cc: Weber, Mark (HHS/ASPA); ASPA Strategic Planning
Subject: RE: ROLLOUT GO: Pine Ridge plan of correction; Rosebud SIA completion and Patient Wait Times

ASFR's notifications to appropriators are also complete.

Have a great Labor Day weekend!

Katie Donley
202.690.6704 (office)
(b)(6) (cell)

From: Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL)
Sent: Friday, September 01, 2017 5:18 PM
To: Barnett, Joshua (IHS/HQ); Daniels, Carla (HHS/ASPA); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Aramanda, Alec (OS/ASL); Hunt, Gregorio (HHS/IEA); Mason, James (HHS/IEA); Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL); Donley, Katherine (HHS/ASFR); Ecoffey, Stacey (HHS/IEA); Carr, Elizabeth (OS/IEA); Weahkee, Michael (IHS/HQ); Buchanan, Chris (IHS/HQ); Newman, Emily S.(CMS/OHI); Dooley, Sean M (IHS/HQ); Crites, Allison J (IHS/HQ); Buschick, Jennifer (IHS/HQ); Levchuk, Leonda (IHS/HQ); Tracy, June (IHS/HQ); Church, Ann M. (IHS/HQ); Merrell, Jonathan D (IHS/POR)
Cc: Weber, Mark (HHS/ASPA); ASPA Strategic Planning
Subject: RE: ROLLOUT GO: Pine Ridge plan of correction; Rosebud SIA completion and Patient Wait Times

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

ASL hill notifications complete.

From: Barnett, Joshua (IHS/HQ) [mailto:Joshua.Barnett@ihs.gov]
Sent: Friday, September 01, 2017 4:51 PM
To: Daniels, Carla (HHS/ASPA); Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Aramanda, Alec (OS/ASL); Hunt, Gregorio (HHS/IEA); Mason, James (HHS/IEA); Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL); Donley, Katherine (HHS/ASFR); Ecoffey, Stacey (HHS/IEA); Carr, Elizabeth (OS/IEA); Weahkee, Michael (IHS/HQ); Buchanan, Chris (IHS/HQ); Newman, Emily S.(CMS/OHI); Dooley, Sean M (IHS/HQ); Crites, Allison J (IHS/HQ); Buschick, Jennifer (IHS/HQ); Levchuk, Leonda (IHS/HQ); Tracy, June (IHS/HQ); Church, Ann M. (IHS/HQ); Merrell, Jonathan D (IHS/POR)
Cc: Weber, Mark (HHS/ASPA); ASPA Strategic Planning
Subject: Re: ROLLOUT GO: Pine Ridge plan of correction; Rosebud SIA completion and Patient Wait Times

All,

One minor edit from CMS. Here is the final version.

Thanks,
Josh

From: Daniels, Carla (HHS/ASPA) <Carla.Daniels@hhs.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2017 3:52 PM
To: Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Aramanda, Alec (OS/ASL); Hunt, Gregorio (HHS/IEA); Mason, James (HHS/IEA); Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL); Donley, Katherine (HHS/ASFR); Ecoffey, Stacey (HHS/IEA); Carr, Elizabeth (OS/IEA); Weahkee, Michael (IHS/HQ); Buchanan, Chris (IHS/HQ); Newman, Emily S.(CMS/OHI); Dooley, Sean M (IHS/HQ); Crites, Allison J (IHS/HQ); Buschick, Jennifer (IHS/HQ); Levchuk, Leonda (IHS/HQ); Barnett, Joshua (IHS/HQ); Tracy, June (IHS/HQ); Church, Ann M. (IHS/HQ); Merrell, Jonathan D (IHS/POR)
Cc: Weber, Mark (HHS/ASPA); ASPA Strategic Planning
Subject: ROLLOUT GO: Pine Ridge plan of correction; Rosebud SIA completion and Patient Wait Times

Please see the rollout plan attached and proceed according to the tick tock. Thanks

Rollout Plan: Pine Ridge plan of correction; Rosebud SIA completion and Patient Wait Times

Target Rollout Date: **September 1, 2017**

Topic: Announcement that the Pine Ridge plan of correction approved by CMS; Systems Improvement Agreement completion for Rosebud and the establishment of standards for patient wait times.

Background:
Indian Health Service has three announcements regarding the Pine Ridge hospital resurvey; the results of Rosebud's recent survey and the status of the Systems Improvement Agreement for both hospitals. Additionally, IHS will announce the release of the IHS patient wait times standard.

Pine Ridge
IHS and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services entered into Systems Improvement Agreements (SIAs) for the IHS Pine Ridge Hospital on April 30, 2016. The initial agreement was for 12 months. The Pine Ridge SIA has been extended until Aug. 11, 2017 to allow time for further improvement. CMS surveyors were on site at Pine Ridge IHS Hospital to conduct an Immediate Jeopardy resurvey and evaluate an EMTALA complaint. The CMS notified IHS that on Friday, September 1, 2017 at 4 p.m. EST, the plan of correction was reviewed and approved.

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Rosebud Hospital

IHS has previously notified the Hill, tribal organizations and tribal leaders that the Center for Medicare and Medicaid surveyors were on site CMS notified IHS that on Friday, September 1, 2017, at 4PM EST, Rosebud Hospital will receive the results of its August survey. While there are a few standard-level citations, the hospital has been found to be in substantial compliance with all of the Medicare Conditions of Participation. Therefore, this finding closes out both the pending termination action and the Systems Improvement Agreement. IHS will continue to work to improve the quality of care and maintain the improvements made at Rosebud IHS Hospital.

Patient Wait Times

Today, IHS is announcing its newly established wait time standards. The mean wait time for a primary care appointment will be 28 days or less and 48 hours or less for urgent care appointments. Additionally, the IPC program, in collaboration with the IHS Office of Information Technology, is developing a reporting system to support monitoring and evaluation of patient wait time measures at direct care sites. The recently announced mean appointment wait times are the core measures that will be collected in all primary and urgent care settings. IHS federally-operated facilities currently collect patient wait time data at the Service Unit level.

IHS is targeting the full implementation of Agency-wide standards for wait times by December 31, 2017, including monitoring of the outcome data. However, some Service Units may already have the capability to measure and report progress. Other Service Units may need assistance. Therefore, it is understood and expected that the standards may not be met immediately at some of our sites. The IPC program will provide resources, tools and technical assistance to service units to support the implementation of the wait time standard as part of its overall objective to promote the implementation of the Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) model of care within IHS ambulatory care facilities.

Materials:

- Hill and Tribal Organization notification message
- Notification to Rosebud Sioux Tribe
- Notification to Oglala Sioux Tribe
- Reactive media statement
- Q&A

Tick Tock

September 1, 2017

4 p.m. EST	CMS notifies Pine Ridge and Rosebud Hospital of survey results
4:30 pm EST	Secretary Price call with GPA and Rosebud leadership
5 p.m. EST	GPA staff notifies Pine Ridge/Rosebud tribal leaders and Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Health Board
	IHS/OTSG notifies tribal organizations
5:15 p.m. EST	ASL/ASFR notifies the Hill including appropriators, SD congressional delegation and Senate Indian Affairs Committee
	Reactive statement available to send to press if requested
	Unredacted Pine Ridge 2567 – Statement of Deficiencies releasable by CMS on request.

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HHS-OS EF Lit 18-0241-001205

EXT-18-241-E-000388

Social Media Checklist

- **Twitter:** No
- **Graphics:** No
- **Facebook:** No
- **External Outlets**: No

Primary Points of Contact

HHS/ASL – Barbara Clark
HHS/ASPA –Mark Weber, Carla Daniels
HHS/ASFR – Katie Donley
HHS/IEA – Stacy Ecoffey, Liz Carr
IHS/IOD – Michael D. Weahkee, Chris Buchanan, Emily Newman
IHS/IGA – Ben Smith
IHS/OGC – Sean Dooley, Allison Crites
IHS/Comms – Jennifer Buschick, Leonda Levchuk, Josh Barnett
IHS/Leg - June Tracy
IHS/OFA – Ann Church
IHS/Quality – Jonathan Merrell

Hill and Tribal Organization Notification Message

We would like to make you aware of three important IHS announcements.

First the Rosebud IHS Hospital was recently surveyed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). This inspection was to determine implementation of the plan of correction approved by CMS following a previous survey in June 2017.

Today, IHS received notification from CMS that Rosebud IHS Hospital is in substantial compliance with the Medicare Conditions of Participation. These survey findings also indicate successful completion of the Systems Improvement Agreement for Rosebud IHS Hospital. IHS will continue to work to improve the quality of care and maintain the improvements made at Rosebud IHS Hospital.

CMS also recently surveyed the Pine Ridge IHS Hospital to assess corrective actions taken following a previous survey in April. On August 16, 2017, CMS notified IHS that Pine Ridge IHS Hospital remains out of compliance with one Medicare Condition of Participation related to emergency services. Today, CMS accepted the plan of correction submitted by Pine Ridge IHS Hospital. The Systems Improvement Agreement for Pine Ridge IHS Hospital has been extended until October 29, 2017. CMS will conduct another survey before that date to determine if the deficiency has been corrected.

Finally, IHS recently posted a circular that stablishes the new standards for the Indian Health Service for wait times for outpatient visits in direct care IHS facilities. The new standard for mean appointment wait times is 28 days or less for primary care appointments and 48 hours or less for urgent care appointments. This new initiative directs that wait time measurements at all primary care and urgent care facilities be taken at each appointment. IHS will evaluate data to track the patient care experience as part of the Improving Patient Care program. The data collected across IHS' direct service sites will be used to continually improve patient wait times. IHS is targeting the full implementation of Agency-wide standards for wait times by December 31, 2017, including monitoring of the outcome data.

IHS is committed to delivering quality care that prioritizes patient safety. The agency will continue partnering closely with you to pursue reforms that achieve sustainable improvements, enhance accountability of IHS staff and providers, and expand access to quality care for patients across IHS facilities.

Notification to Oglala Sioux Tribal Leaders

Subject: Update on the Pine Ridge Hospital

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Dear [Tribal Leader Name],

We are writing to you to make you aware of two important IHS announcements.

First, the Pine Ridge IHS Hospital was recently surveyed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). This inspection was to determine implementation of the plan of correction approved by CMS following a survey in April 2017.

On August 16, 2017, CMS notified IHS that Pine Ridge IHS Hospital remains out of compliance with one Medicare Condition of Participation related to emergency services. Today, CMS accepted the plan of correction submitted by Pine Ridge IHS Hospital. The Systems Improvement Agreement for Pine Ridge IHS Hospital has been extended until October 29, 2017. CMS will conduct another survey before that date to determine if the deficiency has been corrected.

IHS is committed to delivering quality care that prioritizes patient safety. The agency will continue partnering closely with you to pursue reforms that achieve sustainable improvements, enhance accountability of IHS staff and providers, and expand access to quality care for patients at the Pine Ridge IHS Hospital.

Notification to Rosebud Sioux Tribal Leaders
Subject: Update on the Rosebud Hospital

Dear [Tribal Leader Name],

We are writing you to inform you of two important announcements. Today, IHS received notification from CMS that Rosebud IHS Hospital is in substantial compliance with the Medicare Conditions of Participation. These survey findings indicate successful completion of the Systems Improvement Agreement for Rosebud IHS Hospital.

The survey did indicate some minor deficiencies, and IHS will continue to work to improve the quality of care and maintain the improvements made at Rosebud IHS Hospital.

IHS is committed to delivering quality care that prioritizes patient safety. The agency will continue partnering closely with you to pursue reforms that achieve sustainable improvements, enhance accountability of IHS staff and providers, and expand access to quality care for patients at the Rosebud IHS Hospital.

Reactive Media Statement

For Rosebud:

IHS received notification from CMS that Rosebud IHS Hospital is in substantial compliance with the Medicare Conditions of Participation. These survey findings indicate successful completion of the Systems Improvement Agreement for Rosebud IHS Hospital.

The survey did indicate some minor deficiencies, and IHS will continue to work to improve the quality of care and maintain the improvements made at Rosebud IHS Hospital.

IHS is committed to delivering quality care that prioritizes patient safety. The agency will continue partnering closely with the Rosebud Sioux Tribe to pursue reforms that achieve sustainable improvements, enhance accountability of IHS staff and providers, and expand access to quality care for patients at the Rosebud IHS Hospital.

For Pine Ridge:

The Pine Ridge IHS Hospital was recently surveyed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). This inspection was to determine implementation of the plan of correction approved by CMS following a survey in April 2017.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

On August 16, 2017, CMS notified IHS that Pine Ridge IHS Hospital remains out of compliance with one Medicare Condition of Participation related to emergency services. Today, CMS accepted the plan of correction submitted by Pine Ridge IHS Hospital. The Systems Improvement Agreement for Pine Ridge IHS Hospital has been extended until October 29, 2017. CMS will conduct another survey before that date to determine if the deficiency has been corrected.

IHS is committed to delivering quality care that prioritizes patient safety. The agency will continue partnering closely with the Oglala Sioux Tribe to pursue reforms that achieve sustainable improvements, enhance accountability of IHS staff and providers, and expand access to quality care for patients at the Pine Ridge IHS Hospital.

For Patient Wait Times:

The recently posted circular establishes the new standards for the Indian Health Service for wait times for outpatient visits in direct care IHS facilities. The new mean appointment wait times are 28 days or less for primary care appointments and 48 hours or less for urgent care appointments. This new initiative directs that wait time measurements at all primary care and urgent care facilities be taken at each appointment. IHS will evaluate data to track the patient care experience as part of the Improving Patient Care program. The data collected across IHS' direct service sites will be used to continually improve patient wait times. IHS is targeting the full implementation of Agency-wide standards for wait times by December 31, 2017, including monitoring of the outcome data.

Q & A – FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

What is a Systems Improvement Agreement?
A Systems Improvement Agreement is a long-term binding agreement between CMS and a hospital, or other provider type such as a nursing home, to develop and ensure sustainable delivery of high-quality health care services in a manner consistent with Medicare health and safety requirements. CMS may agree to a Systems Improvement Agreement when it finds that there is strong institutional commitment to address the root causes of systemic problems in quality of care or safety.

What does it mean now that Rosebud SIA is complete?
Rosebud IHS Hospital is in substantial compliance with Medicare Conditions of Participation. There is no longer a pending termination action for Rosebud IHS Hospital.

Why do we need Patient Wait Times Standards?
The IHS mission is to raise the physical, mental, social and spiritual health of AI/ANs to the highest level. Our aim is that patients receiving care in IHS direct service facilities have access to timely, comprehensive and quality health care services to promote and maintain health, avoid preventable disease, manage disease, reduce unnecessary disability and premature death, and achieve health equity. Establishing standards sets expectations for consistency, efficiency, and excellence and drives performance improvement efforts as we continuously strive to achieve our aim.

In addition, the Government Accounting Office (GAO) recommended in April 2016 that IHS communicate specific agency-wide standards for wait times, monitor wait times in federal facilities, and take corrective actions when standards are not met. https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-333

How were the standards for Wait times determined?
The standards were developed through an iterative process conducted by the IHS Patient Wait Times Workgroup (PWTW) which began in January 2017. The PWTW reviewed existing measures and standards, previous and current experience with timeliness goals in the IPC Program, literature on best and innovative practices, a survey of current improvement efforts across a sample of IHS facilities, an analysis of successes and challenges encountered by other federal health care programs in measuring and improving patient wait times, and current electronic scheduling system capabilities related to support of calculation and reporting of wait time measures.

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What exactly are the new standards being announced?
IHS is announcing its newly established wait time standards. The mean wait time for a primary care appointment will be 28 days or less and 48 hours or less for urgent care. Additionally, the IPC program, in collaboration with the IHS Office of Information Technology, is developing a reporting system to support monitoring and evaluation of patient wait time measures at direct care sites. The recently announced mean appointment wait times are the core measures that will be collected in all primary and urgent care settings.

What is the timing for the standard to take effect?
The standards will take effect upon signature by the IHS Director. Communications with stakeholders will occur through various mechanisms including email.

IHS sites will collect wait time measures at primary and urgent care settings. What will it do with this data?
Once the data is collected, it will be analyzed by the facility's leadership and quality program staff. Based on the data analysis, and patients' input, ideas for change will be tested and the ones that minimize wait times will be implemented. Changes will vary depending on facility resources, staffing, etc.

The data will be made available to each health care facility and progress will be monitored at IHS 12 area offices and at its headquarters.

What changes will IHS patients see now that these standards are in place?
Patients will see increased engagement from facility staff who will monitor the wait times. Forms of engagement could include but not limited to, testing new processes and requesting patients' feedback to ensure enhancement of the patients' experience. Patients should see an improvement in wait times. However, the standards are operational goals of the IHS, and can change for reasons beyond the IHS's control such as facility resources, patient medical needs, emergency response, etc.

Carla L. Daniels
Public Affairs Specialist
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
OS/ASPA
Office: 202-690-4595
Cell: (b)(6)
www.hhs.gov/news

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2017 3:35 PM
To: Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL)
Cc: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: Restoring Accountability in the Indian Health Service Act of 2017 (OGC, SLS, and 2016 TA)
Attachments: OGC, SLS, and 2016 TA on Barrasso IHS bills.docx

Hey, Courtney!

(b)(5)

Happy to chat more on this bill whenever.

SL

Sarah-Lloyd Stevenson
Policy Advisor
Immediate Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 260-6255
Sarah-Lloyd.Stevenson@hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 7:24 PM
To: Caliguiri, Laura (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS)
Subject: HRSA and the ECQC for IHS facilities
Attachments: ECQC Fact Sheet.pdf; ECQC_Charter.pdf

Laura, John, and Paula,

(b)(5)

Maggie

From: Macrae, Jim (HRSA) [mailto:JMacrae@hrsa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 11:17 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Espinosa, Diana (HRSA)
Subject: RE: Information Request on FQHCs in Maine

Maggie,

(b)(5)

Thanks!

Jim
301-594-4110

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR)
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 8:54 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: FW: Frelinghuysen's Fracas
Attachments: Morning_Newsletter-45148.txt

(b)(5)

Jen Moughalian
US Department of Health and Human Services
202-690-6061 (Office)
(b)(6) (Cell)

Pre-decisional communication

From: CQ Budget Tracker [mailto:budgettracker-owner@cqrollcall.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 6:13 AM
To: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: Frelinghuysen's Fracas

BudgetTracker

David Lerman, Editor **budget@cq.com**

MORNING BRIEFING

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Frelinghuysen's Fracas

Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, the often reclusive chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, is suddenly in the spotlight — but not in a good way.

The 12-term New Jersey Republican, already under fire from liberal activists in his GOP-leaning district, now faces an ethics complaint from an independent watchdog group claiming he abused his office and violated House rules. The complaint stems from a fundraising letter Frelinghuysen wrote to a constituent's employer that may have led to her resignation, as CQ's Ryan McCrimmon reports.

In an otherwise routine campaign letter to a donor, the board member of a local bank, Frelinghuysen singled out a bank employee who was involved in a political group opposing his re-election. The employee, Saily Avelenda, subsequently resigned from her position at the bank, at least partly because of the pressure she told reporters she faced over her political activity.

Campaign for Accountability, the watchdog group, filed a complaint Tuesday with the Office of Congressional Ethics, seeking an investigation. The group said Frelinghuysen may have "used his position as one of the most powerful members of the House of Representatives to coerce a New Jersey bank into constructively terminating an employee because she exercised her First Amendment right to oppose him politically."

In his March letter to Joseph O'Dowd, a campaign contributor and a board member of Lakeland Bank, Frelinghuysen said there were "organized forces — both national and local" working to unseat him and derail the Republican agenda in Congress. At the bottom of the typed letter, the congressman scribbled, "One of the ringleaders works in your bank!"

The Frelinghuysen campaign has denied any impropriety. In a statement to WNYC radio, which first broke the story, the campaign said the congressman wrote a "brief and innocuous note at the bottom of a personal letter" and "was in no way involved in any of the bank's business."

While Frelinghuysen (pronounced FREE-ling-high-zen) might survive an ethics probe, the attack marks the most serious threat to his long political

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career just as he assumed the chairmanship this year of the Appropriations Committee. Long a household name in New Jersey's 11th District, made up of affluent suburbs west of New York City, the congressman now faces a long road to re-election next year.

Democrats, smelling political opportunity, have already pounced. The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, the political arm of House Democrats, launched a social media ad Tuesday titled "Punish" to raise questions about Frelinghuysen's character. "His unethical actions represent the very worst kind of politics and show exactly why he needs to be replaced next November," said Evan Lukaske, a DCCC spokesman, in a statement.

The bottom line: Frelinghuysen must now steer fiscal 2018 spending bills to passage while fighting for political survival back home.

MANDATORY MONEY?

A top House appropriator suggested that a federally funded Native American health program shouldn't have to rely on annual discretionary spending approved by Congress.

Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla., a member of the Chickasaw Nation, said at a hearing Tuesday that Congress should consider funding the Indian Health Service and other tribal programs by designating them as mandatory spending, similar to entitlement programs such as Social Security and Medicare. The comment came as tribes expressed alarm about a 12 percent cut to the Department of the Interior, which now funds the Native American programs, proposed by the Trump administration for the upcoming fiscal year, as CQ's Kellie Mejdrich reports.

"On the health programs, we're never going to catch up as long as this is all discretionary spending," Cole said at the hearing of the House Interior-Environment Appropriations Subcommittee. "That's just a huge problem for us."

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Cole also suggested moving jurisdiction over the Native American health program from the Interior-Environment Subcommittee to the Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee, which he heads and which has a much larger funding allocation. "There are other pots of money out there," he said.

Rep. Ken Calvert, R-Calif., chairman of the Interior-Environment panel, said he plans to work with Cole on the issue. "I hope we can come to some kind of solution to that problem," Calvert said.

FOOD FIGHT

Appropriators made a candid admission deep in the fine print of their final fiscal 2017 spending package:

Lawmakers don't like the food in the House cafeterias. "There is concern with continued food service issues surrounding lack of food variety, consistent quality of service, and management challenges with the food services provider," appropriators wrote in an explanatory statement accompanying the omnibus spending package (PL 115-31).
One telltale sign of trouble: the main House cafeteria in the Capitol basement isn't usually very crowded, despite the hordes of hungry lawmakers and staffers who flood the corridors each day.

The problem is apparently compelling enough that lawmakers want to consider bringing in brand-name chains to run outlets in the Capitol or House office buildings. Appropriators directed the House chief administrative officer and the Architect of the Capitol's office to "explore the feasibility of making available additional branded options to the House community." They also pointed to a need for "additional cafeteria renovations and reconfigurations."

In the Senate, meanwhile, the problem isn't so much the food as workers' pay. Appropriators wrote they were concerned by findings that the Senate food contractor "underpaid many of its employees by misclassifying their work

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duties."

CAPITOL COMPLEX

Better food is just one of many issues that could be raised in a blitz of budget hearings over the next two days by the House Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee.

The subcommittee, which overseas funding of all House operations, will hear testimony from the Capitol Police, the Architect of the Capitol, the Library of Congress and others, as CQ's Katherine Tully-McManus reports. Among the biggest concerns is the need for improvements in cybersecurity and digital infrastructure.

"There is no doubt that we are a target" of state-sponsored cyberattacks, House Chief Administrative Officer Phillip Kiko told the House Administration Committee in February. Lawmakers are raising awareness of the potential vulnerabilities of government computer systems after Russian hacking attacks in last year's U.S. elections.

And the issue took on renewed prominence this week after unidentified hackers launched a "ransomware" attack that crippled computer systems around the world. The fiscal 2017 omnibus spending package directed Legislative Branch agencies to assess the vulnerabilities of the Capitol's aging IT systems. That report is expected to be completed in August.

BIPARTISAN BROKERS

Two moderate Republican senators are spearheading a long-shot effort to steer a centrist, bipartisan course on a new health care plan.

Even as planning proceeds on a GOP health care bill in the Senate to repeal

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HHS-OS EF Lit 18-0241-001216
EXT-18-241-E-000399

and replace Obamacare, Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Bill Cassidy of Louisiana convened a bipartisan group of nearly a dozen senators Monday in search of a centrist solution. But the initiative is unlikely to get far, as CQ's Kerry Young and Erin Mershon report.

"There is a group of us, both Republicans and Democrats, who are trying to see if there is a bipartisan path forward on health care reform," Collins told reporters after the meeting. "I don't know whether or not yet there is, but we thought it would be useful to invite people to sit down and talk about ideas and talk about whether or not it would be possible to come up with a bipartisan bill."

Steering a middle course on perhaps the most polarizing issue on Capitol Hill is sure to be tough because of the entrenched positions on both sides. Republicans are eager to take credit for repealing Obamacare, the 2010 health care law, while Democrats are just as determined to preserve it, albeit with fixes.

"As a Democrat, there is is no way I can vote for repeal," said Sen. Joe Manchin III of West Virginia, one of three or four Democrats who attended the meeting with Republicans. House Republicans pushed through their version of a health care overhaul (HR 1628) earlier this month by a razor-thin margin of 217 to 213, without a single Democratic vote.

QUOTABLE

"I would not claim that anyone has signed onto our bill," said Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-La., of his effort to craft a bipartisan health care plan.

APPROPRIATIONS AGENDA

Here's the rundown of all scheduled budget and appropriations activity for

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this week:

Wednesday, May 17:

— Senate Budget Committee hearing on government cost-cutting, 10:30 a.m., 608 Dirksen

— House Interior-Environment Appropriations Subcommittee hearing for American Indian and Alaska Native witnesses, 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., 2007 Rayburn

— House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on biomedical research, 10 a.m., 2358-C Rayburn

— House Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on House budget, 10 a.m., HT-2 Capitol

— House Financial Services Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on the judiciary, 2 p.m., 2359 Rayburn

— House Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on Capitol architect's budget, 2 p.m., HT-2 Capitol

Thursday, May 18:

— House Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on Coast Guard, 8 a.m., 2007 Rayburn

— House Transportation-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on new transportation technologies, 10 a.m., 2358-A Rayburn

— House Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on Capitol police budget, 10 a.m., HT-2 Capitol

— House Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on Library of Congress budget, 2 p.m., HT-2 Capitol

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PODCAST PLUG

Can't get enough of your Budget Tracker?

Look for CQ Roll Call's new weekly podcast on the budget hosted by Jane Norman, budget and economics editor. This week's topic: Trump's fiscal 2018 budget plan could include hefty cuts in some entitlement programs.

You will find Budget Tracker Extra every Monday morning on iTunes, Stitcher and SoundCloud. You can listen to this week's podcast here.

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E-mail: davidlerman@cqrollcall.com

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Check out CQ Now's Facebook page for daily intelligence, graphics and more!

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NEW IN BILLS

New bill information since Sunday, May. 14

See new information since **Past 4 hours** | **Today** | **Yesterday** | **Past 3 days** | **Past 7 days**

None found

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Issue-Id: 174102070:budgettracker:1227

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Donley, Katherine (HHS/ASFR)
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 10:55 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); ASPEClearances (OS/ASPE); OS OGC-IO ControlDesk (HHS); Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL); East, Janet (HHS/OASH); Pierce, Julia (IHS/HQ); Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Merkt, Toby (OS/ASPA); Weber, Mark (HHS/ASPA)
Cc: Pollock, Rachel (HHS/ASFR); Curtis, Jillian (HHS/ASFR); Pugliese1, Alanna (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: For Review: Urban Indian Health Strategic plan - Tuesday deadline
Attachments: 56637-1 IHS OUIHP Strategic Plan 5-11-17 Clean.docx

Good morning,

Attached for your review and clearance is the IHS Urban Indian Health Programs Strategic Plan. This strategic plan responds to the Consolidated Appropriations Act (Act), 2016, Pub. L. No. 114-113, 129 Stat. 2242, 2568 (2015), directing the IHS to develop a strategic plan for urban Indian health programs in consultation with urban Indians and the National Academy of Public Administration.

Please review the attached report to Congress from IHS and send any comments to me by noon on Tuesday, May 16th.

Once we have incorporated all of the Department's comments, the report will be sent to OMB for review before transmittal to Congress by ASFR.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks,
Katie

Katie Donley
Congressional Liaison Specialist
Office of Budget
Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources
Department of Health and Human Services
202.690.6704 (office)
(b)(6) (cell)

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Swenson-O'Brien, Alicia (HHS/OS)
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2017 8:47 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: For your review: IHS Week Ahead 3-31-17
Attachments: AS-758299 56803-8 IHS Week Ahead Report 3-30-17 Final.docx; IHS OUIHP Strategic Plan 3-30-17 Final to HHS.docx; AS-758299 56803-8 Strategic Plan Memo 3-30-17.pdf

Importance: High

Maggie,

Attached is the IHS Week Ahead, which includes one item for your review – the IHS OUIHP Strategic Plan (also attached). Please let me know if you approve the Strategic Plan being put into formal Department Clearance.

Alicia Swenson O'Brien
HHS/ES
202.205.9953

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Swenson-O'Brien, Alicia (HHS/OS)
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 9:17 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Shelton, Carrie A (HHS/IOS)
Subject: FW: IHS Week Ahead Report 3-22-17
Attachments: AS-757836 SPS 00372023 56803-7 Week Ahead Report for IHS 3-22-17.docx; AS-757836 SPS 00372023 56803-7 Week Ahead Report OTSG Plan CoOp Agree IHS FOA 3-22-17.docx; AS-757836 SPS 00372023 56803-7 Week Ahead Report OTSG Nego CoOp Agree IHS FOA 3-22-17.docx; AS-757836 SPS 00372023 OTSG CoOp Nego Memo 3-22-17.pdf; AS-757836 SPS 00372023 OTSG CoOp Plan Memo 3-22-17.pdf

Maggie –

Attached please find the IHS week ahead, as well as the items they are requesting review of in the week ahead. Please let me know if you have any questions or need more information.

Alicia Swenson O'Brien
HHS/ES
202.205.9953

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Sunday, March 19, 2017 2:03 PM
To: Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL); Blackwell, Edith (HHS/OGC); Becker, Katherine (HHS/OGC); Ecoffey, Stacey (HHS/IEA); Richman, Karyn (CDC/OD/CDCWO); Simmons, Adelle (HHS/ASPE); Powell, Natalie (HHS/ASFR); Curtis, Jillian (HHS/ASFR); Donley, Katherine (HHS/ASFR)
Cc: Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); OS GCL, EMAIL (HHS/OGC); Bradsher, Kris (HHS/ASL); Chappel, Andre (HHS/ASPE); Delew, Nancy (HHS/ASPE); Miller, Caitlyn (OS/ASFR)
Subject: RE: FOR REVIEW: DRAFT IHS Testimony for SCIA Hearing on Youth Diabetes
Attachments: DRAFT SCIA Hrg Youth Diabetes IHS Testimony3152017_rev.docx

Hi Barbara,

I'm sorry I missed the 4:00 pm deadline on Friday.

(b)(5)

Thank you,
Maggie

From: Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL)
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 11:01 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Blackwell, Edith (HHS/OGC); Becker, Katherine (HHS/OGC); Ecoffey, Stacey (HHS/IEA); Richman, Karyn (CDC/OD/CDCWO); Simmons, Adelle (HHS/ASPE); Powell, Natalie (HHS/ASFR); Curtis, Jillian (HHS/ASFR); Donley, Katherine (HHS/ASFR)
Cc: Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); OS GCL, EMAIL (HHS/OGC); Bradsher, Kris (HHS/ASL); Chappel, Andre (HHS/ASPE); Delew, Nancy (HHS/ASPE); Miller, Caitlyn (OS/ASFR)
Subject: FOR REVIEW: DRAFT IHS Testimony for SCIA Hearing on Youth Diabetes
Importance: High

The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs has scheduled an oversight hearing on "Native Youth: Promoting Diabetes Prevention Through Health Living" to be held on March 29, 2017. Attached for your review and clearance is the draft testimony prepared by IHS. The HHS witness will be Acting IHS Director RADM Chris Buchanan.

Please provide your comments to me by **4:00 PM tomorrow, Friday, March 17th.**

Thank you.

Barbara

Barbara Pisaro Clark
Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(202) 690-7627
(202) 260-7193 (direct)
Barbara.clark@hhs.gov

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 10:42 AM
To: Powers, Mary (HHS/IOS)
Subject: FW: For your review: Tribal Management Grant
Attachments: AS-756168 56803-3 Memo IHS TMG Signed 2-22-17.pdf; AS-756168 56803-3 Draft FY 2017 IHS TMG FOA.docx

Here's another item for review.

From: Swenson-O'Brien, Alicia (HHS/OS)
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2017 1:37 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: For your review: Tribal Management Grant

Maggie,

For your review and approval, attached is the Tribal Management Grant Program Funding Opportunity Announcement. Please let me know if IHS can move forward with this.

Alicia Swenson O'Brien
Policy Coordinator
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services | Executive Secretariat
200 Independence Ave., SW; Suite 625H | Washington, D.C. 20201
Office: 202.205.9953

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Swenson-O'Brien, Alicia (HHS/OS)
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2017 1:37 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: For your review: Tribal Management Grant
Attachments: AS-756168 56803-3 Memo IHS TMG Signed 2-22-17.pdf; AS-756168 56803-3 Draft FY 2017 IHS TMG FOA.docx

Maggie,

For your review and approval, attached is the Tribal Management Grant Program Funding Opportunity Announcement. Please let me know if IHS can move forward with this.

Alicia Swenson O'Brien
Policy Coordinator
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services | Executive Secretariat
200 Independence Ave., SW; Suite 625H | Washington, D.C. 20201
Office: 202.205.9953

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Tignor, Beth (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2017 7:26 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: FW: FOR REVIEW: CMS Items 3.7.17
Attachments: ASCO Ed Book v2 - LS.DOCX; TalkingPoints_SHOletterand4walls_03062017.docx; CMS DTA Update and Outreach for ITU Trainings_3-7-17.pptx; Copy of Copy of Comms Tracker -Updated 3.7.17.xlsx

Please review theIHS portion

From: Myrie, Simone (OS/ASPA)
Sent: Tuesday, March 07, 2017 5:29 PM
To: Murphy, Ryan (HHS/IOS); Lloyd, Matt (HHS/IOS); Oakley, Caitlin B. (OS/ASPA); Smith, Amanda (OS/ASPA); Brennan, Patrick (OS/ASPA)
Cc: Hall, Bill (HHS/ASPA); Weber, Mark (HHS/ASPA); Fontenot, Monique (OS/ASPA); Bradley, Tasha (OS/ASPA); Formoso, Paula (HHS/ASPA); Tignor, Beth (HHS/IOS)
Subject: FOR REVIEW: CMS Items 3.7.17

Hi all!

Today's spreadsheet is attached. New items are highlighted in yellow and items still on hold are highlighted in [redacted].

(b)(5)

If you have concerns or need additional information about any of the items, let me know. Thanks!

Best,
Simone

Simone Myrie
Public Affairs Specialist
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
US Department of Health & Human Services
202-690-6453 (o)
(b)(6) (c)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Macrae, Jim (HRSA) <JMacrae@hrsa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2017 8:41 AM
To: Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Fischbach, Aaron (OS/IOS)
Subject: RE: Next Steps for the Secretary's Executive Council on Quality Care
Attachments: HHS ECQC Charter.pdf; HHS ECQC Fact Sheet.pdf; ECQC 07-11-17 Notes.docx; ECQC 08-08-17 Notes.docx

Charles,

Attached please find the ECQC Charter and Fact Sheet, in addition to the minutes from the last two ECQC meetings. If you would like additional minutes, we can share those too. We would be happy to schedule a transition meeting, if that would be helpful.

Thanks!

Jim and Aaron

From: Macrae, Jim (HRSA)
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2017 1:57 PM
To: 'Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS)' <Charles.Keckler@hhs.gov>
Cc: Fischbach, Aaron (OS/IOS) < >; Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS) <Margaret.Wynne@hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Next Steps for the Secretary's Executive Council on Quality Care

Great – thanks Charles – will send the materials shortly.

Have a good weekend!
Jim

From: Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS) [mailto:Charles.Keckler@hhs.gov]
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2017 1:43 PM
To: Macrae, Jim (HRSA) <JMacrae@hrsa.gov>
Cc: Fischbach, Aaron (OS/IOS) <Aaron.Fischbach@hhs.gov>; Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS) <Margaret.Wynne@hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Next Steps for the Secretary's Executive Council on Quality Care

Jim –

(b)(5)

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(b)(5)

And many thanks from our end for your work as Acting Chair.

Charles

Charles N. W. Keckler
Associate Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
(202) 868-9496

From: Macrae, Jim (HRSA) [mailto:JMacrae@hrsa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2017 2:13 PM
To: Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Fischbach, Aaron (OS/IOS)
Subject: Next Steps for the Secretary's Executive Council on Quality Care
Importance: High

Hi Charles,

(b)(5)

Thanks!
Jim

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, September 01, 2017 8:49 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); (b)(6) (OS/IOS)
Cc: Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL)
Subject: RE: Rosebud-Congratulations!

Courtney, please work with Maggie to send Dr. Price a summary of the Hill roll out for this. Thanks.

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2017 8:32 PM
To: (b)(6) (OS/IOS)
Cc: Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL)
Subject: RE: Rosebud-Congratulations!

Sir,

I will work on that with Scheduling once I get the name and phone number for the CEO of that facility from IHS.

(b)(5)

From: (b)(6) (OS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2017 6:21 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS)
Subject: Re: Rosebud-Congratulations!

Please set up a call for me for tomorrow afternoon with whoever heads up that facility. I want to congratulate them.

Also, who is reaching out to Senate/House folks? This is very big.

On: 31 August 2017 17:33, "Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)" <Margaret.Wynne@hhs.gov> wrote:
Sir,

David Wright at CMS sent the note below to Admiral Weahkee and other IHS leaders today.

The good news will be shared with the Tribes and the Hill as part of a rollout that is being prepared.

Subject: Rosebud-Congratulations!

I'm pleased to notify you that on Friday at 4PM EST, Rosebud Hospital will receive the results of their August survey. While there are a few standard-level citations, the hospital has been found to be in substantial compliance with

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

all of the Medicare Conditions of Participation. Therefore, this finding closes out both the pending termination action and the Systems Improvement Agreement.

I know you and your staff have put in tremendous effort to achieve these results.

Please let me know if you have any questions, and thank you…
David

David R. Wright
Director, Survey and Certification Group
Center for Clinical Standards and Quality
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Bulletin Intelligence <HHS@BulletinIntelligence.com>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 7:31 AM
To: HHS@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: HHS News Briefing for Monday, March 20, 2017
Attachments: HHSNewsBriefing170320.doc

HHS NEWS BRIEFING

This document and searchable archives are available at hhs.bulletinintelligence.com.

TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2017 7:30 AM EDT

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+ Price Says No One Will Be Worse Off After Healthcare Plan Is Complete.

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+ Unnamed Source Says Bharara Was Investigating Price's Stock Trades Before Removal.

ZIKA VIRUS NEWS:
+ At Least Five Women Misled About Zika By DC Lab Have Given Birth.
+ Harris County, Texas Negotiating With Biotech Company To Create, Release Mutant Mosquitoes To Fight Diseases.

HHS IN THE NEWS:
+ Trump's Budget Proposal Would Cut One Source Of Funding For Meals On Wheels Programs.
+ Scientific, Medical Community Critical Of Cuts To NIH.
+ Products That Facilitate Colonoscopy Prep Are Being Developed, May Be Available Within Two Years.
+ FDA Informing Healthcare Providers Of Increased Rate Of Major Adverse Cardiac Events Seen In Patients Receiving Abbott's Absorb Stent In Study.
+ Responding To Petition, FDA Postpones Final Rule On Off-Label Marketing.
+ FDA Nominee Gottlieb's Policy Positions Detailed.
+ Four Former FDA Commissioners Warn Of Dangers Of Drug Importation.
+ Former HHS Secretary Sullivan Critical Of Trump's Proposed Budget Cuts.

HEALTH REFORM:
+ Trump Meets With Conservatives, Says He Is Gaining Support For House Bill.
+ Ryan Says Everyone Should Be Able To Have Affordable Healthcare Coverage.
+ Pence Touts ACA Replacement Bill In Florida Trip.
+ Mulvaney Says GOP Healthcare Plan Will Benefit Everyone.
+ Obama Ally Working With Trump On Healthcare.
+ Republican Senators Consider House Bill.
+ Some Republican Conservatives Criticize House Bill On Sunday Shows.
+ Pelosi Says House Bill Would Take Money From Working Class.
+ Sen. Manchin Said ACA Should Be Repaired, But House Republicans' Healthcare Bill Would Be Worse.
+ Four GOP Governors Announce Opposition To Republican House Healthcare Bill.
+ Former HHS Secretary Sebelius Speaks Out About Healthcare Reform.
+ AHCA Could Reduce Number Of People With Employer-Based Insurance, CBO Analysis Suggests.
+ "Gig Economy" Workers Are Concerned About Losing Coverage Of House Republicans' Healthcare Bill.
+ AHCA Provision Restricting Funding For Abortions Could Stop Bill From Being Passed Through Reconciliation, Family Research Council Warns.
+ Local TV News Coverage Of ACA Focused More On Politics Than Advice For Consumers, Study Suggests.
+ State Officials, Studies Raise Concerns About Consequences Of AHCA.
+ AARP, AHA Both Lobbying, Campaigning Against House Republicans' Healthcare Bill.

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+ Children's Defense Fund In Manhattan Concerned About New York Children Losing Healthcare Coverage.
+ Health Reform Commentary.

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+ Justice Department Investigating Four Insurers For Overcharging Medicare Program.

HEALTHCARE NEWS:
+ Growing Number Of States Considering "Non-Opioid Directives."
+ Arizona Considers Bill To Limit Unexpected Healthcare Bills For Patients.
+ USCIS Temporary Suspension Of "Premium Processing" Causing Doctor Shortage.
+ India's Generic Drugmakers Say US Protectionism Could Cause Them To Focus Efforts Elsewhere.

FOOD & IMPORT SAFETY:
+ China's Planned Food Import Regulations Worry Trade Partners.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS:
+ H5N5 Bird Flu Strikes In Croatia.

MEDICARE:
+ Fixed Payments From Medicare and Medicaid For Joint Replacements Have Resulted In Lower Medical Costs.

MEDICAID & CHIP:
+ AHCA Could Cost 380,000 Arizonans Access To Medicaid.
+ Colorado Medicaid Transition Resulted In Failure To Pay Claims.
+ Louisiana Hospital Association And Metropolitan Council Of New Orleans Concerned With Possible Medicaid Cuts.
+ Boost In Medicaid Reimbursement Rate Has Not Resulted In An Increase In Nurses In New Hampshire.
+ West Virginia House Approves Legislation To Combat Medicaid Fraud.
+ Commentary On Medicaid.

HEALTH & MEDICAL NEWS:
+ Cholesterol Drug Shows "Dramatic" Results In New Study.
+ TAVR And Open-Heart Surgery May Lead To Similar Outcomes For Certain Patients With Aortic Stenosis, Study Suggests.
+ Long-Term Use Of Rivaroxaban May Be Better Than Aspirin For Preventing Recurrence Of VTE, Study Suggests.
+ Newer Class Of Type 2 Diabetes Medications May Reduce Risk Of Death, Hospitalization For Heart Failure, Study Suggests.
+ Society Of Hunter-Gatherers Found To Have Lowest-Ever Recorded Levels Of Clogged Arteries.
+ Sleep Apnea In Kids May Be Linked To Changes In Brain, Study Suggests.
+ Walking Dog, Spending Time With Grandchildren May Help Keep Patients With COPD Active, Study Suggests.
+ Death Of Ohio Couple In Overdose "Raising Questions" About Pilot Screenings.
+ EPA Awards Michigan $100 Million To Make Upgrades To Flint Drinking Water System.

GLOBAL HEALTH:
+ UN Can't Raise Funds For Its Strategy To Fight Haiti's Cholera Epidemic.
+ Ebola Survivors, Communities Experience Lasting Negative Effects.

NATIONAL NEWS:
+ Nunes And Schiff: No Evidence Supporting Trump's Wiretapping Claims.
+ Administration Requesting Bids For Border Wall.
+ Businesses Using Loopholes In H-1B Visa Program To Replace US Workers.
+ DOJ Transfers Immigration Judges To Implement Trump's Executive Orders.
+ Hawaii Judge Rejects Request To Narrow Ruling On Trump's Immigration Order.
+ Mulvaney: White House To Present Plan To Balance Budget In 10 Years.
+ Mulvaney Says Trump Budget Won't Increase Deficit.
+ Mulvaney Suggests Trump Willing To Address Entitlements.
+ Tillerson Welcomes Budget Cuts To "Soft Power" Programs.
+ Schumer: Trump's Budget Cuts Threaten New York City's Security Apparatus.
+ NBC Analysis: Trump's Budget Favors Defense Over Arts Funding.
+ White House Political Aides At Agencies Charged With Monitoring Secretaries' Loyalty.
+ Justice Department: President Should Be Able To Fire Head Of CFPB.
+ NYTimes Analysis: Lerrick Nomination A Sign Of Trump's Push To Reverse Economic Policy.

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+ WSJournal: Acosta's Stance On Labor Issues Largely Unknown.
+ WSJournal Praises Treasury Nominees.
+ Media Analyses: Gorsuch Likely To Win Senate Confirmation.
+ AP, WSJournal Analyses: Trump Agenda Slowed Down By Controversy, Opposition.
+ Spicer: Most Reporters "Liberals" Who Don't Want Trump To Succeed.
+ Trump Says Running Against Warren Would Be "A Dream Come True."
+ White House Tight Lipped About Trump's Activities At Trump International.
+ Rising Bond Yields Could Imperil Stock Tally.
+ WSJournal Analysis: 2016 CEO Pay Raises Make Up For 2015 Slowdown.
+ California's Brown Says Storm Caused $569M In Damage, Asks Trump For More Disaster Aid.
+ Local Science Community In Chicago Planning March Over Trump Policies.
+ Conservative Activists: Numbers In Maryland County Suggests Noncitizens Casting Ballots.
+ Gun Sales Have Dropped Since Trump's Win In November's Election.
+ NYTimes Analysis: Democrat Cooper Faces Challenge In Bridging Divide In North Carolina.
+ Durbin, Davis Bill Would Seek To Help Kids Stressed By Violence.
+ Murders Raising Concerns In Transgender Community.
+ Navy Officers Convicted In "Fat Leonard" Scheme Can Still Collect Their Pensions.
+ North Dakota Protest Camp Trash Estimate Lowered To 21 Million Pounds.
+ Louisiana Sheriff's Deputy Killed In Line Of Duty.
+ Family Of Minnesota Man Killed By Police Hold Vigil, Ask For Information.
+ "The Hate U Give" Joins Emerging Literary Niche On Race and Police Brutality.
+ Former Obama Aide Mastromonaco To Publish "Chatty" Memoir Tuesday.
+ Actor Tim Allen Compares Hollywood's Treatment Of Conservatives To Nazi Germany.
+ Hauswirth: West Village Cocktail Bar Bans "Make America Great Again" Hats.
+ Cato Institute VP Calls For Court To Revise Regulatory Takings Jurisprudence.
+ WPost: Leaders Must Act To Prevent Future Global Warming-Induced Disasters.
+ WPost: New UDC President May Turn School Around.
+ WPost: Virginia's Driver's License Confiscation Laws Unfairly Punish The Poor.

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:
+ New York Times.
+ Washington Post.
+ Wall Street Journal.

THE BIG PICTURE:
+ Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Leading the News:

PRICE SAYS NO ONE WILL BE WORSE OFF AFTER HEALTHCARE PLAN IS COMPLETE. On Sunday, HHS Secretary Price appeared on ABC's This Week, and stood by his claim that no one would be worse off under the GOP healthcare bill, despite the CBO score. Price added, "What the CBO looked at, what they were charged with looking at, is just one portion of the plan. The overall plan is not just this piece of legislation before Congress right now, which I think is an integral part, an important step in all of this. But it's the second phase of all of this which is ongoing as we speak, but it includes all of the administrative changes that need to be put in place. And then a third phase, also ongoing as we speak, which is multiple other pieces of legislation that round out the plan and make it so it fulfills the President's promise of repealing and replacing Obamacare and putting in place a patient-centered system where we get patients and families and doctors making medical decisions." Also on Sunday, Secretary Price appeared on CNN's State of the Union (3/19, Tapper, 420K) and said, "The plan in its entirety is the one that the President has assured the American people every single American will have access to affordable coverage that works for them, not for government, and that's what we have in mind." CNN (3/19, Watkins, 29.79M) on its website explained that Price had said that a "multi-layered GOP proposal would give everyone access to the care they want." CNN also said that Price "disputed the relevance of" various reports alleging the bill would leave many people without coverage, saying that the President and he are both "committed" to providing insurance for everyone, and that the plan to be complete included administrative changes, as well as further legislation. The Hill (3/19, Beavers, 1.25M) reports that in his appearance, he "repeatedly stressed that the Republicans' healthcare proposal is in the first of three phases." Newsday (NY) (3/19, Schwartz, Ngo, 1.3M) reports Price said that the American Health Care Act "is just the first of three steps to expand access to health insurance, along with administrative rules and legislation to make coverage more affordable."

The Washington Examiner (3/19, Morrongiello, 400K) reports that on Friday, Price said he is examining "over 1,442 provisions...written without Congress and could be eliminated by a stroke of his pen." He said each rule will be evaluated

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as to whether it helps or harms patients, and "If this harms patients then we need to modify or get rid of it." Price said this is "phase two" of the plan. CNBC (3/17, Coombs, 2.17M) reports Secretary Price explained in a tweet on Friday, "There are 1,442 citations in #ACA where it says "The Secretary shall…" or "The Secretary may…" @HHSGov, we'll look at every single one."

Also on ABC's This Week (3/19, Stephanopoulos, 6.61M), Price said that it may be necessary to increase tax credits and slow the Medicaid rollback to make it easier for older Americans to get insurance coverage. Price said, "We're looking at it and working with our legislative colleagues to make certain we have the kind of plan that actually works for people in the real world. ... So if it needs more beefing up, as you say, for the folks that low income, between 50 and 64 years of age, that's something we would entertain." The Los Angeles Times (3/19, Puzzanghera, 4.52M) in a story more focused on Paul Ryan's TV appearance also reports on Price's appearance and this statement. The New York Post (3/19, Schultz, 3.82M) reports Price said that he and the President will consider changes to help these Americans.

The New York Times (3/19, A1, Goodnough, Martin, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports on the effect of Medicaid expansion in the Midwest and the reluctance of voters there to see it ended. House Republicans are now "struggling with what may be an irreconcilable problem: bridging the vast gulf between the expectations of blue-collar voters...and longstanding party orthodoxy that it is not the federal government's role to provide benefits to a wide swath of society."

Finally, on ABC's This Week (3/19, Stephanopoulos, 6.61M), HHS Secretary Price said a clean repeal of the Affordable Care Act "places vulnerable people at risk. That is not something the President is willing to do. That is not something he said he would do. He said repeal and replace need to take place at the same time, concurrently." The Hill (3/19, Shelbourne, 1.25M) and the Washington Examiner (3/19, Morrongiello, 400K) both reported Price's statement and said Price opposed a "clean repeal" of the ACA.

ABC News (3/19, Rossoll, 3.09M) on its website covered Price's appearance on "This Week" in which ABC News Chief Anchor George Stephanopoulos asked him whether provisions that were necessary in the House might cost votes in the Senate. Price answered, "It's a fine needle that needs to be thread. There's no doubt about it." The Huffington Post (3/19, Foley, 237K) focused its coverage of Price's appearance on this statement.

The Hill (3/17, Wong, Sullivan, Hellmann, 1.25M) reports on Friday, Secretary Price said in a meeting with House Republicans that the bill may be changed in order to make "alterations to tax credits" and to give "states the option of imposing work requirements for Medicaid recipients."

USA Today (3/19, Brook, 5.28M) sums up Price's TV appearances, saying that he "expressed confidence" that Republican legislation to replace the ACA would pass Congress. On ABC's "This Week", he said, "I'm confident that as we move forward, we'll be able to move all portions of the plan." But Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) also appearing on "This Week" "dismissed Price's optimism," and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) said on CBS' "Face The Nation" that it is "a terrible bill."

The Secretary in the News:

UNNAMED SOURCE SAYS BHARARA WAS INVESTIGATING PRICE'S STOCK TRADES BEFORE REMOVAL. ProPublica (3/17, Faturechi, 30K) reports, citing "a person familiar with the office", that former US Attorney Preet Bharara, at the time of his removal, "was overseeing an investigation into stock trades made by" Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price as a congressman. While "it is standard for new presidents to replace" US attorneys, "Bharara's firing came as a surprise" said ProPublica, because following a meeting at Trump Tower, he had said that "he had agreed to stay on" at the president's request. ProPublica recounts criticisms of Price during his confirmation hearings that he had traded in stocks the value of which he could have affected by decisions he made in his office. Kaiser Health News (3/17, Kopp, Bluth, 2K) says the ProPublica report has "revived questions about the propriety of Price's investments in numerous health care companies that stood to benefit from legislation he voted for and sponsored as a Georgia congressman." It points out that Bharara was one of 46 US attorneys asked to resign and that he was fired after he refused. The New York Post (3/17, Halper, 3.82M) reports ProPublica "revealed" that Bharara was conducting an investigation of Price. The New York Daily News (3/17, Slattery, 4.45M) and Washington Examiner (3/19, Feldscher, 400K) also reported the ProPublica story.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (3/17, Hallerman, 1.41M) calls the ProPublica report "eye-popping" and quotes Georgia Democratic Party spokesman Michael Smith said, "Americans deserve better than an HHS Secretary who uses his public office for self-enrichment while pushing a plan to take health care away from 24 million Americans." Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) called for a "full investigation of whether Tom Price used his public position for personal profit." The Hill (3/17, Sullivan, 1.25M) reports Sen. Wyden cited the ProPublica report in issuing a statement saying, "I'm concerned that by firing U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara, the Trump Administration may be shutting down an investigation into Secretary Tom

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Price's stock trading." He added, "The American public deserves a full investigation of whether Tom Price used his public position for personal profit."

The Washington Times (3/19, Howell, 272K) reports that in an appearance on ABC's "This Week", Secretary Price was asked about the ProPublica report and answered, "No, I have – know nothing about that whatsoever."

Zika Virus News:

AT LEAST FIVE WOMEN MISLED ABOUT ZIKA BY DC LAB HAVE GIVEN BIRTH. The Washington Post (3/17, Davis, 11.43M) reported, "At least one woman with the Zika virus and four others who may have been infected but were mistakenly told last year they were healthy – because of botched tests at a DC government lab – have since given birth, according to health-care" professionals, even though "there have been no reports of babies born in the District during that time with microcephaly." The Post pointed out that these births "ensure that it could be years before the full impact of mistakes made at the District's public-health lab can be tallied."

HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS NEGOTIATING WITH BIOTECH COMPANY TO CREATE, RELEASE MUTANT MOSQUITOES TO FIGHT DISEASES. The Houston Chronicle (3/19, Zaveri, 1.91M) reports that officials in Harris County, TX "are negotiating with a British biotech company, Oxitec, to create and release mutant mosquitoes genetically engineered so that after they're set loose in the wild, offspring die, and the mosquito population dwindles." Should the agreement be finalized, the county "could become one of the first locations in the United States to use the mosquitoes, going far beyond the chemicals and public-awareness campaigns the county has long relied upon."

HHS in the News:

TRUMP'S BUDGET PROPOSAL WOULD CUT ONE SOURCE OF FUNDING FOR MEALS ON WHEELS PROGRAMS. USA Today (3/18, Korte, 5.28M) reported that Meals on Wheels is not one of the programs that would face "steep cuts" under President Trump's budget proposal. The article reported that Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN) tweeted that Trump was calling for the "elimination" of the program, before the President released his budget proposal, but USA Today reported that "Trump's budget calls for the elimination of one program that some of the nation's 5,000 Meals on Wheels groups rely on," which is HUD's community development block grants.

The Washington Post (3/19, Rucker, 11.43M) reports Mick Mulvaney, the director of the Office of Management and Budget, said on Sunday that President Trump's budget proposal would not "gut" funding for Meals on Wheels, as some had claimed. Mulvaney said that the President's budget proposal would eliminate the Department of Housing and Urban Development's community development block grants, which accounts for just 3% of the program's funding. Mulvaney added, "Some of the stories are just either grossly wrong or nearly grossly wrong, all the stories about how we cut Meals on Wheels."

Reuters (3/18, Fares) reported that Meals on Wheels America said that online donations to the program have increased significantly since reports emerged that the program's funding would be cut under President Trump's budget proposal.

Bloomberg News (3/17, Mosendz, 2.41M) reported Meals on Wheels spokeswoman Jenny Bertolette said in a statement on Friday that reductions in grants that fund some Meals on Wheels programs could increase healthcare costs. Bertolette said, "With a stated 17.9 percent cut to the US Department of Health and Human Services budget, it is difficult to imagine a scenario in which these critical services would not be significantly and negatively impacted if enacted into law." The article also reported that over half of those fed by the programs are veterans. The Hill (3/17, Seipel, 1.25M) and the Huffington Post (3/17, Miller, 237K) also covered the story. Chicago Tribune (3/17, Schmich, 2.54M) columnist Mary Schmich offered her opinion on the story.

Lawmakers, Beneficiaries Condemn Proposed Cuts To Meals On Wheels. The AP (3/17, Daly) reports Republican and Democratic lawmakers are criticizing President Trump's proposed budget for seeking to impose "a sharp funding cut" to Meals on Wheels, "the popular service that provides food to the elderly." The AP identifies Reps. Gus Bilirakis, Linda Sanchez, and John Conyers among the lawmakers supporting the program.

On the CBS Evening News (3/17, story 5, 2:00, Mason, 11.17M), Michelle Miller describes the program as "a critical lifeline for nearly 2.5 million seniors, veterans, and the disabled." While a beneficiary of Meals on Wheels told Miller she "was under the influence that [Trump] was going to help us" and is worried by the proposed cuts, she "says she still supports" the President.

Meanwhile, the Huffington Post (3/17, Miller, 237K) reports Meals on Wheels America "says it has seen a 500 percent

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increase in volunteer signups and 50 times more online donations than usual in the 24 hours since...Trump's administration proposed eliminating the program's federal funding."

However, Washington Post (3/17, Kessler, 11.43M) "Fact Checker" Glenn Kessler acknowledges White House Budget Director Mulvaney's position on Meals and Wheels has been "misinterpreted" because when he said, "We want to give you money for programs that don't work," Mulvaney was talking "about a program in the Housing and Urban Development Department known as CDBG, or community development block grants," not Meals on Wheels, which is mostly funded by "a separate program run out of the Health and Human Services Department, said Jenny Bertolette, vice president of communications at Meals on Wheels." Kessler states that Mulvaney said, "Meals on Wheels is not a federal program. It's part of that community – the CDBG – the block grants that we give to the states. And then many states make the decision to use that money on Meals on Wheels."

NYTimes Analysis: Meals On Wheels "Gets Results." Writing for the New York Times (3/17, Carroll, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) "The Upshot" blog, Aaron Carroll, MD, a professor of pediatrics at the Indiana University School of Medicine, contends Meals on Wheels "gets results," according to the evidence. He acknowledges that "despite expressions of alarm on social media, killing the community block grant program would most likely not kill Meals on Wheels." Nonetheless, Carroll concludes that "many peer-reviewed studies in the medical literature" and "several systematic reviews" have found "it would be wrong to say that it's not effective."

SCIENTIFIC, MEDICAL COMMUNITY CRITICAL OF CUTS TO NIH. One major television network and major print media sources reported that President Trump's budget blueprint released on Thursday calls for cutting some $5.8 billion from the National Institutes of Health. Reaction from medical and patient advocacy groups, the scientific and biotechnology communities, and public health officials was that of shock, dismay, and worry for the future of NIH-funded research.

NBC Nightly News (3/18, story 6, 1:55, Diaz-Balart, 16.61M) reported that President Trump's "plan to cut billions of dollars in funding for medical and scientific research is causing an alarm in that community," especially because, as correspondent Anne Thompson reported, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), "described as the nation's engine of biomedical discovery, is on the chopping block." Thompson added the NIH over the past 80 years has funded research that has "helped lead to many of the most significant breakthroughs in medicine: AZT and antiretroviral drugs that have transformed HIV/AIDS from a death sentence to a manageable chronic condition; the hepatitis B vaccine; and numerous advances in the fight against cancer."

Reuters (3/17, Steenhuysen) reports former Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr. Tom Frieden on Friday said the budget's proposal to block grant funding to states for public health threats is "a really bad idea," because the states "never have to report what they have done or be held accountable for it."

The Washington Post (3/17, McGinley, 11.43M) similarly reported that "cancer researchers and advocacy groups are denouncing President Trump's proposed budget, warning that its 19 percent cut for the National Institutes of Health could cripple or kill former vice president Joe Biden's cancer 'moonshot' initiative and other important biomedical efforts."

In addition, the New York Times (3/18, McNeil, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reported the President's call "to eliminate the Fogarty International Center at the N.I.H., would, global health experts say, make America vulnerable again."

Also covering aspects of the story, including how various institutes of the National Institutes of Health will be affected, as well as individual institutions and areas of the country where biomedical research is performed, were the The Atlantic (3/19, Yong, 21.27M), Baltimore Business Journal (3/17, Eichensehr, Subscription Publication, 32K), the Boston Globe (3/17, Pager, 1.08M), The Hill (3/19, Savransky, 1.25M), the Houston Chronicle (3/17, DePillis, 1.91M), Kaiser Health News (3/17, Korry, 2K), ProPublica (3/17, Song, 30K), the San Francisco Chronicle (3/17, Ho, 2.2M), Science Magazine (3/17, Kaiser, 410K), the San Diego Business Journal (3/19, Meiling, 37K), and the Washington Examiner (3/19, Giaritelli, 400K).

Opinion: President's Budget Proposal Will Cripple Health Preparedness Infrastructure In The US. In an opinion piece for Forbes (3/17, 15.17M), contributor Jude Stone focused on "infectious disease implications" in light of the President's budget proposal and HHS Secretary Tom Price's comment last week that "states should decide whether to require immunization." According to Stone, Price "apparently missed the part in medical school about how viruses are transmitted. So did much of Congress." Stone urged readers to contact their "members of Congress" to voice concerns on how "the budget proposal will cripple" the "health preparedness infrastructure" of this country.

PRODUCTS THAT FACILITATE COLONOSCOPY PREP ARE BEING DEVELOPED, MAY BE AVAILABLE WITHIN TWO YEARS. The Washington Post (3/18, Cimons, 11.43M) reported many patients avoid colonoscopies because of the "dreadful" prep required. In total, "about 40 percent of the people who should get a colonoscopy don't." However, new

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products that facilitate the prep procedure may be on the market within two years, and preliminary tests show that patients using the new products "were twice as likely as those who used the standard prep solution to be satisfied and four times as likely to recommend it." Susan Czajkowski, chief of the health behaviors research branch of the National Cancer Institute said that "Understanding patient motivation...can be important research," adding that "the easier you make it for people, the more you can improve their adherence."

FDA INFORMING HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS OF INCREASED RATE OF MAJOR ADVERSE CARDIAC EVENTS SEEN IN PATIENTS RECEIVING ABBOTT'S ABSORB STENT IN STUDY. Reuters (3/18, Berkrot) reported that research indicated individuals "who received" Abbott Laboratories' Absorb, a "novel dissolving vascular stent, had a significantly higher rate of serious adverse heart events than those treated with [...] Xience" two years following implantation. Investigators found that "after two years, 10.9 percent of Absorb patients had experienced target lesion failure, versus 7.9 percent for Xience, a statistically significant difference." The FDA "said it was informing healthcare providers of the increased rate of major adverse cardiac events observed in patients receiving Absorb in the study." The findings were presented at the American College of Cardiology meeting. Also covering the story are MedPage Today (3/18, Phend, 97K) and Medscape (3/18, Stiles, 339K).

RESPONDING TO PETITION, FDA POSTPONES FINAL RULE ON OFF-LABEL MARKETING. STAT (3/17, Silverman) reports the FDA responded to a petition from pharmaceutical groups asking for delay of the final rule on so-called intended-use off-label marketing until next year by agreeing to the delay. The rule was set to be implemented this month, but trade groups argued for a delay because "the final rule would give the FDA an extraordinarily wide leeway to gauge how a company intended its medicine to be used, which can then be used to assess whether illegal promotion occurred." The FDA said in a Federal Register notice that its ruling was misunderstood but nonetheless postponed the final rule until March 2018.

FDA NOMINEE GOTTLIEB'S POLICY POSITIONS DETAILED. The Washington Examiner (3/20, Cunningham, 400K) details five drug policy positions supported by Dr. Scott Gottlieb, President Trump's pick to lead the Food and Drug Administration. Gottlieb supports lowering drug prices though competition from generics, opposes allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices, opposes drug importation, supports "up-front discounts instead of rebates" for drugs, and want the FDA to focus on higher risk products instead of wasting money regulating "relatively safe" technology.

Editorial: Gottlieb Should Be Scrutinized To Make Sure Industry Ties Don't Compromise Judgment. In an editorial, Nature (3/17, 153K) wrote that Food and Drug Administration commissioner nominee Scott Gottlieb's "ties" to the pharmaceutical industry "do not automatically mean that he will put pharma before patients, and there are benefits to an FDA chief who is familiar with all aspects of drug development." Nature argued, however, that Gottlieb's "potential conflicts also mean that his leadership would – and should – be watched closely to ensure that he does not serve as a surrogate for industry interests." The editorial mentioned the American College of Cardiology conference while noting the debate around the use of surrogate measures, such as cholesterol levels.

Opinion: Gottlieb Could Help Reduce Drug Prices. In an opinion piece for The Hill (3/17, 1.25M), Mytheos Holt, a senior fellow at the Institute for Liberty, writes that Food and Drug Administration commissioner nominee Scott Gottlieb "says all the right things about how the FDA can help lower drug prices," but "his track record of close affiliations with Big Pharma has led him to adopt some silly positions, in particular when it comes to drug importation." Holt asserted, however, that "there is plenty of reason to believe that Gottlieb could serve as a friendly face for a populist policy on drugs that cracks down both on senseless regulation and runaway pharma profiteering, which comes at the expense of taxpayers and competitors."

FOUR FORMER FDA COMMISSIONERS WARN OF DANGERS OF DRUG IMPORTATION. The Washington Post (3/17, McGinley, 11.43M) reports former Food and Drug Administration Commissioners Robert Califf, Margaret Hamburg, Andrew von Eschenbach, and Mark McClellan signed an open letter posted Friday by the Margolis Center for Health Policy at Duke University "warning Congress that legalizing the importation of drugs from other countries – an idea that has drawn support from both Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump – is a risky approach that would endanger consumers by exposing them to fake, substandard and contaminated drugs." They concede the proposal would likely help Americans access less-expensive medicines, according to the Post, but warn it would likely "harm patients and consumers and compromise the carefully constructed system that guards the safety of our nation's medical products." The Post notes FDA Commissioner-designate Scott Gottlieb, MD, has said that he "agrees with his predecessors."

FORMER HHS SECRETARY SULLIVAN CRITICAL OF TRUMP'S PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS. STAT (3/17, Facher) reports that former Health and Human Services (HHS) secretary Dr. Louis Sullivan, who served in the George H.W. Bush Administration, offered "a scathing review" of proposed cuts to medical research by President Donald Trump. Sullivan predicted that such cuts would "hurt our citizens and our population" and "totally disrupt" the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Sullivan recounted how then-President Bush's budgetary

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response to AIDS "changed it from a fatal disease to a chronic disease" and said Trump's budget-cutting proposal would do little to confront current threats such as Ebola and Zika.

Health Reform:

TRUMP MEETS WITH CONSERVATIVES, SAYS HE IS GAINING SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL. The Los Angeles Times (3/17, Mascaro, 4.52M) reports on President Trump's Friday meeting with the Republican Study Committee in which he said that he is "1,000%" in support of the House effort to repeal and replace the ACA. He also said the supports the addition of Medicaid block grants and a work requirement for Medicaid. RSC Chairman Rep. Mark Walker (R-SC) said that the group had "worked with the administration all night on the proposal." Reuters (3/17, Cornwell, Morgan) reports Trump has "stepped up" his effort to gain support for the legislation by meeting with the House Republican Study Committee, and Secretary Price also met with "reluctant Republican lawmakers." The Washington Examiner (3/19, King, 400K) reports the meeting with the RSC is "part of a larger effort by the White House to send a message to skeptical Republicans that Trump backs the bill." House Whip Steve Scalise also "sounded confident that the GOP will get the 218 votes needed" to pas the bill. The Washington Examiner (3/19, Westwood, 400K) reports on the RSC meeting and Trump's effort to boost support for the bill. Politico (3/17, Bade, 2.46M) reports Trump "spent much of Friday morning talking to critics of the plan."

Fox News (3/17, 11.07M) reports on Friday, Trump said that "conservatives previously opposed to ObamaCare replacement legislation moving through the chamber are now on board after 'changes' were made." And Price "prodded divided Republicans" to "get together and collaborate." The Washington Times (3/17, Boyer, Howell, 272K) reports Trump said "he's winning over Republican lawmakers who were opposed" to the bill, "and he predicted the measure will now pass the House." But Rep. Justin Amash (R-MI) said in a tweet, "Absolutely not true that conservatives have flipped to yes on the health care bill. It doesn't repeal Obamacare. It remains a disaster." After the RSC meeting, Trump said, "We just had a meeting with probably 12 congressmen, and it was an amazing meeting," adding, "They all have given me a commitment, they're voting for our health-care plan. Health care looks like it's really happening." U.S. News & World Report (3/17, Leonard, 1.02M) reports Trump "affirmed his full support" for the bill and said he was gaining supporters. The Washington Examiner (3/19, Westwood, 400K) reports, Trump said, "We're going to have great healthcare. It's going to be passed, I believe. I think, substantially, pretty quickly," adding, "It's coming together beautifully."

On the other hand, two major papers suggest the President has not put himself behind the bill. The New York Times (3/17, Flegenheimer, Haberman, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports Trump "seems disinclined to attach his surname to the health care bill", yet the bill "is a matter of demonstrating that major legislation – with the weight of the White House behind it – can sweep through a Republican Congress." The Los Angeles Times (3/17, Mascaro, 4.52M) similarly says, "It's a make-or-break moment in House Speaker Paul D. Ryan's crusade to pass the GOP's Obamacare replacement," and "no other Republican has staked his political capital on passage" of the bill as he has, and "the White House appears only too happy to let Ryan carry the load."

Republican Study Committee Leaders Support Bill. The Hill (3/17, Hellmann, 1.25M) reports Republican Study Committee chairman Rep. Mark Walker (R-NC) on Friday "endorsed" the House bill. He said that 16 of the 17 RSC steering committee members "signed off on the changes and said they will support the GOP plan." The Daily Caller (3/18, Brufke, 898K) reports Walker said that "he and the eight members of their steering committee have opted to support" the bill. The RSC is "the largest Republican caucus on Capitol Hill." Roll Call (3/17, Bennett, 63K) reports that "just over a dozen Republican Study Committee members" announced their approval of the bill. House Majority Whip Steve Scalise (R-LA) "sounded optimistic but avoided saying that GOP leaders have firmed up 216 votes." Congressional Quarterly (3/17, Williams, Subscription Publication, 967) reports Trump "convinced 13 conservatives to support a modified version" of the bill, and "several" other changes are being considered. The Washington Examiner (3/19, Giaritelli, 400K) reports Scalise said that "two other House Freedom Caucus members now plan to support the American Health Care Act." Scalise said that block grants for Medicaid were the reason for their support. The New York Post (3/17, Fears, 3.82M) also reports on support from the Republican Study Committee.

The Hill (3/17, Cusack, 1.25M) reports Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC), chairman of the House Freedom Caucus, said that 40 or more House Republicans remain opposed to the bill, but that was before the Friday announcement of changes to the bill. The Huffington Post (3/17, Fuller, 237K) reports members of the House Freedom Caucus "do not appear wowed by the changes." Rep. Raul Labrador (R-ID) is quoted saying, "I thought we had caved as soon as they met zero of our demands."

The Atlantic (3/19, Berman, 21.27M) reports on Trump's efforts to gain votes, saying that he "remains far from closing the deal with conservatives."

RYAN SAYS EVERYONE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HAVE AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE COVERAGE. Asked on Fox

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News Sunday (3/19, Wallace) if every American should be able to get health insurance coverage if they want it, Speaker Paul Ryan said, "Yes I do believe this is a critical need for Americans. I do believe that we can have in this country a health care system where everyone can get access to affordable health care coverage, including people with pre-existing conditions. I believe that that is achievable. I believe that that is what we are achieving in this legislation and the answer is not a government one-size-fits-all, arrogant micromanaging system where the government forces you to buy something you don't want, don't need, or can't afford."

Ryan Says Bill May Need More Help For Those Aged 50 To 65. The Washington Post (3/19, Debonis, 11.43M) reports Ryan said on "Fox News Sunday" that he expects a change to the bill to provide more help for older Americans in getting insurance. He said, "We think that we should be offering even more assistance" to Americans between 50 and 65. The Wall Street Journal (3/19, Hayashi, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) offered similar coverage, saying that Ryan is confident the bill will move forward with the changes being contemplated. The Hill (3/19, Savransky, 1.25M) reports Ryan said, "We believe we should have even more assistance – and that's one of the things we're looking at – for that person in their 50s and 60s, because they experience higher healthcare costs." Politico (3/19, Kullgren, 2.46M) placed his statement in the context of a CBO study finding "older people could pay higher premiums under the GOP bill." Vox (3/19, Stein, 1.15M) said Ryan in making his statement, "appeared to bow to pressure from seniors groups." The AP (3/19) gave a somewhat negative twist to its coverage in saying that Ryan was promising "changes to a divisive GOP health care bill to provide more help to older people hard hit by the plan." Reuters (3/19, Cornwell, Volcovici) also reports on Ryan's statement.

The Washington Examiner (3/19, King, 400K) reports Republican moderates are seeking "to boost tax credits to help poor seniors pay for their insurance," and House Whip Steve Scalise (R-LA) "said he is discussing potential changes with the moderate Tuesday Group, but didn't commit to any increase in the tax credits."

Ryan Confident Of Bill's Passage, Expects Vote On Thursday. Fox News (3/19, 11.07M) on its website reported on Ryan's appearance, in which he said that while Republicans are "fine tuning" the bill, "I feel very good about it, actually," and added, "It's exactly where we want to be." Ryan also set a date for a vote, saying, "I think Thursday is most likely the day to bring it forward." He also praised President Trump, saying, "I'm very impressed with how the president is helping us close this bill … The president has become a great closer." The Los Angeles Times (3/19, Puzzanghera, 4.52M) offered similar coverage, focusing on Ryan's statement that he feels "very good" that the House will approve the bill, and his praise for the President's abilities in "helping us close this bill." The Washington Times (3/19, Howell, 272K) similarly reports Ryan feels "very good" about the bill, and that President Trump is a "great closer." Bloomberg Politics (3/19, Brody, Edney, 201K) focuses on Ryan's statement the bill would likely come up for a vote on Thursday. The Hill (3/19, Savransky, 1.25M) reports Ryan is "feeling optimistic about the prospects" for the bill. The New York Post (3/19, Schultz, 3.82M) leads its story with Ryan saying he is "confident" the bill will pass with Trump's help and with changes to help those aged 50 to 65. The Washington Examiner (3/19, Giaritelli, King, 400K) says Ryan is "optimistic" the bill can pass on Thursday. In a separate article, the Washington Examiner (3/19, Weaver, 400K) reports that in an appearance on Friday, Ryan also said Trump was a "great closer" and expressed confidence the bill could be approved this week. CNBC (3/17, Pramuk, 2.17M) reports that on Friday an unnamed source had said the vote would come Thursday, because it will be "the seventh anniversary of when President Barack Obama signed the ACA." CNN (3/17, Walsh, Fox, Lee, 29.79M) also reported on the Thursday date as the target for a vote as did the New York Post (3/17, Fears, 3.82M),Washington Examiner (3/19, Ferrechio, 400K), Daily Caller (3/18, Brufke, 898K), and Bloomberg Politics (3/17, Edney, Tracer, House, 201K).

The Hill (3/17, Sullivan, 1.25M) reports, House Majority Whip Steve Scalise (R-LA) said that the House would not necessarily wait for an updated CBO analysis on the ACA replacement bill before holding a vote. He said, "CBO works a lot slower than we'd like, but that's OK, that's their method." He added, "But we're moving forward with our bill because the American people want relief from ObamaCare." The Washington Examiner (3/19, King, 400K) also reports Scalise's statement.

PENCE TOUTS ACA REPLACEMENT BILL IN FLORIDA TRIP. ABC World News Tonight (3/18, story 5, 0:50, Llamas, 14.63M) reported on Saturday that Vice President Pence is "in Florida, pushing the Republican healthcare plan." NBC Nightly News (3/18, story 4, 1:25, Diaz-Balart, 16.61M) reported, "On Thursday, the House is expected to vote on the controversial healthcare overhaul bill, but right now, Republicans may not have enough support to pass it." NBC (O'Donnell) added, "Today it was Mike Pence who made the public sales pitch. He visited Jacksonville, Florida and a paper supply company there, trying to drum up support for the GOP plan. And when they vote Thursday, they may not have the support to pass it."

The AP (3/18, Dearen) reports Pence, speaking in Jacksonville, Florida, said that President Trump is "100 percent" in support of the Republican bill to replace the ACA. Pence also touted Medicaid block grants as one of the benefits in the bill. The Washington Times (3/18, Boyer, 272K) reports Pence said that Republicans are "working around the clock" on

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the bill. He said, “Every day, more and more members of Congress are getting on board,” and he said, “We need every Republican in Florida to support this bill and support the president’s plan to repeal and replace Obamacare.” The AP also quotes Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator Seema Verma saying the bill would “help undo the damage that this law has done to patients and families and doctors and businesses.” Bloomberg Politics (3/18, Olorunnipa, 201K) reports Pence urged Congress to “keep the president’s promise” in a Florida appearance, and promised, “We’re going to continue to work with members of Congress to improve this bill.” CNN (3/18, Scott, 29.79M) and The Hill (3/18, Vladimirov, 1.25M) also report on Pence’s appearance.

MULVANEY SAYS GOP HEALTHCARE PLAN WILL BENEFIT EVERYONE. On CBS’ Face the Nation (3/19, Dickerson, 4.61M), Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney said the GOP healthcare plan would benefit Trump supporters, saying, “One of the key points of the plan that is in the Republican House right now is it is going to encourage more competition, which will lower the cost for everybody, not just Trump voters.” He added, “So the President knows, believe me, we know who his voters are and we are going to take care of them, there is no question about that, but it doesn’t mean we are leaving Obamacare in place because that would hurt them dramatically.” In the same interview, on CBS’ Face the Nation (3/19, Dickerson, 4.61M), Mulvaney said, “The only way to get truly universal care is to throw people in jail if they don’t get it and we are not going to do it.” The Hill (3/19, Savransky, 1.25M) also reported Mulvaney’s statement, but contrasts it with President Trump’s statement that there would be “insurance for everybody.” Mulvaney said that instead of a mandate, Trump’s policy would be “to encourage people and enable them to buy a policy they want and can afford.” The Huffington Post (3/19, Terkel, 237K) also put a negative twist on Mulvaney’s statement, saying that he “threw cold water on the promise that ‘everybody’ would get health insurance.” Trump is quoted from January saying, “There was a philosophy in some circles that if you can’t pay for it, you don’t get it. That’s not going to happen with us.”

OBAMA ALLY WORKING WITH TRUMP ON HEALTHCARE. The Washington Post (3/20, Eilperin, Goldstein, 11.43M) reports Ezekiel Emanuel, “a trusted ally of former president Barack Obama and chief architect of the Affordable Care Act” is working with Trump and the Administration on the healthcare act. Emanuel said, “I may be the only person on the Democratic side who, for crazy reasons, they’ve agreed to talk to.”

REPUBLICAN SENATORS CONSIDER HOUSE BILL. Politico (3/18, Everett, 2.46M) reports Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA) in her 2014 campaign pledged to seek “immediate” repeal of the ACA, but is now “being very careful about pulling that trigger.” On Friday, she said, “I am legitimately undecided on this.” Politico attributes the change to increased popularity of the ACA, and says that “Ernst’s ambivalence...is echoed by a majority of the Senate Republican class of 2014.”

Collins Lists Three Issues With Bill. Asked on NBC’s Meet the Press (3/19, Todd, 5.27M) what it would take for her to vote for the House healthcare bill, Maine Sen. Susan Collins (R) said, “We have to deal with three issues. The first is coverage. Under the House bill, 14 million Americans would lose coverage next year. That rises to 24 million over the next decade. Second, we have to do something about the fact that the House bill disproportionately affects older rural Americans. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that a 64-year-old who is earning $26,500 a year would see an increase in his or her costs from $1700 to $14,600. That’s unaffordable. Third, we have to do something about the Medicaid changes which ship billions of dollars of costs to the states, to hospitals and other people who are insured.” The Washington Examiner (3/19, Giaritelli, 400K) reports Collins has identified issues that require amendments that could lead to her supporting the bill.

SOME REPUBLICAN CONSERVATIVES CRITICIZE HOUSE BILL ON SUNDAY SHOWS. The New York Daily News (3/19, Edelman, 4.45M) reports in a summary of various appearances that conservative Republicans appeared on TV on Sunday and “blasted President Trump’s health care plan...insisting they wouldn’t support it without major changes.” The Hill (3/19, Beavers, 1.25M) reports on Sunday, Heritage Foundation President Jim DeMint on CNN’s “State of the Union” said the bill will not pass “without improvements.”

Cruz Faults Three Phase Healthcare Strategy. On CBS Face the Nation (3/19, Dickerson, 4.61M), Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) faulted the Administration’s “three bucket” approach. Cruz said, “All the good stuff is in bucket three. Bucket three takes eight Democrats,” but “you can’t get eight Senate Democrats to agree on saying good morning.” So, “I have been urging the President and the Administration and leaders in both houses: Take everything in bucket three, put it in bucket one, we have got to actually fix this problem.”

Cotton Faults House Bill’s Treatment Of Private Insurance Market. Asked on CNN’s State of the Union (3/19, Tapper, 420K) if he would end the Medicaid expansion, even though it covers 250,000 Arkansans, Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR) said, “The Medicaid expansion I think needs to be part of Medicaid transformation and that’s what the House bill moves forward. It can be improved to some degree, but it’s about a 70 percent or 80 percent solution, Jake. The bigger problem with this legislation is on the private insurance market. I simply think that it’s not going to work to bring down premiums for working Arkansans and working Americans around the country.” The Hill (3/19, Beavers, 1.25M) reports Cotton said the

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major problem with the bill is its treatment of the private insurance market. He said that in Arkansas "tens of thousand of people leave Medicaid every year," so "I want to make sure that the market insurance system is working for them." The AP (3/17, Werner, Freking) reports Cotton is "one of the loudest critics of GOP health legislation."

Paul Warns House Bill Will Not Solve ACA's Problems, Calls For Repeal. On ABC's This Week, Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) disputed Secretary Price's claim that a clean repeal would put people at risk. Paul said, "I think it's sort of the opposite. The program they're putting forward, Obamacare light, they're going to keep half as much of what Obamacare presented. They're not going to fix the fundamental problem of Obamacare…the insurance mandates. … So the adverse selection, the death spiral that everybody is talking about, it will continue under the Paul Ryan plan. And, my fear is that a year from now, people will come back, we'll have all the same arguments again, the insurance premiums are still going through the roof, and we still have a mess." ABC News (3/19, Scanlan, 3.09M) on its website covers Paul's appearance, in which he said that the bill would not pass, because there are "enough conservatives that don't want 'Obamacare lite.'" He said under the House bill, "They're going to repeal part of it and leave in place all of the stuff that causes your insurance rates to go through the roof." The Hill (3/19, Shelbourne, 1.25M) reports Paul said, "None of us ran on this plan. We ran on repealing ObamaCare because it doesn't work."

Conservatives Reportedly Told Some Demands Will Not Be Included. Politico (3/19, Bade, Dawsey, Everett, 2.46M) reports on weekend meetings at Mar-a-Lago with Sens. Ted Cruz (R-TX) and Mike Lee (R-UT) and Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC), at which "the president's top advisers," including chief of staff Reince Priebus, chief strategist Steve Bannon, domestic policy director Andrew Bremberg, and legislative affairs director Marc Short, said that while "they agree with some of their demands in principle," yet they are also "unlikely to pass the Senate."

CNN Money (3/19, Luhby, 3.59M) reports that conservatives are expected to be favored with "the option of requiring able-bodied Medicaid recipients to work," and granting "states the option to receive federal Medicaid funding as a block grant." The bill is also expected to provide more aid to "Americans in their 50s and early 60s who purchase plans on the individual market."

PELOSI SAYS HOUSE BILL WOULD TAKE MONEY FROM WORKING CLASS. Asked on CBS' Face the Nation (3/19, Dickerson, 4.61M) about the House GOP healthcare bill, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi said, "I think it is Trumpcare. … Republicans will find any excuse to pull money up to the high end at the expense of the working class. And what is so strange about it all is, many of the people, many of the millions of people who are benefiting from the Affordable Care Act voted for Donald Trump." On CBS' Face the Nation (3/19, Dickerson, 4.61M), House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi said, "There are some things we could do to improve to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act right now, and I wish the Republicans would work with us to do that, we can work with them to do that. But what we have put forth is a terrible bill, 24 million people kicked off of health insurance, which the Speaker calls an act of mercy. An act of mercy." The Hill (3/19, Savransky, 1.25M) reports on Pelosi's appearance as do the Washington Examiner (3/19, Morrongiello, 400K) and Washington Times (3/19, Howell, 272K).

SEN. MANCHIN SAID ACA SHOULD BE REPAIRED, BUT HOUSE REPUBLICANS' HEALTHCARE BILL WOULD BE WORSE. The AP (3/18) reported Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) said at a town hall meeting that the ACA should be repaired, but that the House Republicans' healthcare bill would make the situation worse.

FOUR GOP GOVERNORS ANNOUNCE OPPOSITION TO REPUBLICAN HOUSE HEALTHCARE BILL. The Wall Street Journal (3/17, Hackman, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, Ohio Gov. John Kasich, Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval, and Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder sent a letter to congressional leaders on Thursday night announcing their opposition to the American Health Care Act. In the letter, they asserted, "Unfortunately, the current version of the House bill…provides almost no new flexibility for states, does not ensure the resources necessary to make sure no one is left out, and shifts significant new costs to states."

Moody's: Healthcare Reform Proposal Would Hurt State Budgets. Reuters (3/17, Respaut) reports Moody's Investors Service announced Friday that the American Health Care Act "would be a credit negative for U.S. states...because it would shift a greater share of the cost of Medicaid to the states." Moody's said "states will face difficult decisions" because of the GOP's plan to phase out Federal funding for Medicaid expansions by 2020 and the credit ratings company warned that "if states maintain the expansion programs for non-elderly adults with incomes up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level, they will be on the hook for a larger portion of expenses related to new enrollees."

FORMER HHS SECRETARY SEBELIUS SPEAKS OUT ABOUT HEALTHCARE REFORM. The Washington Examiner (3/19, Weaver, 400K) reports former Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius said on a TV program on Friday that "if you wrote a new constitution, you'd have healthcare for all." Sebelius went on to say that she wished Congress would pursue a Medicare-for-all system.

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In a video report, CBS News (3/17, 4.4M) interviewed the former Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius about healthcare reform. During the interview, Sebelius spoke about the House Republicans' healthcare bill, the internal divide within the Republican Party over the ACA and its potential replacement, as well as what reforms she supports.

AHCA COULD REDUCE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH EMPLOYER-BASED INSURANCE, CBO ANALYSIS SUGGESTS. On its website, NBC News (3/17, White, 2.67M) reported the American Health Care Act "could signal the beginning of the end for employer-based healthcare insurance, a perk that millions of Americans take for granted." The article reports that seven million people would lose employer-based health insurance over the next 10 years, according to the CBO's analysis of the bill. According to the CBO report, "Part of that net reduction in employment-based coverage would occur because fewer employees would take up the offer of such coverage in the absence of the individual mandate penalties. [O]ver time, fewer employers would offer health insurance to their workers."

House Republicans' Healthcare Bill May Make It Harder To Shop For Health Insurance, CBO Analysis Suggests. Politico (3/17, Vinik, 2.46M) reported the House Republicans' healthcare bill may make it harder for consumers to purchase health insurance, according to the CBO's analysis of the bill. The article reported that the bill "would weaken the exchanges where most people buy their Obamacare plans, and eliminate the bronze-silver-gold rating system that lets them compare value."

"GIG ECONOMY" WORKERS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT LOSING COVERAGE OF HOUSE REPUBLICANS' HEALTHCARE BILL. Politico (3/18, Colliver, 2.46M) reported many so-called "gig economy" workers, especially in California, are concerned that under the Republican bill, they would lose healthcare coverage they gained under the ACA. The article reports "there are between 54 million and 68 million independent workers in the labor force," according to a study published by the McKinsey Global Institute, which defined an independent worker as an individual "who can move between jobs fluidly and who has multiple employers or clients over the course of the year."

AHCA PROVISION RESTRICTING FUNDING FOR ABORTIONS COULD STOP BILL FROM BEING PASSED THROUGH RECONCILIATION, FAMILY RESEARCH COUNCIL WARNS. Politico (3/17, Haberkorn, 2.46M) reported the Family Research Council is warning Republicans that a provision in the American Health Care Act that would restrict funding for health plans that cover abortions may "not comply with the Senate's strict budget rules," thereby preventing the bill from being passed through reconciliation. The article reported that the group "told GOP lawmakers it won't support the repeal effort if the anti-abortion language is struck."

LOCAL TV NEWS COVERAGE OF ACA FOCUSED MORE ON POLITICS THAN ADVICE FOR CONSUMERS, STUDY SUGGESTS. Reuters (3/17, Rapaport) reported that local TV news coverage of the ACA "generally focused more on politics than on information consumers can use to help choose insurance," according to a study published online in the American Journal of Public Health. Researchers found that "less than half of ACA-related news coverage focused on health insurance products, while much of the rest of the spots concentrated on political disagreements over the law."

STATE OFFICIALS, STUDIES RAISE CONCERNS ABOUT CONSEQUENCES OF AHCA. A number of news outlets carry stories about AHCA's estimated negative effects in their states.

Colorado Healthcare Providers, Experts Concerned About Potential Consequences Of AHCA For State. The Colorado Springs (CO) Gazette (3/19, Rodgers, 175K) reports healthcare providers and experts in Colorado are concerned about the potential consequences of the House Republicans' healthcare bill for the state. The article reports that about 600,000 state residents could lose Medicaid coverage by 2030, according to a report from the Colorado Health Institute.

AHCA Passage Could Undermine Colorado Hospitals' Bottom Line. The Denver Post (3/18, Ingold, 778K) reported, "Peg Burnette, Denver Health's chief financial officer, said the [AHCA] could mean a revenue hit in 2020 – when the bill's more significant Medicaid provisions kick in – of between $50 million and $85 million." Burnette explains that if the AHCA passes, Denver Hospital will have to find areas in the budget to make cuts or face "going broke." The Post explains, "Before the Affordable Care Act, the health law also known as Obamacare, nearly two-thirds of the patients who walked through Denver Health's doors were uninsured or on Medicaid." The article explains, "The Colorado Health Institute has estimated that Colorado would receive $14 billion less in Medicaid funding by 2030 under the AHCA than under the current law."

Idaho State Official Concerned House Republicans' Healthcare Bill Could Result In Many Leaving State Exchange. The AP (3/17, Kruesi) reported Pat Kelly, the director of Your Health Idaho, is concerned that the House Republicans' healthcare bill "could result in a mass exodus" from the state's health insurance exchange. Kelly, the director of Your Health Idaho, said on Friday that almost 60,000 state residents could leave the exchange by 2020 because the bill

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would lower some people's subsidies and repeal the individual mandate.

Iowa Hospital Association Says AHCA Could Leave 250,000 Iowans Uninsured. The AP (3/19, Rodriguez) reports that the Iowa Hospital Association estimates that the American Health Care Act "could leave up to 250,000 Iowans without health insurance." Though Republican Gov. Terry Branstad "has reiterated his support for repealing" the Affordable Care Act, "his office and the state agency that oversees health care in Iowa said an analysis of what the overhaul would mean to the state would need to wait until Congress approves a bill."

House Republicans' Healthcare Bill Reignites Debate Over Healthcare In Kentucky. The Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (3/17, Kenning, 328K) reported, "Kentucky is on the front lines" of the ongoing debate over healthcare in the US, including the House Republicans' healthcare bill. The article pointed out that when the state expanded Medicaid, it "was hailed as a national success story," but now Gov. Matt Bevin (R) is "arguing the state couldn't afford the expansion and that the state-run exchange was unnecessary."

Older Maine Residents Could See Sevenfold Increase In Premiums Under AHCA. The Portland (ME) Press Herald (3/19, Lawlor, 177K) reports, "More than 25,000 older Mainers who have Affordable Care Act insurance could pay up to seven times as much for health insurance under the proposed Republican health care bill under consideration in the House. Mainers in their 50s and early 60s living in the state's poorest, most rural counties would be hardest-hit" by the American Health Care Act, "with premiums that could soar from a couple of hundred dollars monthly to more than $1,300 each month."

Michigan Think Tank Concludes AHCA Could Increase Healthcare Costs For Many In State. Crain's Detroit Business (3/17, Greene, 75K) reported the American Health Care Act could increase healthcare costs for many Michigan residents, according to two reports released by the Center for Healthcare Transformation and Research, a think tank based in the state. The think tank concluded that the law could increase healthcare costs for people between the ages of 55 and 64, as well as for "people with household incomes below 250 percent of the federal poverty level."

Rural Montana Hospitals May Be Severely Impacted By ACA Repeal. The Helena (MT) Independent Record (3/19, Michels, 38K) reports rural hospitals have benefitted from the expansion of Medicaid in Montana, and for some hospitals, Medicaid has been "a life preserver that keeps rural hospitals afloat." The Record explains, "numbers from the Department of Health and Human Services applied to CBO estimates show it would take the state an extra $251 million a year to keep coverage as it is now. It's hard to imagine how that will work in a year where the Legislature is struggling to balance the budget amid declining revenues."

AHCA Could Cost Ohio Up To $25.6 Billion Between 2019-2025. Crain's Cleveland Business (3/19, Coutre, 77K) reports, "The nonprofit Center for Community Solutions estimates the Medicaid funding model proposed in the American Health Care Act would cost Ohio between $19 billion and $25.6 billion between fiscal years 2019 and 2025. Hospitals and advocates say that could translate to reductions in workforce, services and programs." Experts explain that the AHCA could have a ripple effect across the state's economy and hit rural hospitals especially hard. Loren Anthes, public policy fellow with the center and author of the report, explained that providers are also worried about the twice yearly adjustments required to determine eligibility because it could impact individuals' ability to maintain coverage and the elimination of retroactive eligibility.

AP Analysis Finds People Would Gain Or Lose Under House Republicans' Healthcare Bill, Depending On Income. The Providence (RI) Journal (3/18, Arditi, 386K) reported that Rhode Island residents who buy their health insurance on the individual market "would see their tax credits rise or fall depending on their income, according to an Associated Press analysis of changes in a Republican plan to repeal Obamacare." The article reported that the AP's analysis found that "people with higher incomes stand to gain – and those with lower ones to lose money."

Around Half A Million Texans Could Lose Health Insurance Under AHCA, Analysts Predict. The Houston Chronicle (3/18, Deam, 1.91M) reported around 500,000 Texas residents could become uninsured under the House Republicans' healthcare bill, according to healthcare analysts. The article reports that the state still has the highest uninsured rate, but the uninsured rate has declined from 26% to 19% over the past four years under the ACA.

Wisconsin District That Went Heavily For Trump Could Be Hurt By AHCA. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (3/18, Gilbert, 513K) reported that though "no congressional district in Wisconsin delivered a bigger victory margin for Donald Trump last fall (20 points)" than the rural Seventh District, "by one key measure, no district in Wisconsin would lose more health care aid" under the American Health Care Act. The article says Wisconsin "is part of a national pattern in which the Obamacare enrollees who appear to be hit the hardest by the Republican plan fit the demographic and geographic profile of Trump's political base."

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AARP, AHA BOTH LOBBYING, CAMPAIGNING AGAINST HOUSE REPUBLICANS' HEALTHCARE BILL. Congressional Quarterly (3/17, Young, Subscription Publication, 967) reported the AARP and the American Hospital Association are both planning "to stir up opposition to" the House Republicans' healthcare bill, which could reduce the number of people with healthcare coverage. The article reported that both organizations are planning to lobby against the bill and advertise against it.

CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND IN MANHATTAN CONCERNED ABOUT NEW YORK CHILDREN LOSING HEALTHCARE COVERAGE. Newsday (NY) (3/18, Ricks, 1.3M) reported the Children's Defense Fund in Manhattan says the American Health Care Act would be harmful to New York children who have healthcare coverage through Medicaid and CHIP. Benjamin Anderson, the director of health policy for the organization, said, "What we're saying is that currently there are slightly more than 2 million kids covered by Medicaid and CHIP in New York, and both of these programs receive a significant amount of federal money."

HEALTH REFORM COMMENTARY. Rebecca Henderson wrote for The Hill (3/18, Henderson, 1.25M) in its "Pundits Blog" that employers are expecting to face growing difficulties in recruiting talented workers, and that, as a result many employers "are compelled to offer better benefits to make them stay." Henderson explained, "A recent Randstad Sourceright study found that 45 percent of Millennial workers claim they either cannot afford routine healthcare expenses or can do so only with great difficulty. Employers offering generous healthcare benefits, consequently, will be in a better position to entice these younger workers, especially if healthcare costs continue to rise." Henderson concluded, "In a tight labor market, where workers are constantly looking for better opportunities, turnover costs this high can quickly undermine a company's financial performance. HR executives that look beyond the tax code to weigh the value of employee benefits will generally find that employer-provided health insurance is well worth the cost."

Robert Samuelson writes in an opinion piece for the Washington Post (3/19, 11.43M) that, "It's time to take control of Medicaid before it takes control of us. Unless we act...Medicaid increasingly becomes another mechanism by which government skews spending toward the old and away from the young." Samuelson offers a few suggestions on how to fix Medicaid: shift Medicaid's long-term care to the federal government and let the states assume Medicaid costs for children and young adults.

Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) writes in a guest column for the Knoxville (TN) News Sentinel (3/19, 245K) that "Conditions are so bad that in three-quarters of Tennessee's counties, only one insurance company offers policies to those who buy on the exchange. The same is true in one third of all counties in the United States." Alexander contends that the lack of choice in the healthcare market place is "why Republicans' top priority in Congress is to address this Obamacare emergency in our state and other states." Alexander explains, "The House proposal will eliminate taxes and mandates that have driven up costs for employers and for the 60 percent of insured Americans who get their health insurance on the job."

In a guest column for The Knoxville (TN) News Sentinel (3/18, 245K) the state director of AARP Tennessee Rebecca Kelly wrote the AHCA "would mean people in their 50s and 60s who are buying health insurance on their own might have to pay up to $8,400 per year more than they do now." Kelly explained the AHCA would allow insurance companies to charge older Americans five times more than what younger Americans would pay for the same coverage, which she claims is "not a realistic option for thousands of Tennesseans."

American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten writes in a column for the Huffington Post (3/19, Weingarten, 237K) that President "Trump's rhetoric about healthcare is crashing up against reality. He promised to repeal the Affordable Care Act and replace it with a plan that would cost less and cover more people." Weingarten explains the AHCA would benefit the rich at the expense of the poor, arguing, "The 400 richest Americans would get about $7 million each. ... If the Republican health proposal becomes law, approximately 17,000 people could die in 2018 who otherwise would have lived." Weingarten concludes, "The ACA should be improved, not eliminated. Lives literally depend on it."

Dr. Farrell Gray wrote for The Hill (3/17, Gray, 1.25M) in its "Pundits Blog" that if the AHCA passes Congress, it "would limit access to procedures that save thousands of lives each year, and prevent millions of dollars from being spent on cancer treatment. As the ACA is disassembled, it is critical that preventive care remain an integral part of its replacement." Gray explained, "it is critical that Congress consider the impacts of colorectal cancer – and other preventable diseases – on our country. Now more than ever, cancer detection is the cure."

Anu Partanen writes in an opinion piece for the New York Times (3/18, Partanen, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) that, "Republican leaders seem unfazed by [the CBO analysis], perhaps because, in their minds, deciding not to have health care because it's too expensive is an exercise of individual free will." Partanen argues, "There is an appealing logic to such thinking." However, "If you can't afford it, not buying it is hardly a choice." Partanen concluded, "What passes for an American health care system today certainly has not made me feel freer. Having to arrange so many aspects of care

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myself, while also having to navigate the ever-changing maze of plans, prices and the scarcity of appointments available with good doctors in my network, has thrown me, along with huge numbers of Americans, into a state of constant stress."

Former Office of Management and Budget Director Peter Orszag wrote in an opinion piece for Bloomberg View (3/17, 125K) that the reduction in premiums that the CBO estimates will occur by 2026 will not be realized by consumers because they will be offset by a reduction in the subsidies they receive. Orszag argued, "the predicted fall in premiums partly reflects a troubling rise in the share of older Americans without insurance, a change that would shift the enrollment pool to younger, less expensive beneficiaries," and "The premium reduction would occur in no small part because the insurance products wouldn't be as good. In other words, their actuarial value would fall."

Cal Thomas writes in an opinion piece for the Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (3/19, 324K) that, "If a Republican congressional majority and a Republican president can't use their power of persuasion to convince enough members of their party to repeal and replace Obamacare, it will leave many people wondering why they are needed. Failure to at least take the first step in replacing a deeply flawed, government-mandated insurance program will leave a stain on the Republican Party that even the strongest and purest 'detergent' will not be able to remove."

Robert Kaestner writes in an opinion piece for the Washington Examiner (3/20, 400K) that the CBO's analysis about the number of Americans who will go without health insurance is incorrect because Americans will not "drop the free health insurance coverage and the unlimited healthcare and prescription drugs" Medicaid offers.

David Cutler, an economics professor at Harvard University, wrote in an opinion piece in the Washington Post (3/17, 11.43M) that House Speaker Paul Ryan's "American Health Care Act is fatally flawed," because "it does nothing to address the high and rising cost of chronic illness." Cutler argues that "a large share of medical costs are predictable," and that the "central question for health policy is who should pay for the predictably expensive."

In the Washington Post (3/19, 11.43M) "Right Turn" blog, contributor Jennifer Rubin writes that "President Trump is having no success selling the American Health Care Act to voters," according to a new poll that found 45% of Americans oppose the bill, while only 24% favor it. The poll also found that 32% strongly opposes the bill, while only 5% strongly favor the bill.

In the Washington Post (3/17, 11.43M) "Right Turn" blog, contributor Jennifer Rubin wrote that the House Republicans' healthcare bill has "dim" prospects of passing the Senate. Rubin argued that House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) "desperately wants the bill to pass the House to get the weight off his shoulders and be able to blame the Senate," but Rubin pointed out that the Freedom Caucus and other Republicans in the House may prevent the bill from being passed.

Ross Douthat writes in his column in the New York Times (3/19, SR11, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) that "there is a coherent vision underlying Republican health care policy debates." Douthat argues that Republicans think health insurance should only cover the catastrophic, and that people "should spend their own money whenever possible, because that's the best way to bring normal market pressures to bear on health care services, driving down costs without strangling medical innovation." Douthat argues that Singapore's healthcare system is consistent with these ideas and "is the marvel of the wealthy world."

The Los Angeles Times (3/18, 4.52M) "Readers React" column featured excerpts from several readers responding to a previously published letter to the editor that argued people should have the "freedom" to not buy health insurance. Some of the readers argued that those who do not buy health insurance burden others, and therefore shouldn't have such freedom.

Jon Talton wrote in his column in the Seattle Times (3/18, 1.05M) that "Republicans are in trouble with their plan to destroy Obamacare," because "they have nothing that addresses the market failure that prevents millions from getting coverage while costs keep rising." Talton argued that "Republicans are having a difficult time" repealing the ACA, in part because it is "at its core an old Republican health-care plan" that was first proposed by the Heritage Foundation in the 1990s and then enacted in Massachusetts by then-Gov. Mitt Romney.

Saritha Prabhu wrote in her column in the Tennessean (3/17, 407K) that Republicans should "just rename Obamacare as Trumpcare." Prabhu argues that she's "serious" and that Republicans should "just repeal and replace the name, not the act," because "having a healthcare act with his name on it should satisfy our egocentric current president."

The South Florida Sun Sentinel (3/17, 581K) editorialized that Republican leaders in Congress should replace their "Obamacare replacement." The editorial argued that Republicans' revised plan should reverse "the original plan's heartless attempt to deny health care to as many as 24 million Americans over the next decade."

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Mark Plotkin, a BBC News contributor and a columnist for The Georgetowner, wrote in an opinion piece in The Hill (3/17, 1.25M) that "Republicans don't want to provide health insurance coverage to everyone." Plotkin contended that Republicans "will never come out and say that," but the Republican Party's "guiding philosophy" can be summarized as: "You are on your own."

Jules Witcover wrote in his column in the Baltimore Sun (3/17, 714K) that the CBO "has forecasted that 24 million Americans will lose government-overseen health care insurance in the next decade if the Republican bill to replace Obamacare is enacted." Witcover argued that the CBO's analysis could prevent the bill from being passed, because several Republican Senators have cited the analysis in opposition to the bill.

In an opinion piece, Forbes (3/19, 15.17M) contributor Avik Roy writes in "The Apothecary" blog that the American Health Care Act must be changed to provide better coverage to older, low-income Americans. Roy argues that the bill should offer "means-tested, age-adjusted tax credits," as well a "standard tax deduction for health insurance."

In an opinion piece in the Las Vegas Sun (3/19, 178K) editor, publisher, and owner Brian Greenspun writes that "the idea that in the wealthiest country in the world people would have to go broke just because they get sick borders on the immoral." Greenspun says, "In the end, it doesn't matter to me how people get affordable, efficient and quality health care as long as they have it."

Jeff Jacoby writes in his column in the Boston Globe (3/19, 1.08M) that "the Ryan plan is indeed deeply flawed – not because it obliterates Obamacare, but because it doesn't." Jacoby argues that Republicans should repeal the ACA and many other federal laws that restrict the formation of a competitive, transparent market for healthcare services.

Wayne Allyn Root writes in his column in the Las Vegas Review-Journal (3/19, 676K) that "the unhinged, loony left is obsessed with blocking the potential repeal and replacement of Obamacare." Root argues that "Obamacare is Godzilla. We must kill it, or it will kill us." Root concludes, "It's time to focus on the whole patient. Either we lose the leg or we die. I choose life."

Paul Waldman, a senior writer with The American Prospect, wrote in an opinion piece in The Week (3/17, 2.41M) that "President Trump may just decide to cut his losses and walk away from what Republicans say is their most important legislative goal." Waldman argued that President Trump now realizes that healthcare reform involves trade-offs, but "Trump still wants to satisfy everyone."

M. Gregg Bloche, MD, JD, a law professor at Georgetown University, writes in an opinion piece in The Hill (3/19, 1.25M) that Republicans claim the American Healthcare Act would put patients "in charge," but Bloche argues that "for the more than 80 million Americans who get their health insurance through Medicaid or an ObamaCare exchange, this promise is...pure fiction." Bloche argues that the bill would cut subsidies for people buying health insurance, and that insurers and health plans would continue to restrict people's choices.

John R. Graham, a senior fellow at the National Center for Policy Analysis, wrote in an opinion piece in Forbes (3/17, 15.17M) "The Apothecary" blog that the CBO's analysis of the Republican healthcare bill is inadequate, because the agency did not have time to complete a "dynamic scoring" of the bill. Graham said that the National Center for Policy Analysis has completed a dynamic scoring of the bill and concluded that the bill "offers meaningful relief" to "any working person who wants to be free of worrying whether working an extra shift or getting a promotion will cause a drop in her income after paying for health insurance."

Jay Bookman wrote in his column in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (3/18, 1.41M) that Secretary of Health and Human Services Tom Price lied to a man who asked a question at a CNN town hall last week. According to Bookman, Price lied when he said that Republicans don't want to take away Medicaid expansion. Bookman asserted that Price "is not a man operating in good faith; he is a huckster, and a poor one at that."

Edmund F. Haislmaier, a senior research fellow at the Heritage Foundation, wrote in an opinion piece in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (3/18, 513K) that "the key problem" with the House Republicans' healthcare bill "is that it fails to correct the features of Obamacare that drove up health insurance costs." Haislmaier argued that "Congress should continue to focus on first repealing the failed policy of Obamacare and then act to offer patient-centered, market-based replacement reforms."

Robert Robb writes in his column in the Arizona Republic (3/19, 1.1M) that the CBO's estimate that 24 million Americans would lose their healthcare coverage under the House Republicans' healthcare bill is "a transparently phony figure." Robb argues that the CBO's estimates are "phony because there is too little substantive underlying them to give them much weight."

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Rep. Jason Lewis (R-MN) wrote in an opinion piece in the Minneapolis Star Tribune (3/18, 1.27M) that he voted for the House Republicans' healthcare bill because he "made a promise" to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. Lewis said that the bill is "the first of three steps" that will "undo the damage of Obamacare and replace it with patient-centered reforms and universal access to affordable health care."

Melinda Deslatte, an AP reporter, writes in an opinion piece in the Baton Rouge (LA) Advocate (3/19, 75K) that the House Republicans' healthcare bill could have a major impact on Louisiana state residents who rely on Medicaid for healthcare services. Deslatte says that around 1.2 million in the state have been enrolled in Medicaid before the state expanded the program, and another 400,000 people have enrolled since the state expanded.

Politico (3/19, Demko, Cancryn, 2.46M) contributors Paul Demko and Adam Cancryn write that forcing young people currently enrolled on their parents' healthcare plans to buy health insurance on their own could fix the individual health insurance market. Demko and Cancryn argue that the provision allowing people under the age of 26 to stay on their parents' health plans sabotages the individual market, because it prevents many young, healthy people from buying insurance for themselves.

Jonathan Cohn and Jeffrey Young wrote in a column for the Huffington Post (3/17, Cohn, Young, 237K) that, "The health insurance markets regulated by the Affordable Care Act are actually in better shape than Republicans admit. Just this week, the Congressional Budget Office said the marketplaces were on their way to stability." The authors contribute the short comings of the ACA to "the handiwork of state and federal Republican officials who spent years undermining the law, contributing to the conditions they now say oblige them to dismantle it."

In a column for Forbes (3/17, 15.17M) Laurence Kotlikoff wrote, "Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price appears to be missing a basic point in his vigorous defense of Trumpcare" that most Americans want full healthcare coverage. Kotlikoff argued the AHCA would reduce the amount of money individuals have available to purchase coverage, and it will lower the cost of not having coverage. Kotlikoff explained the better option is to go for "the Purple Healthcare Plan" which would give all Americans "a basic plan for free." Kotlikoff concluded, "what all of us want is full coverage. Under [Price's] plan, what tens of millions of Americans will be able to afford and choose to purchase is zero coverage."

The New Orleans Times-Picayune (3/17, 656K) editorialized, "More than 405,000 Louisiana residents who were uninsured a year ago now have coverage because of the Medicaid expansion offered under the Affordable Care Act." Gov. John Bel Edwards (D-LA) penned a letter outlining the benefits the state has gotten since the ACA passed: "Since Louisiana started adding new Medicaid patients in July 2016, more than 62,000 patients have gotten preventive care. More than 5,700 patients have gotten breast cancer screenings, and 74 were diagnosed with cancer. More than 1,300 people have been diagnosed with diabetes, and 5,900 have gotten colon cancer screenings." The Times-Picayune writes, "The loss of Medicaid not only would put a financial strain on families, but on hospitals as well. Uninsured residents would have little choice but to show up in hospital emergency rooms for care."

Beverly Gossage, a senior fellow for Independent Women's Voice, writes in her column in USA Today (3/20, 5.28M) that it's difficult to shop for healthcare without price transparency, and she says that the Department of Health and Human Services' regulations do not provide "instructions on how to find out the cost of a procedure or treatment before it's needed." Gossage says that it is often difficult to find out the price of a healthcare service before receiving it and shares the example of a man who often struggles to find out the prices of various services before receiving them so he can pay for them with an HSA.

Healthcare Fraud:

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATING FOUR INSURERS FOR OVERCHARGING MEDICARE PROGRAM.
Reuters (3/17, Raymond) reported the Justice Department has disclosed that they are investigating Health Net Inc., Aetna Inc., Cigna Corp's Bravo Health Inc., and Humana Inc. after "a lawsuit accused them of defrauding Medicare by claiming patients were treated for conditions they did not have or received no treatment for." Reuters explains, "The lawsuit centered on 'risk adjustment' payments that Medicare makes to managed-care plans to offset the increased costs associated with treating patients with multiple or serious health conditions."

The Minneapolis Star Tribune (3/17, Snowbeck, 1.27M) reported the lawsuit alleges the UnitedHealth Group and its subsidiaries "received hundreds of millions, if not billions, in overpayments due to false claims and statements relating to risk adjustment payments in Medicare." The Star Tribune explained that UnitedHealth Group has denied all of the allegations in the lawsuit. The former director of finance at UnitedHealth Benjamin Poehling brought the lawsuit against the insurer.

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Modern Healthcare (3/17, Livingston, Subscription Publication, 241K) reported, "Under the Medicare Advantage program, the government pays private health plans monthly amounts for every member they cover, and those taxpayer-funded payments are adjusted based on how sick someone is." The Justice Department said it cannot make a decision whether or not to intervene until it has completed an investigation.

Healthcare News:

GROWING NUMBER OF STATES CONSIDERING "NON-OPIOID DIRECTIVES." The AP (3/19, Haigh) reports that a "growing number of states" are considering bills that would allow patients to create a "non-opioid directive" that formally notifies healthcare professionals "they do not want to be prescribed or administered opioid medications." Last year, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania passed such legislation, and "Connecticut and Alaska are two of the latest considering legislation this year."

ARIZONA CONSIDERS BILL TO LIMIT UNEXPECTED HEALTHCARE BILLS FOR PATIENTS. The AP (3/18, Silber) reports Arizona legislators are developing a set of measures that would offer "more protection to patients who receive unanticipated medical bills from out-of-network providers" in an effort to fight "surprise billing." The measures, which "would require patients, insurers, and providers to first try to settle the dispute in an informal phone call before advancing to arbitration if an agreement cannot be reached," passed the state Senate on a 25-5 vote. An additional provision in Senate Bill 1321 by state Sen. Sean Bowie (D-Phoenix) "would require the Insurance Department director to produce a report on surprise billing in the state by January of next year."

USCIS TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF "PREMIUM PROCESSING" CAUSING DOCTOR SHORTAGE. The New York Times (3/18, Jordan, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that a little-publicized change made by the government "to alter the timetable for some visa applications is likely to delay the arrival of new foreign doctors, and is causing concern in the places that depend on them." This change is the temporary suspension of "premium processing" of the H-1B visa, announced by USCIS. Alongside President Trump's revised travel ban, the Times says this has resulted in "the slowdown in the rural doctor pipeline," which it also notes "shows how even a small, relatively uncontroversial change can ripple throughout the country."

INDIA'S GENERIC DRUGMAKERS SAY US PROTECTIONISM COULD CAUSE THEM TO FOCUS EFFORTS ELSEWHERE. Reuters (3/17, Siddiqui) reported that India's small and medium-sized generic drug companies "say the threat of tougher rules and higher barriers for outsiders in the US healthcare market will force many to find a niche or focus their expansion efforts on other countries." Although India "supplies nearly a third of medicines sold in the United States," a move towards greater protectionism by the Trump Administration means "the operating environment for smaller generic players will get worse, executives at Indian companies said."

Food & Import Safety:

CHINA'S PLANNED FOOD IMPORT REGULATIONS WORRY TRADE PARTNERS. The AP (3/19, McDonald, Wong) reported countries which export food to China are concerned about recent actions taken to add additional inspection requirements to imported food that other countries worry "could disrupt billions of dollars in commerce." In an attempt to address the issue, concerned trade partners are bringing Awilo Ochieng Pernet, council president of the UN's "Food Code" organization the Codex Alimentarius, to "explain" the code's standards to China in hopes of convincing them to back down from requiring intensive health testing for even low-risk food shipments.

Emergency Response and Pandemic Preparedness:

H5N5 BIRD FLU STRIKES IN CROATIA. Reuters (3/17, Trompiz) reports a statement by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) on Friday said the Croatian agriculture ministry announced the outbreak of the H5N5 bird flu among backyard poultry farms in the Krapinsko-Zagorska region. Croatia previously detected the H5N8 bird flu, "another severe strain that has swept across Europe since last year," and announced that the 65 most recently-infected animals died or were culled.

Medicare:

FIXED PAYMENTS FROM MEDICARE AND MEDICAID FOR JOINT REPLACEMENTS HAVE RESULTED IN LOWER MEDICAL COSTS. The Pensacola (FL) News Journal (3/18, Baucum, 158K) reported, "Since the start of April, Medicare-accepting health care providers in the Pensacola metro area have participated in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' Comprehensive Care for Joint Replacement model. ... [Officials] from the region's hospitals attest that since its

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implementation, medical costs have dropped, recovery times from the surgeries have shrunk and a better coordinated system of care has arisen." The News Journal explains that, given a pre-determined fixed reimbursement for a Medicare patient's hip or knee replacement, and associated post-operative care, the "onus is then on the hospital to coordinate and map out the patient's schedule of care...with the goal of staying under the fixed amount of money without sacrificing the quality of care."

Medicaid & CHIP:

AHCA COULD COST 380,000 ARIZONANS ACCESS TO MEDICAID. The Phoenix Business Journal (3/19, O'Grady, Subscription Publication, 5K) reports according to a new report, "A plan to replace the Affordable Care Act currently making its way through congress could cost 380,000 people access to Arizona's Medicaid plan." The Business Journal explains, Arizona voted to expand Medicaid in 2013, and current Gov. Doug Ducey "has been critical of the AHCA's plan to trim Medicaid spending, which would give medical cost coverage to those living near or below the federal poverty line."

COLORADO MEDICAID TRANSITION RESULTED IN FAILURE TO PAY CLAIMS. The Denver Post (3/17, Brown, 778K) reported, "Agencies that care for Coloradans with intellectual and developmental disabilities have been left in dire straits as the state switched to a new computer system that failed to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars in claims." The Post writes, "State officials say they are fixing the errors, but agencies say the glitches put services at risk for thousands of Coloradans and that they still are awaiting funds to pay staff for services already provided."

LOUISIANA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION AND METROPOLITAN COUNCIL OF NEW ORLEANS CONCERNED WITH POSSIBLE MEDICAID CUTS. The AP (3/19, Deslatte) reports, "the Republican health plan being debated in Washington could have far more sweeping impact in Louisiana for other provisions that curb federal spending on Medicaid." Over one-third of Louisiana residents are currently reliant on the program, and the state is spending "$11 billion on Medicaid this budget year. More than 69 percent of that comes from the federal government." According to the Louisiana Hospital Association and the Metropolitan Council of New Orleans, "In Louisiana, cuts of this magnitude would negatively impact services to the most vulnerable covered by Medicaid, including the elderly, disabled, children and pregnant women."

BOOST IN MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT RATE HAS NOT RESULTED IN AN INCREASE IN NURSES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE. The AP (3/18, Ramer) reported recent increases in New Hampshire's Medicaid reimbursement rate for skilled in-home nurses have not boosted the number of skilled nurses eligible to care for patients. The AP explained that advocates who pushed for the rate increases believed the boost in payments would draw in nurses who sought other more lucrative jobs, but the intended impacts have yet to be realized.

WEST VIRGINIA HOUSE APPROVES LEGISLATION TO COMBAT MEDICAID FRAUD. The Beckley (WV) Register-Herald (3/19, 63K) reports the West Virginia Senate passed SB 500 by a vote of 24-7 on Saturday without debate. The Register-Herald writes, "The legislation would move West Virginia's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit from the state Department of Health and Human Resources to the Attorney General's Office. Nationally, 43 of the 50 such units are operated by state attorneys general." West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey claims the move would allow the state to more vigorously combat Medicaid fraud in the state. The legislation now moves to the West Virginia House of Delegates.

COMMENTARY ON MEDICAID. In an opinion piece for the Portland (ME) Press Herald (3/19, Fossel, 177K), Jim Fossel writes that now is an interesting time for "liberal activists" to be pushing a referendum on Medicaid expansion in Maine. Fossel argues that having a referendum in 2017 does not make sense because it would have been easier to have a spillover effect to other races if the measure were put on the ballot in 2016 or 2018. Fossel points out that in an odd-year election, the efforts to turn out the vote and register voters will be entirely left up to supporters and opponents of the referendum. He questions the state's ability to fund its portion of the Medicaid expansion even if the measure is able to pass.

Grant Boswell writes in an opinion piece for the Deseret (UT) News (3/19, 362K) that Medicaid has been a "lifeline of hope" for his family. Boswell explains that Medicaid has helped him to provide care for his disabled son through Utah's Division of Services for People with Disabilities, saying, "Those services were often the only thing that kept us going through difficult years filled with frustration and despair." Boswell says, "We should certainly come together to find the right balance of fiscal responsibility and services, but we should not do it at the expense of Utah's most vulnerable."

Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY) writes in a guest column for the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (3/18, 350K) that he supports the per-capita caps on Medicaid funding to the states. Guthrie explains, "the federal government would set a limit on the maximum allowable amount per enrollee," which "would be based on each state's historical average cost for an enrollee in each eligibility group." Guthrie argues, "We must focus on modernizing this Great Society program," including with "new statutory flexibilities," so that Medicaid "can offer real access to providers and improved health outcomes for decades to

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come."

Health & Medical News:

CHOLESTEROL DRUG SHOWS "DRAMATIC" RESULTS IN NEW STUDY. "The first rigorous test of an expensive new drug that radically lowers cholesterol levels found that it significantly reduced the chance that a high-risk patient would have a heart attack or stroke," the New York Times (3/17, Kolata, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports, citing a new study involving 27,564 men and women using Amgen's Repatha that was published Friday in The New England Journal of Medicine and presented at the annual meeting of the American College of Cardiology.

ABC World News Tonight (3/17, story 13, 0:30, Muir, 14.63M) said the study had "some pretty dramatic results" as the medication "not only cause[s] cholesterol levels to plunge, it also cuts the risk of heart attack by up to 20 percent when given with a traditional statin." NBC Nightly News (3/17, story 9, 2:10, Holt, 16.61M) similarly highlighted that the study is "being called a big medical breakthrough in the treatment of high cholesterol and heart disease." NBC News Medical Correspondent Dr. John Torres noted, "There are 11 million Americans who could benefit from this expensive drug. The price they may pay for a healthy life."

The Washington Post (3/17, Bernstein, 11.43M) emphasizes "heart disease is the number one killer of Americans." The Post adds that while the Food and Drug Administration approved the first PCSK9 inhibitors in 2015 for people diagnosed with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia and for patients "who have had heart attacks and other serious cardiovascular problems but still cannot reach target LDL levels using statins," the FDA needs to conduct cost-benefit analyses before it decides to expand treatment, given the high price of the medication.

TAVR AND OPEN-HEART SURGERY MAY LEAD TO SIMILAR OUTCOMES FOR CERTAIN PATIENTS WITH AORTIC STENOSIS, STUDY SUGGESTS. The Wall Street Journal (3/17, Whalen, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports that research indicated that for certain patients with aortic stenosis, transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) and open-heart surgery led to similar outcomes.

Reuters (3/17, Berkrot) reports, "For death rates alone, the two procedures were virtually identical at 11.4 percent for TAVR and 11.6 percent for surgery." Meanwhile, "for disabling stroke the difference was more pronounced at 2.6 percent for TAVR and 4.5 percent for surgery, which researchers said just missed statistical significance."

Cardiovascular Business (3/17, Casey) points out that "all of the patients had symptomatic, severe aortic stenosis and had intermediate surgical risk." The findings were presented at the ACC meeting and published online in The New England Journal of Medicine.

LONG-TERM USE OF RIVAROXABAN MAY BE BETTER THAN ASPIRIN FOR PREVENTING RECURRENCE OF VTE, STUDY SUGGESTS. The Wall Street Journal (3/18, McKay, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports that research presented at the American College of Cardiology meeting and published in the New England Journal of Medicine suggests that the long-term use of rivaroxaban may be better than aspirin for preventing the recurrence of blood clots.

Reuters (3/18, Berkrot) reports that the study included involved nearly 3,400 individuals "who had completed 6 to 12 months of anticoagulant therapy for a" venous thromboembolism (VTE). Participants "were then given either 10 or 20 milligrams of...rivaroxaban, or low-dose aspirin and followed for another year." Investigators found that "1.2 percent of patients who got 10 mg" rivaroxaban "and 1.5 percent in the 20 mg group suffered another VTE, compared with 4.4 percent on aspirin."

NEWER CLASS OF TYPE 2 DIABETES MEDICATIONS MAY REDUCE RISK OF DEATH, HOSPITALIZATION FOR HEART FAILURE, STUDY SUGGESTS. Reuters (3/19, Berkrot) reports that research suggests SGLT-2 inhibitors, "a newer class of type 2 diabetes" medications, "significantly cut the risk of death and hospitalization for heart failure compared with other medicines for the disease." The findings were presented at the American College of Cardiology meeting.

SOCIETY OF HUNTER-GATHERERS FOUND TO HAVE LOWEST-EVER RECORDED LEVELS OF CLOGGED ARTERIES. The AP (3/17, Cheng) reports that research indicates "the Tsimane, a society of hunter-gatherers" who live in the Bolivian Amazon, "have the lowest-ever recorded levels of clogged arteries among any population studied." The findings were published in the Lancet and presented at the American College of Cardiology meeting.

TIME (3/17, Sifferlin, 6.98M) explains that "the Tsimane people spend" just "10% of their day being inactive; for the rest of it, they hunt, gather and farm." Additionally, "they consume a lot of high-fiber, non-processed carbohydrates like corn, nuts and rice, and about 15% of their diet is from meat or fish protein." Meanwhile, their "diet is overall low in fat, and people

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rarely smoke."

The Orange County (CA) Register (3/16, Perkes, 690K) reports that investigators "took CT scans of the hearts of 705 Tsimane adults who live in the Bolivian Amazon." Although "91 percent of Americans at age 80 have coronary artery disease, only 15 percent of Tsimane adults had risk of heart disease, which in most cases was low...said" researcher Dr. Gregory Thomas.

On its website, NBC News (3/17, 2.67M) reports that "the Tsimane have high levels of C-reactive protein (CRP), an indicator of inflammation." Although "high CRP levels are linked with heart disease and the risk of heart attack and strokes" in Americans, this is not true for the Tsimane. According to researcher Ben Trumble, "They have very high levels of inflammation, yet they show very low levels of heart disease."

SLEEP APNEA IN KIDS MAY BE LINKED TO CHANGES IN BRAIN, STUDY SUGGESTS. Reuters (3/17, Seaman) reports that research suggests that in kids with obstructive sleep apnea (OSA), "areas of the brain involved with thinking and problem-solving appear to be smaller than in children who sleep normally." Investigators "used magnetic resonance imaging to analyze the volume of children's gray matter." The scans of 16 kids with OSA and 200 kids who did not have the condition were compared. The researchers found that "overall, children with OSA had decreases in gray matter volume in areas of the brain important for controlling cognition and mood, compared to the other" kids. The findings were published online in Scientific Reports.

WALKING DOG, SPENDING TIME WITH GRANDCHILDREN MAY HELP KEEP PATIENTS WITH COPD ACTIVE, STUDY SUGGESTS. Reuters (3/17, Lehman) reported that research suggests "walking a dog and spending time with grandchildren keep people with" chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) "more active than their peers who don't have these outlets." The findings were published online in Thorax.

DEATH OF OHIO COUPLE IN OVERDOSE "RAISING QUESTIONS" ABOUT PILOT SCREENINGS. NBC Nightly News (3/17, story 8, 2:10, Holt, 16.61M) reported on the accidental overdose of a husband and wife in Dayton, Ohio. Coverage indicated the couple were found by their children after waking up to get ready for school. Correspondent Tom Costello said, "Two more lives lost to America's opioid addiction. Courtney Halye and her husband Brian, a captain with Spirit Airlines." He noted that Spirit Airlines said in an NBC interview, "'Captain Halye served at the airline for just over nine years. His final Spirit flight was last Friday, March 10," which Costello said is "raising questions about how pilots are screened for drug abuse."

EPA AWARDS MICHIGAN $100 MILLION TO MAKE UPGRADES TO FLINT DRINKING WATER SYSTEM. CNN (3/17, Marsh, 29.79M) reported that on Friday, "the Environmental Protection Agency announced...that it has awarded Michigan $100 million to make upgrades to Flint's drinking water system." These "funds will allow Flint to accelerate and expand its work to replace lead service lines and make other critical infrastructure improvements."

Reuters (3/17, Volcovici) reported that "the EPA will make $31.5 million immediately available...and Michigan will provide a $20 million required match." The other "$68.5 million will come after the city and Michigan complete additional public comment and technical reviews."

In a related story, the AP (3/19, Ehrmann) reports, however, that "Flint residents could still be a few years away from drinking unfiltered tap water as the city makes incremental progress on an ambitious – if not overly optimistic – timeframe to replace old water service lines."

Also covering the EPA announcement were the Detroit Free Press (3/17, Spangler, 1.01M), The Hill (3/17, Henry, 1.25M), MLive (MI) (3/17, Fonger, 878K), and the Detroit News (3/17, Burke, 473K).

Global Health:

UN CAN'T RAISE FUNDS FOR ITS STRATEGY TO FIGHT HAITI'S CHOLERA EPIDEMIC. The New York Times (3/19, Gladstone, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports "the United Nations' strategy to fight" Haiti's cholera epidemic "has failed to gain traction." The "fund created to help finance the strategy has only about $2 million," and only six of 193 member states have donated to it. Last month, the UN "asked for financial commitments to the trust fund by March 6," but saw little response. The situation is further complicated by the Trump Administration's "intention to cut spending on foreign aid."

EBOLA SURVIVORS, COMMUNITIES EXPERIENCE LASTING NEGATIVE EFFECTS. Reuters (3/17, Guilbert) reports Ebola survivors in Guinea continue to experience negative effects, as "around a third of whom are estimated to suffer from depression, and four in 10 from post-traumatic stress disorder, according to The Alliance for International Medical Action

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(ALIMA)." Davin Mpaka, a neuropsychiatrist with ALIMA, said survivors "are traumatized by what they experienced and overcame," though persistent stigmatization and a lack of affordable healthcare also impact community health.

National News:

NUNES AND SCHIFF: NO EVIDENCE SUPPORTING TRUMP'S WIRETAPPING CLAIMS. Lawmakers of both parties yesterday took to the Sunday shows to state that they had seen no evidence backing up the President's claims about Trump Tower having been wiretapped under the Obama Administration. The tone of the coverage of this matter remains decidedly unfavorable toward Trump, though USA Today (3/19, Jackson, 5.28M) reports Chairman Devin Nunes said yesterday "investigators are looking at other types of possible surveillance of Trump and his aides during last year's campaign." Said Nunes, "We have a lot of surveillance activities in this country." Politico (3/19, Kullgren, 2.46M) indicates that Nunes went on to suggest that "media revelations that former national security adviser retired Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn had conversations with the Russian ambassador to the US raised concerns with the Trump administration that other people might have been spied on during the campaign." Said Nunes, "If there were other surveillance activities where names were picked up and unmasking occurred, and that was spread throughout the intelligence community, that is very possible and we don't have answers to those questions yet. ... I don't know if the president has those or not." At any rate, says Reuters (3/19, Stephenson, Bohan), the statements from lawmakers from both parties add "pressure on Trump to explain or back off his repeated assertion."

In its lead story, ABC World News (3/19, lead story, 3:10, Llamas, 14.63M) reported one GOP committee member, Will Hurd, is "already calling for...Trump to apologize" for his claims, while Nunes and the committee's ranking Democrat, Adam Schiff, are saying there is no evidence to support the accusations. On ABC's This Week (3/19, Stephanopoulos, 6.61M), Hurd was asked whether Trump should apologize, and he replied, "I think it helps with our allies. … It doesn't hurt," plus the ongoing controversy "takes away from the rest of his agenda."

On Fox News Sunday (3/19, Wallace), Nunes said the information the panel received on Friday would not prompt him to revise his statement that there was no evidence of Trump's claim. Nunes added, "Was there a physical wiretap of Trump Tower? No. There never was. The information we got on Friday continues to lead us in that direction. ... There was no FISA warrant that I'm aware of to tap Trump Tower." However, he continued, "the other issue that is still remaining out there is the unmasking of names, the leaking of names. We have a lot of surveillance activities in this country and I think the concern that the Trump Administration has is, were they actually using surveillance activities to know what they were up to? We know that that happened with General Flynn." On NBC's Meet the Press (3/19, Todd, 157K), Schiff said, "I got a classified briefing" and "once again," there was "no evidence to support the President's claim that he was wiretapped by his predecessor."

White House press secretary Sean Spicer was asked on Fox News MediaBuzz (3/19, 536K) about the Republican chairmen of the House and Senate Intelligence committees claims that they have seen no evidence to support Trump's claim. Spicer said, "They said 'so far.' The Department of Justice asked for an additional week. Let's see what gets produced there. Secondly, I think that when you start looking into all of these things that occurred during 2016 in terms of surveillance...the question is, what did happen? Who was being looked at? There was clearly something there. And I think it's incumbent upon the House and Senate Intelligence Committees, as the President has asked, to look into these situations and find out what did go on."

The AP (3/19, Salcedo) reports that "Trump's claims widened to two of the US's staunchest allies," as "he repeated an unsubstantiated claim that Britain's cyber intelligence organization conducted the surveillance at Obama's behest, a claim the agency GBHQ flatly denied; and mentioned during German Chancellor Angela Merkel's first visit to the Trump White House the Obama administration's monitoring of Merkel's cellphone, a bruising incident in German-US relations." The Washington Times (3/19, Howell, 272K) reports Democratic Rep. Joaquin Castro said on ABC's This Week, "Working together on things like counterterrorism is only successful if these nations and their intelligence agencies trust and have confidence in the United States. ... So when you hear these outlandish comments, what I keep thinking is that there's a real possibility that the president is undermining these relationships."

On CBS' Face the Nation (3/19, Dickerson, 4.61M), House Minority Leader Pelosi said, "They are doubling down on it this, quoting sources saying that the President [Obama] worked with the British intelligence to also spy on the President. Of course, it is not true. So let's just grow up. Grow up, the Justice Department, the FBI, has to really clear this." The CBS Weekend News (3/19, lead story, 2:00, Quijano) showed Pelosi adding, "Because otherwise this Administration has decided they with impunity can say anything."

On Fox News Sunday (3/19, Wallace), House Speaker Ryan said, "I'm not really focused on these things, only to the extent that we have a committee that is investigating. … The President and Congress are already working on this. They've asked us to investigate this. We will investigate each and every one of these things, all things related to Russia.

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That investigation is ongoing, it's not complete. Let's see this investigation run its course. But we have not seen evidence of anything like what you just described."

On NBC's Meet the Press (3/19, Todd, 157K), Maine Sen. Susan Collins said, "I have seen no evidence supporting that statement, and what we need is evidence. If the President has evidence of that, I would encourage him to turn that over to the House and Senate Intelligence Committees."

On CNN's State of the Union (3/19, Tapper, 420K), meanwhile, Arkansas Sen. Tom Cotton said, "The House Committee hearing tomorrow will be in part about the unsubstantiated allegations in the media and by Democrats of collusion between Trump associates and Russian intelligence and we have two very high ranking Obama Administration intelligence officers who have disputed that claim."

The New York Times (3/19, Shane, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that even if Trump's "wiretap claim was groundless, as seems all but certain, it has unexpectedly renewed a debate on the left as well as the right over whether security agencies invade Americans' privacy and could undermine democracy." The Times adds that "whether the president intended such a discussion or even welcomes it, his repeated undercutting of the spy agencies has been striking."

Jackie Kucinich of The Daily Beast said on CNN Inside Politics (3/19, 303K), "We started an international incident because the White House won't back down at this point. This has become – there's been time, money, man hours, that have been wasted because of an errant tweet that seemed to be to distract from what was going on that week which was Sessions was in trouble for saying that he talked to the Russian ambassador – he said he didn't and he did, and now there's this whole mess that is completely of the President's own making. This started with him and Twitter."

Perry Bacon of FiveThrityEight said on CNN Inside Politics (3/19, 303K), "The consequence is we think of the President as the leader of the free world. We use that phrase all the time. It's hard to see this man when he makes comments like this and the rest of the government says, 'No, no, no. What he meant was x or what we're really doing is y' – it's really hard to take his comments about national security issues seriously hand that does have implications because allies have to listen to what does Mattis think, what does McMaster think, what is Tillerson saying, what is Trump saying. We sort of new Barack Obama spoke for the US government in most cases and I'm not sure you're clear on that right now."

Comey Expected To Testify About Alleged Russian Interference, Trump's Wiretapping Claims. FBI Director Comey's expected testimony before the House Intelligence Committee generated extensive coverage, including reports on all three networks – two of which led with the story. Encapsulating the tenor of much of the reporting, Politico (3/19, Wright, Matishak, 2.46M) says Comey "upended the presidential election – twice," and "now Democrats are pinning their hopes on the man many of them blame for Hillary Clinton's loss to deliver a major blow to...Trump's credibility." As Bloomberg Politics (3/19, Strohm, Bjerga, 201K) reports, "Comey unsuccessfully urged the Justice Department to publicly deny" Trump's wiretapping "allegation, according to a US official who requested anonymity in order to discuss sensitive issues." The Washington Post (3/19, Debonis, 11.43M) also reports "Comey privately told lawmakers last week that there is no basis whatsoever for Trump's claim." A "US official" tells the Post, "It was a categorical denial." In fact, "the FBI chief is expected to say so publicly on Monday." The Hill (3/19, Williams, 1.25M), meanwhile, anticipates that Comey's testimony "could put to the test a fragile truce between the panel's top Republican and Democrat."

The Wall Street Journal (3/19, Hook, Harris, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) runs a similar report under the headline "James Comey Could Shed Light On Russia, Trump's Wiretap Charge." The CBS Weekend News (3/19, lead story, 2:00, Quijano) reported that in his "much anticipated trip to Capitol Hill," Comey is expected to face questions regarding Russian interference in the US election. In addition, Comey and NSA Director Rogers "will be asked for any available proof" on Trump's "explosive and yet to be proven claim that President Obama had him wiretapped" as the Administration "refus[es] to retract the President's unsubstantiated" allegations.

In its lead story, ABC World News (3/19, lead story, 3:10, Llamas, 14.63M) reported that lawmakers on the panel "are preparing to grill" Comey on "the lingering question of whether the President's men may have colluded with Russia to influence the November election." Schiff, reported NBC Nightly News (3/19, story 2, 2:10, Snow, 16.61M), said there is "circumstantial evidence of collusion," but Nunes stated, "There's no evidence of collusion." Asked on Fox News Sunday (3/19, Wallace) if he had seen any evidence of collusion between Trump or his associates and Russia, Nunes said, "A very simple answer. No." Nunes added it was "pretty clear" that there were elements within the intelligence community seeking to undercut Trump.

Asked on Fox News Sunday (3/19, Wallace) what he hoped to learn at Monday's hearing, Nunes said, "We are excited about this because for the first time the American people, and all the political parties now are paying attention to the threat that Russia poses. We will highlight that. ... Secondly, we are worried about analytical integrity. We don't know how

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information changed and if a change because in December, beginning of December, the assessment was that the Russians were trying to get into our election process and cause problems. But that changed a month later and they said no that they were trying to help Donald Trump. We need to get to the bottom of that. Also, whether or not they did try to help Trump, and if any Trump associates or anyone else was involved."

Rep. Adam Smith was asked on MSNBC AM Joy (3/19) if Comey can confirm whether there is a criminal investigation into Trump campaign ties to Russia. Smith said, "I believe that he can. He can't tell us the details of that. You know, they can say we can't comment on an ongoing investigation. I'd be real surprised, though, because we've heard from the intelligence community and from many others that there was no wiretapping of anybody in the Trump campaign."

Rep. Jackie Speier said on MSNBC's Weekends with Alex Witt (3/19, 222K), "I presume Mr. Comey has an ongoing investigation into a number of persons who may have been engaged on one level or another with Russia. So we're only going to get information that is unclassified in nature, but having said that, I can underscore for you that this is as big, if not bigger than Watergate and it will be incumbent on this committee to have access to the documents that Comey and others have within the FBI to be able to do the kind of thorough investigation that is necessary."

Rep. Barbara Lee said on MSNBC's Weekends with Alex Witt (3/19, 222K), "I think it's extremely important that Mr. Comey put to rest the lies that President Trump is putting out there in terms of President Obama bugging and wiretapping Trump Tower. There is no evidence of that and that needs to be put to rest and also, I just have to say that President Trump needs to apologize to President Obama because in one of his tweets he said bad guy, sick guy. We have to remember that President Trump is the founder of the birther movement. He has done this over and over again trying to delegitimize our first African-American President and at some point he needs to keep his views to himself, but minimally, he needs to apologize at this point."

Mulvaney Weighs In On Wiretapping Claim. Asked on NBC's Meet the Press (3/19, Todd, 157K) if Trump should be "taken at his word" that he was wiretapped by former President Obama, OMB Director Mulvaney said, "I'm the numbers guy, I'm sitting here doing the budget. I'm not involved in the wiretapping issue. ... Those of us who see and work with the President believe him, trust him, have no difficulties like those in the press do."

NYTimes Analysis Casts Wiretapping Claim As Effort "To Muddy The Conversation." The New York Times (3/19, Apuzzo, Goldman, Rosenberg, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports "staff members for the Senate Intelligence Committee have spent weeks poring over raw intelligence that led the Obama administration to conclude that Russia meddled in the election, but they have yet to be given any access to far more politically charged information – evidence of contacts between Russians and associates of...Trump." On the other hand, "the House Intelligence Committee is conducting its own investigation of issues surrounding Mr. Trump and Russia, but the committee's Republican chairman has said a top priority is to unmask whoever is speaking to journalists about classified information." To the Times, "the wiretapping claim shows how easy it is – when all the answers are cloaked in secrecy – to send investigators in different directions and muddy the conversation."

Cruz: Wiretapping Claim "Not Necessarily As Outlandish" As Media "Suggests." On CBS' Face the Nation (3/19, Dickerson, 4.61M), Sen. Ted Cruz said, "I don't know what basis the President has for these allegations. … You know, I will point out, this is not necessarily as outlandish as everyone in the press suggests. We do know the Obama Administration targeted their political enemies, we do know the IRS, for example, targeted citizens groups who spoke out in defense of the Constitution or who spoke out against Obama."

Nunes, Paul Say Leak Of Transcripts Of Flynn Phone Calls Violated Law. NBC Nightly News (3/19, story 2, 2:10, Snow, 16.61M) reported that Nunes said yesterday that "he thinks the public disclosure that revealed calls between Michael Flynn and the Russian ambassador violated the law." Nunes was shown saying, "We know a law has been broken and we need to get to the bottom of it."

On ABC's This Week (3/19, Stephanopoulos, 6.61M), Sen. Rand Paul said, "We know one thing for sure: that the Obama Administration did spy on Flynn. Now, whether it was direct or indirect, somebody was reading and taking a transcript of his phone calls and then they released it. It's very, very important that whoever released it go to jail. Because you cannot have members of the intelligence community listening to the most private and highly classified information and then releasing that to the New York Times. … Our government's talking to foreigners all the time. We can't allow people in the intelligence community to release the contents of that information to the media. We will get a deep state."

ADMINISTRATION REQUESTING BIDS FOR BORDER WALL. NBC Nightly News (3/19, story 3, 0:20, Snow, 16.61M) reported the Trump Administration "took the first steps for the border wall" by requesting proposals from contractors interested in erecting the structure along the Mexican border. Citing contract documents released Friday as the Administration began seeking bids, the Washington Times (3/19, Dinan, 272K) says the President envisions "a 30-foot

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border wall, and wants it to be particularly imposing to would-be illegal immigrants pondering an attempt to sneak into the US from Mexico." In addition, the wall "run at least six feet underground to stop anyone easily tunneling underneath it," and "it must take at least an hour, and ideally more than four hours, for someone to puncture a hole in the wall — presumably enough time for agents to discover and chase away anyone attempting it." The documents also say the US-facing side "must be easy on the eyes." It has not been determined "whether the wall will be concrete or some other design." CBP "solicited prototypes for both."

BUSINESSES USING LOOPHOLES IN H-1B VISA PROGRAM TO REPLACE US WORKERS. Bill Whitaker reported on CBS' 60 Minutes (3/19, 12.54M) that "a signature theme" of President Trump's campaign was "protecting American jobs" and "a frequent target of candidate Trump was the H-1B visa program." While the program was created "to fill gaps in the workforce from overseas with highly skilled employees who can't be found in the US." While many businesses "use the program as intended...we discovered more and more are taking advantage of loopholes in the law to fire American workers and replace them with younger, cheaper, temporary foreign workers with H-1B visas. But before the American workers walk out the door, they often face the humiliating prospect of having to train the people taking their jobs." Later in the report, Whitaker added, "The issue was getting little notice until it caught the attention of the Trump campaign." Trump "had hired foreign fashion models on H-1B visas for his New York modeling agency, but when he saw how the theme of protecting American jobs resonated with his followers, he put...fired workers...on center stage." Attacking the program "fit perfectly with Mr. Trump's message, and tapped into America's simmering anger at the corporate and political status quo."

DOJ TRANSFERS IMMIGRATION JUDGES TO IMPLEMENT TRUMP'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS. The AP (3/19) reports that the Justice Department said Friday that it will temporarily transfer immigration judges to four detention centers in Texas and one each in Louisiana and New Mexico "in an effort to put President Trump's immigration directives into effect." According to DOJ's Executive Office for Immigration Review, the transfers will take place on Monday. Trump's executive order "says judges should immediately be assigned to immigration detention centers" as immigration courts had "a backlog of 542,646 cases at the end of January, including 20,856 people who were being held in custody."

HAWAII JUDGE REJECTS REQUEST TO NARROW RULING ON TRUMP'S IMMIGRATION ORDER. The Los Angeles Times (3/19, Kaleem, 4.52M) reports that US District Judge Derrick Watson, the Hawaii judge who halted President Trump's immigration order last week, "has rejected the government's request to limit his ruling." Watson "told federal lawyers who protested against the broad scope of his ruling that 'there is nothing unclear' about his order against the ban." Politico (3/19, Gerstein, 2.46M) says Joshua Wisch, a spokesman for Hawaii Attorney General Douglas Chin, said in a statement, "We always believed the court's order was clear and agree with its decision to deny the Department of Justice's motion." The Sunday decision "clears the way for the Trump administration to appeal Watson's initial decision to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals."

Mary Katharine Ham of The Federalist said on CNN Inside Politics (3/19, 303K) that "it's the right decision to take this one through the courts because the ruling, to put it mildly, was fairly imaginative, relying on things said on the campaign trail and not actually what's in the writing of the statute, and I think that can get dangerous. If you think that Trump is an irrational actor and a guy that does not observe important norms, do not violate those norms and act irrationally as well in order to be a check on him. I think that is a real dangerous line that a lot of institutions, a lot of people are walking in an attempt to sort of cut him off at the knees and it's not good."

Small Towns Objecting To Trump's Order Halting Refugee Flow. NBC Nightly News (3/19, story 7, 2:20, Snow, 16.61M) reported that while there has been "a lot" of objection to Trump's "order to ban Muslims from six countries," there is also push back from "some small US cities that have come to rely on refugees" to another part of the executive order that would implement a 120-day halt and then significantly reduce the number of refugees entering the US. For instance, in Erie, Pennsylvania citizens say that refugees, who make up 18 percent of the population, have helped local business that have struggled to "find enough workers to fill their lower skilled jobs." Correspondent Ron Allen: "What has been the net result of refugees coming to this town?" Paul Jericho, volunteer: "Oh, I think it's kept us alive. I think it kept us moving forward."

MULVANEY: WHITE HOUSE TO PRESENT PLAN TO BALANCE BUDGET IN 10 YEARS. Reuters (3/19) reports OMB Director Mulvaney said yesterday that "a detailed version of President Donald Trump's budget to be released in May will lay out plans to eventually erase US deficits." Said Mulvaney, "We're getting into that now. By May, I think it's mid-May we're shooting for right now, we'll have that larger budget." Also on NBC's Meet the Press, Mulvaney added, "We're working on trying to get it balanced within the ten-year budget window, which is what Republicans in the House and Senate have traditionally done."

MULVANEY SAYS TRUMP BUDGET WON'T INCREASE DEFICIT. On NBC's Meet the Press (3/19, Todd, 157K), OMB Director Mulvaney acknowledged that President Trump's first budget would run a deficit, but added, "The deficit before we came into office would be $488 billion this year according to the Congressional Budget Office. After we spend all of the

additional money on defense, border enforcement, law enforcement, veterans, the deficit will be the same. So what we did was we plussed up, increased spending on the President priorities without adding to the number."

MULVANEY SUGGESTS TRUMP WILLING TO ADDRESS ENTITLEMENTS. Asked on CBS Face the Nation (3/19, Dickerson, 4.61M) if President Trump was rethinking his pledge to not touch Medicare, OMB Director Mulvaney said, "The promise was he wouldn't affect anybody, and we haven't with this budget. Keep in mind what this budget is. This is just the discretionary spending part of the budget, which was a necessary first." Asked whether that applied to future retirees, Mulvaney said, "Let me ask you a question, do you think Social Security Disability Insurance is what people think of when they think of Social Security? I don't think so. It is the fastest growing program; it grew tremendously under President Obama. It's a very wasteful program and we are going to try to fix that."

Margaret Talev of Bloomberg Politics said on CNN Inside Politics (3/19, 303K) that the budget proposal "reveals the Mulvaney/Trump campaign split in the sense that Mulvaney is committed to making a lot of cuts and just owning it. Trump is kind of both. The voters who he won over in a lot of the Rustbelt states, whether they are Republicans or Democrats or somewhere in between, believe in small government in concept, but in reality need, rely, count on a lot of the social programs that government provides." Talev added that "there will be a real debate playing out in parts of Ohio and Pennsylvania and through that Rustbelt about whether this is really what people thought that they were voting for."

TILLERSON WELCOMES BUDGET CUTS TO "SOFT POWER" PROGRAMS. The Washington Times (3/19, A1, Taylor, 272K) reports Secretary of State Tillerson "sent shock waves through the State Department's back hallways last week by throwing his support behind President Trump's first fiscal blueprint, which reserves its deepest cuts for America's diplomatic and foreign aid programs." While "conservative hard-liners say it's about time for State to rein in spending on items such as climate change and gay rights," many Republicans are "outraged at the proposed 28 percent slash to the department's budget." Rep. Edward R. Royce, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, "questioned the wisdom of slashing" State and USAID programs, while Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker, "was less combative" and "expressed optimism that lawmakers 'can strike an appropriate balance' with the administration that 'recognizes the critical role of diplomacy.'"

Diplomatic History Scholar Surveys USAID Budget Needs. In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (3/19, Subscription Publication, 6.37M), Foreign Policy Initiative Center for Military and Diplomatic History Director Mark Moyar writes that a thorough assessment of USAID programs would allow agency leaders and US lawmakers to understand how best to integrate the agency's efforts into a unified strategy that promotes American interests in development, governance, and security. While some programs promoted during Obama's presidency, such as those in the LGBTI rights, abortion, and social justice sectors, could be cut, Moyar says some of that funding could be reallocated to programs that discourage illegal immigration to the US or promote cooperation on security issues.

SCHUMER: TRUMP'S BUDGET CUTS THREATEN NEW YORK CITY'S SECURITY APPARATUS. The New York Post (3/19, Narizhnaya, Saul, 3.82M) reports Sen. Chuck Schumer "blasted" President Trump's budget plan, insisting that the New York Police Department and "terrorism experts" have said "again and again" that the President's proposed cuts would weaken the security apparatus of New York City and that "they could turn a weak link into something far more serious." Schumer also said the city should receive an increase in federal funding because of the average sum of $100,000 it spends daily to protect Trump Tower.

NBC ANALYSIS: TRUMP'S BUDGET FAVORS DEFENSE OVER ARTS FUNDING. NBC Nightly News (3/19, story 4, 2:15, Snow, 16.61M) correspondent Kristin Dahlgren reported that President Trump said on Twitter that his budget proposal prioritizes America's safety, but discretionary funding cuts threaten art programs around the country that benefit from National Endowment for the Arts grants. While acknowledging the validity of the President's goal, Metropolitan Opera General Manager Peter Kebb insisted, "We need to protect the arts as well," claiming an F-22 costs more than twice as much as the entire NEA annual budget.

WHITE HOUSE POLITICAL AIDES AT AGENCIES CHARGED WITH MONITORING SECRETARIES' LOYALTY. The Washington Post (3/19, A1, Rein, Eilperin, 11.43M) reports on its front page that while most members of President Trump's Cabinet "do not yet have leadership teams in place or even nominees for top deputies," they have "an influential coterie of senior aides installed by the White House who are charged – above all – with monitoring the secretaries' loyalty, according to eight officials in and outside the administration." The Post calls these aides a "shadow government of political appointees with the title of senior White House adviser." The aides "are in constant contact with the White House" and "act as a go-between on policy matters for the agencies and the White House." In addition, their "behind the scenes" mission is "to monitor Cabinet leaders and their top staffs to make sure they carry out the president's agenda and don't stray too far from the White House's talking points."

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT: PRESIDENT SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIRE HEAD OF CFPB. The Washington Times (3/19,

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Boyer, 272K) reports, “In an unusual move,” the Justice Department filed a friend-of-the court brief opposing the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s efforts “to preserve its current structure, in which Director Richard Cordray is protected from being fired by the president.” The Trump Justice Department told the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia that the head of the CFPB should be able to be fired by the President at will.

NYTIMES ANALYSIS: LERRICK NOMINATION A SIGN OF TRUMP’S PUSH TO REVERSE ECONOMIC POLICY. An analysis in the New York Times’ (3/19, Thomas, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) “DealBook” column says that President Trump’s decision to nominate Adam Lerrick as deputy under secretary of the Treasury for international finance “underscores how Mr. Trump’s economic team is turning to critics of global economic policy as it seeks to reverse decades of Washington consensus.” Lerrick’s “pending appointment signals that another major cornerstone of conventional thinking under Democratic and Republican administrations – broad support for the I.M.F., the World Bank and other international financial institutions – will be scrutinized at the highest levels of the new administration.”

WSJOURNAL: ACOSTA’S STANCE ON LABOR ISSUES LARGELY UNKNOWN. A Wall Street Journal (3/19, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) calls Labor Secretary-designate Alex Acosta a safe choice for President Trump, but notes that his positions on most labor issues are not known, which makes it important that Senators use his confirmation hearing to get that information.

WSJOURNAL PRAISES TREASURY NOMINEES. In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/19, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) praises two recent senior Treasury Department nominees: Undersecretary for International Affairs David Malpass and Assistant Secretary for International Finance Adam Lerrick. Both individuals add pro-growth policy clout to a White House whose other advisors do not think tax rates matter, Gary Cohn, or favor trade protectionism, Stephen Miller and Stephen Bannon. The Journal says Treasury Secretary Mnuchin lacks policy experience.

MEDIA ANALYSES: GORSUCH LIKELY TO WIN SENATE CONFIRMATION. Media analyses agree that, while the process may grow contentious, Judge Neil Gorsuch is very likely to be confirmed to the US Supreme Court. ABC World News (3/19, story 2, 0:25, Wright, 14.63M) reported that “President Trump’s pick for the Supreme Court begins his confirmation hearings” on Monday. The hearings are “likely to be contentious,” and “even though he has bipartisan support, Democrats are unlikely to give him an easy ride.” To the New York Times (3/19, Hulse, Subscription Publication, 13.9M), “Senate Democrats appear to have two options: Get out of the way or get run over,” but “in either case, Judge Gorsuch winds up on the Supreme Court,” an “ending” that “will be hard to swallow for many Democrats and their activist allies.”

Along those lines, USA Today (3/19, Wolf, 5.28M) reports that “if things go according to plan for Republicans, the committee will vote on his nomination the first week of April and the full Senate a few days later. How he is confirmed would be up to Democrats – by getting the 60 votes, including eight from Democrats, needed to surmount a filibuster, or by forcing Republicans leaders to change the rules.” But “one way or the other, he would be sworn in before the final oral arguments of the term in April – and available to rehear any cases that emerged from the shorthanded court in 4-4 ties, as four cases did last term.”

The CBS Weekend News (3/19, story 2, 1:45, Quijano) reported that Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley “has said he expects President Trump’s nominee to be sworn in some time in April,” but “if the battle turns angry and partisan, it could take much longer.” On its front page, the Washington Post (3/19, O'Keefe, Barnes, 11.43M) says “Democrats are divided about how to take on Gorsuch, a genial jurist who has made few waves in the weeks since Trump nominated him and he began meeting with lawmakers on Capitol Hill.” To Feinstein, he is “a bit of a puzzle,” and “we’re going to try to put those pieces together so that the puzzle is complete and we have an understanding of what kind of a fifth vote will be going on the court.”

The New York Times (3/19, Steinhauer, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) profiles Feinstein and Grassley, who “will preside over the hearings” and “face tremendous pressure from their respective parties to deliver a vindication of their views not just of Mr. Gorsuch’s worthiness to serve on the court but also of the process leading him there.” The Times adds “liberal activists remain bitter about Mr. Grassley’s role in preventing even a beginning to the confirmation process of Judge Merrick B. Garland,” and “many are looking to Ms. Feinstein – the first woman to serve on the committee and the Senate’s most senior woman – to shoulder the weight of that political burden, and to rigorously challenge...Gorsuch on his constitutional views.” Meanwhile, “Grassley’s role is strategically and procedurally easier: It is up to him to make Judge Gorsuch’s week on Capitol Hill painless even in the face of tough questioning from Democrats on the committee.”

To the Washington Times (3/19, Swoyer, 272K), Gorsuch’s opening statement could be key in setting the tone for the hearings. He “will be measured against the modern-day gold standard of Chief Justice Roberts, who delivered his opening statement without notes, crisply laying out his legal philosophy and famously saying his job was ‘to call balls and strikes and not to pitch or bat.’”

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The New York Times (3/19, Liptak, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) also runs a piece surveying past nominees' approach to the confirmation process, and cites a memo written for Sandra Day O'Connor by 26-year-old...Roberts, then a DOJ lawyer, in which he wrote, "The approach was to avoid giving specific responses to any direct questions on legal issues likely to come before the court, but demonstrating in the response a firm command of the subject area and awareness of the relevant precedents and arguments." Also cited is a then-law professor at the University of Chicago, Elena Kagan, who wrote in the 1990s about "the brilliant evasions that Ruth Bader Ginsburg had executed at her 1993 confirmation hearing in a 1995 book review."

Another New York Times (3/19, Haberman, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) story indicates that "an imperative to say as little as possible and pretend one is a juridical blank slate has been close to inviolate since 1987," when "Robert H. Bork, a federal appellate judge named to the Supreme Court by President Ronald Reagan, testified expansively and combatively as he expounded his conservative judicial philosophy at his Senate confirmation hearing." Bork "did himself no favor," and senators "rejected his appointment by a solid majority made up of both Democrats and Republicans. In the process, they changed the nomination dynamic, perhaps for good."

Nonetheless, USA Today (3/19, Board, 5.28M) urges Democrats to press the nominee on specific issues, including GOP treatment of Garland, his stance on Roe v. Wade, and the Hobby Lobby ruling. Vikram Amar, dean of the law school at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, takes a similar tack in a piece for the Washington Post (3/19, Amar, 11.43M), in which he says "the idea that a nominee should not give views about actual cases because doing so might force a prejudging of issues that may come before the nominee later makes no sense." Amar goes on to urge Democrats to press the nominee on cases "which were decided by a narrow majority." Jeff Greenfield, writing for Politico Magazine (3/19, Greenfield), urges a more nuanced approach, and calls on Democrats to ask Gorsuch about his stance on "originalism," abortion, and the Ninth Amendment, among other matters.

Brian Leiter, a professor at the University of Chicago Law School, argues in the Washington Post (3/19, Leiter, 11.43M) that "Supreme Court nominations are controversial because the court is a super-legislature, and because its moral and political judgments are controversial. ... Just as no one would expect Republicans or Democrats to assent to appointments to the Senate without regard to political ideology, it is naive to expect anything similar in the case of nominations to the Supreme Court." To Leiter, "that is why Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) would not let Garland be voted on last year and why Trump nominated Gorsuch. Perhaps it is time to tell the truth to the public so that we might have honest hearings about the moral and political views of the nominees."

Michael Bloomberg, writing for Bloomberg View (3/19, Bloomberg, 125K), argues that "what goes around comes around, and the hunger for payback among Democrats is understandable. But the rule we all teach our children applies to Congress as well: Two wrongs don't make a right." In fact, "by all objective accounts, including from the American Bar Association, Gorsuch is a highly qualified nominee," even if he is not "the person Democrats would have selected." In an editorial, meanwhile, the Wall Street Journal (3/19, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) argues Democrats have not put forth a single substantive argument to oppose Gorsuch.

On its front page the Wall Street Journal (3/19, A1, Bravin, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) profiles Gorsuch this morning, tracing his evolution from aggressive conservative activist during his college years to a more conciliating – if still conservative – judge in later times. Sohrab Ahmari, an editorial writer for the Wall Street Journal (3/19, Ahmari, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) living in London, praises Gorsuch's 2006 book about euthanasia, saying it reveals a thoughtful approach to equality and dignity.

NPR: Former Gorsuch Student Alleges He "Implied" Women "Manipulate" Maternity Leave. NPR (3/20, Seigel, Totenberg, 1.92M) reported that "a former law student of...Gorsuch...alleges that in a course she took from Gorsuch at the University of Colorado Law School last year, the judge told his class that employers, specifically law firms, should ask women seeking jobs about their plans for having children and implied that women manipulate companies starting in the interview stage to extract maternity benefits." NPR added that "the concerns were shared in a letter, posted Sunday evening by the National Employment Lawyers Association and the National Women's Law Center, written by Jennifer Sisk, a 2016 graduate of the University of Colorado Law School." The letter "was sent on Friday" to Grassley and Feinstein. Interviewed on NPR, Sisk says she wrote the letter "so that the proper questions could be asked during his confirmation hearings."

AP, WSJOURNAL ANALYSES: TRUMP AGENDA SLOWED DOWN BY CONTROVERSY, OPPOSITION. A couple of news analyses pieces out this morning cast the President's agenda as slowed down by a number of obstacles. The AP (3/19, Colvin, Burke), in a story on Trump's return "to the road, rallying supporters to recapture the enthusiasm of his campaign and reassuring them about his tumultuous early days in the White House," says the Administration's "first months...have been dominated by self-inflicted controversy and roadblocks, courtesy of federal courts and a divided

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Congress." Under the headline "Donald Trump's Bumpy Early Weeks Slow His Agenda," the Wall Street Journal (3/19, Bender, Andrews, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) indicates that while markets appear bullish about the Trump agenda, discord among lawmakers and controversies have kept the White House from building momentum toward enacting its proposals into law. The White House, however, disagreed with the assessment, with spokesman Sean Spicer saying, "The agenda has hardly slowed. ... We have moved [health law] repeal and replace legislation through three committees already and the full House will take it up this week. We are following the legislative schedule we laid out."

SPICER: MOST REPORTERS "LIBERALS" WHO DON'T WANT TRUMP TO SUCCEED. White House press secretary Sean Spicer was asked on Fox News MediaBuzz (3/19, 536K) whether the media does not want the President to succeed. Spicer said, "I think so. If you look at a lot of these surveys, most of them, or at least a good number of folks in the main-stream media aren't conservative. They are not open-minded. They are liberals. Survey after survey shows the majority of reporters lean to the left." Spicer added that "in some cases, just ideologically, some people cannot understand why some of the agenda and the vision that the President is pursuing makes sense to them because they are so ideologically bent to the left that the way that they view life, the prism they exist in that they view issues through, doesn't allow some of the thought and the ideas that come out of the right to make sense to them."

E.J. Dionne of the Washington Post said on MSNBC AM Joy (3/19), "I think Donald Trump is trying to redefine fairness as laudatory coverage. Everything else is fake news. And so what he's trying to say to people, and particularly to his base, is any media that challenge him, that ask questions, that try to hold him accountable, is unfair and the only fair coverage is coverage that says 'I love Donald Trump.'"

Spicer: Tax-Returns Story "Ironic" For Maddow, NBC Coverage "Unbelievably Dishonest." Spicer also said on Fox News MediaBuzz (3/19, 536K), "The idea they would hype" obtaining "an illegal document and hyped it to basically show...that the President paid $38 million, an effective rate of 25 percent tax, that he's a very wealthy man, that he does pay taxes seemed a bit ironic for Rachel Maddow. But the other thing is, and I think what was more disappointing, is for NBC to continue from that point forward to then start perpetuating a false narrative about the President probably did leak his own" return. To Spicer, "That is unbelievably dishonest and it shows the lengths to which NBC will go to get ratings."

TRUMP SAYS RUNNING AGAINST WARREN WOULD BE "A DREAM COME TRUE." The Hill (3/18, Byrnes, 1.25M) reported that President Trump, in an interview on Fox News' "Watters' World" broadcast Saturday night, said that Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) "launching a presidential bid against him would be 'a dream come true.' 'I think she'd lose so badly,' Trump said." The President "claimed Warren, a top surrogate for 2016 Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton, 'was getting up with that craziness and that anger' in speeches on the campaign trail. 'I think she hurt Hillary Clinton very badly,' Trump said. 'I watched those speeches – the anger, the hatred, in her heart – and I said, 'Ya know, she's really bad for Hillary.'" Revisiting "his campaign trail nickname for" Warren, Trump added, "Pocahontas would not be proud of her as her representative, believe me." Breitbart (3/19, Rodriguez, 2.02M) also reported on Trump's remarks.

WHITE HOUSE TIGHT LIPPED ABOUT TRUMP'S ACTIVITIES AT TRUMP INTERNATIONAL. The New York Times (3/19, Davis, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that while it is "normal, even routine, for presidents to indulge in weekend recreation out of sight of the news media," and the White House "has customarily informed reporters traveling with the president what he is up to during these outings." Under President Trump, "journalists in the White House press pool spend hours in the conference room of a public library across the road from the ornate gates and view-obstructing hedges of Trump International, harboring suspicions that the president is playing golf but never receiving official confirmation." It is, the Times says, "the latest example of officials essentially asking people not to believe their own eyes." the Times says this may "stem in part from criticism Mr. Trump has drawn for spending so much time golfing since he was sworn in, particularly after he harshly criticized Mr. Obama for the same thing."

RISING BOND YIELDS COULD IMPERIL STOCK TALLY. The Wall Street Journal (3/19, Kuriloff, Zeng, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports in a front-page story that rising bond yields could imperil the stock rally if long-term yields begin to move investor preferences that have recently favored stocks.

WSJOURNAL ANALYSIS: 2016 CEO PAY RAISES MAKE UP FOR 2015 SLOWDOWN. A Wall Street Journal (3/19, Francis, Lublin, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) analysis of chief-executive compensation and performance data for 115 S&P 500 companies shows that the median pay for chief executives increased 6.8 percent for fiscal year 2016 to $11.5 million. This suggests the slowdown in chief executive pay in FY 2015 was temporary, and the Journal says raises in 2016 more than made up for cuts in 2015. New York University Stern School of Business Finance Professor David Yermack said strong stock market gains and a corporate profit rebound in 2016 explain the uptick. According to an analysis by Institutional Shareholder Services, most of the higher pay was awarded in the form of restricted stock (up 7.4 percent) or stock options (up three percent), while cash bonuses are down 1.4 percent. The Journal reports General Electric Co. CEO Jeff Immelt and Apple Inc. CEO Tim Cook both took pay cuts in FY 2016.

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CALIFORNIA'S BROWN SAYS STORM CAUSED $569M IN DAMAGE, ASKS TRUMP FOR MORE DISASTER AID. The Los Angeles Times (3/19, Myers, 4.52M) reports, "Putting the price tag of California's brutal winter storms at $569 million, Gov. Jerry Brown asked President Trump on Sunday for a fourth federal disaster declaration to help speed up recovery and repairs across the state." Brown's "request for another disaster declaration specifically mentions the serious damage to both the main and emergency spillways at the Oroville Dam, a crisis that forced the evacuation of almost 200,000 nearby residents on Feb. 11."

LOCAL SCIENCE COMMUNITY IN CHICAGO PLANNING MARCH OVER TRUMP POLICIES. The Chicago Tribune (3/19, O'Connell, 2.54M) reports, "The regional science community has felt apprehension since the early days of Donald Trump's presidency – concerns that further crystallized Thursday with the release of the administration's budget proposal," which "seeks deep cuts to the Environmental Protection Agency and other areas of federal government that rely on scientific research. Now, motivated by the tenor of the Trump era, the science community is trying to educate the public about how science affects their lives and is planning a Chicago pro-science march to coincide with the national March for Science on Earth Day."

CONSERVATIVE ACTIVISTS: NUMBERS IN MARYLAND COUNTY SUGGESTS NONCITIZENS CASTING BALLOTS. The Washington Times (3/19, Scarborough, 272K) reports, "The debate over noncitizens voting was a hot topic a few years ago in Frederick County, a prosperous Maryland suburb." The Times says, "Conservative activists" filed suit "to show that noncitizens were registering fraudulently to vote. A court employee" turned "over pages of residents' names disqualified from jury duty because of alien status. When those lists were compared with voting records for just three years – 2007, 2008 and 2011 – nearly 180 noncitizens were found to have registered to vote. Of those, 63 had voted, some in multiple elections." The "numbers offer a limited snapshot from a handful of jury pools, but they indicate that noncitizens are registered to vote and are casting ballots in states."

GUN SALES HAVE DROPPED SINCE TRUMP'S WIN IN NOVEMBER'S ELECTION. The Washington Times (3/19, Sherfinski, 272K) reports, "The Obama gun run appears to be over, according to the latest statistics, which show background checks for firearms purchases – a rough measure of gun sales – have dropped for three straight months since Donald Trump was elected as president." Prior to Trump's election, "Americans were on a 19-month buying streak." Gun rights activists advocates "and those in the industry say sales remain relatively high but that they are working to retool their marketing in a post-Obama world. Gun control advocates, meanwhile, say pro-gun folks have lost their 'bogeyman' in the White House."

NYTIMES ANALYSIS: DEMOCRAT COOPER FACES CHALLENGE IN BRIDGING DIVIDE IN NORTH CAROLINA. The New York Times (3/19, Fausset, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that North Carolina has been divided "by extraordinary partisan strife as Republicans, historically the state's underdog party, enjoyed four years of undivided government, pursuing an ambitious agenda that Democrats saw as an assault on the environment, public education and minority voting rights." Progressives responded by "repeatedly" filling "the halls of the State Capitol complex for protests, calling the movement 'Moral Mondays.' Conservatives stewed at the implication that their small-government vision, which they credit with restoring the state's fiscal health and kick-starting a moribund economy, was somehow immoral." Now, the effort by Gov. Roy Cooper (D) – who ousted then-Gov. Pat McCrory (R) in November's election – "to patch up North Carolina may serve as a test of whether the nation's increasingly belligerent political factions can find anything to agree on."

DURBIN, DAVIS BILL WOULD SEEK TO HELP KIDS STRESSED BY VIOLENCE. The Chicago Sun-Times (3/19, Dudek, 798K) reports Sen. Dick Durbin and Rep. Danny Davis plan to introduce legislation that would allow money from two dozen federal grants to fund programs "to train teachers, librarians, doctors and others who regularly interact with kids" who live in violent neighborhoods "to recognize the signs of 'toxic stress' and help kids get treatment." Referring to President Trump's comments about violence in Chicago, Durbin said, "I'm going to challenge the administration. Don't just tweet about our problems, help us solve them."

MURDERS RAISING CONCERNS IN TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY. NBC Nightly News (3/19, story 5, 2:25, Snow, 16.61M) reported the transgender community is concerned about seven murders across the country. NBC (Lightner) added that among those crimes are three transgender women who were killed in Louisiana over an eight-day stretch. Hostility towards transgender women, according to Lightner, "is making it nearly impossible to investigate the crimes and prompting New Orleans Police Superintendent Michael Harrison to appoint a police liaison to the LGBTQ community." The series of deaths are "raising concerns with civil rights and anti-violence advocates," and 2016 saw "a staggering number of transgender murders."

NAVY OFFICERS CONVICTED IN "FAT LEONARD" SCHEME CAN STILL COLLECT THEIR PENSIONS. The Washington Post (3/18, A1, Whitlock, 11.43M) reports that many officials charged in the "Fat Leonard" bribery scheme likely will be able to collect retirement benefits, as long as they have served for 20 years. Pentagon spokeswoman Capt.

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Amy Derrick said the Navy will be "considering each case individually" to determine possible pension payouts as part of the conditions of discharge, and the Post says the military usually maintains benefits for convicted felons because they do not want to penalize spouses or family members, according to military law experts. New Hampshire-based military defense attorney Gary Myers suggested the Navy might consider dropping those implicated in the Fat Leonard scheme from pension rolls because of their abuse of the public trust.

NORTH DAKOTA PROTEST CAMP TRASH ESTIMATE LOWERED TO 21 MILLION POUNDS. The Washington Times (3/19, Richardson, 272K) reports the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services said last week that 21.48 million pounds of waste was removed from the protest camps on federal land, less than half the 48 million pounds the state's NDResponse Facebook page claimed on February 28. North Dakota Department of Emergency Services spokeswoman Cecily Feng acknowledged that "a decimal point was omitted" in the February 28 figure, which should have been 4.8 million pounds. The Times says the total amount of trash removed is expected to grow because the Standing Rock Sioux have not yet reported the tally for garbage collected on their property.

LOUISIANA SHERIFF'S DEPUTY KILLED IN LINE OF DUTY. The CBS Weekend News (3/19, story 9, 0:25, Quijano) reported East Baton Rouge Deputy Sheriff Sean Anderson was shot and killed in the line of duty Saturday night while investigating a rape. The suspect was wounded.

FAMILY OF MINNESOTA MAN KILLED BY POLICE HOLD VIGIL, ASK FOR INFORMATION. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (3/18, McKinney, 1.27M) reports family and friends of Cordale Quinn Handy, the 29-year-old man shot and killed by St. Paul police officers early Wednesday, held a vigil Sunday afternoon in St. Paul and urged witnesses and the police to explain what happened. The Bureau of Criminal Apprehension said Handy pointed a gun at the officers twice and ignored the two officers' orders to drop the weapon, before they shot him. Handy's family said efforts to meet with law enforcement have been fruitless. At the vigil, Black Lives Matter Lake County Chairman Clyde McLemore called on people to peacefully protest such shootings and to use public record requests to obtain information.

"THE HATE U GIVE" JOINS EMERGING LITERARY NICHE ON RACE AND POLICE BRUTALITY. According to the New York Times (3/19, Alter, Subscription Publication, 13.9M), Angie Thomas' young-adult novel "The Hate U Give" is part of a growing literary niche that features "debut novels from young African-American writers who have turned to fiction as a form of activism." Thomas' book, which focuses on a teenage girl who turns to activism when a white policeman shoots her friend, was "an instant critical and commercial hit" when it was published in February, and Fox 2000 optioned the film rights. Despite the author's early concerns publishers would be reluctant to take on such a polarizing topic, schools have embraced her novel, and young readers have told her they had never encountered an author that looked like them.

FORMER OBAMA AIDE MASTROMONACO TO PUBLISH "CHATTY" MEMOIR TUESDAY. USA Today (3/19, Page, 5.28M) reports Deputy White House Chief of Staff for President Obama, Alyssa Mastromonaco, is set to publish a "chatty" memoir called "Who Thought This Was a Good Idea? And Other Questions You Should Have Answers to When You Work in the White House" Tuesday that is "packed with advice for ambitious young women interested in politics and other male-dominated professions." Mastromonaco told USA Today she was reluctant to be one of the "hangers-on" after Obama left the White House, but she has maintained her political involvement through events like the Women's March on Washington, because "I just don't think that [the Administration is] taking the governing and the weight of the office as seriously as anybody in history has taken it."

ACTOR TIM ALLEN COMPARES HOLLYWOOD'S TREATMENT OF CONSERVATIVES TO NAZI GERMANY. Fox News (3/19, 11.07M) reports Tim Allen compared Hollywood to "'30s Germany," saying "you get beat up if you don't believe what everybody else believes" on "Jimmy Kimmel Live." Allen acknowledged that he attended President Trump's inauguration, saying "we did a VIP thing for the vets, and went to a veterans ball, so I went to go see Democrats and Republicans."

HAUSWIRTH: WEST VILLAGE COCKTAIL BAR BANS "MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN" HATS. In her column for the New York Post (3/19, 3.82M), Heather Hauswirth writes about being told to remove her "Make America Great Again" hat at The Happiest Hour, a "pretty fratty cocktail bar" in New York City's West Village. Having heard of President Trump supporters previously being asked to remove their hats at the bar, Hauswirth decided to "test my luck" and subsequently was asked to remove her hat or leave by the manager who was worried a fight might erupt. After she acquiesced, she was able to sell her hat to "a couple of drunk-seeming bros" for $150.

CATO INSTITUTE VP CALLS FOR COURT TO REVISE REGULATORY TAKINGS JURISPRUDENCE. Cato Institute vice president for legal affairs Roger Pilon, in an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal (3/19, Subscription Publication, 6.37M), writes that the Supreme Court, when it hears Murr v. Wisconsin, should change the precedents governing "regulatory takings" under the Fifth Amendment so as to require the government compensate landowners for loss of value due to

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zoning and other regulations instead of requiring the land lose all its value before deeming it a taking. Pilon laments that Judge Neil Gorsuch won't be on the court for this case but welcomes his nomination to the court, saying Gorsuch understands such matters.

WPOST: LEADERS MUST ACT TO PREVENT FUTURE GLOBAL WARMING-INDUCED DISASTERS. In an editorial, the Washington Post (3/19, 11.43M) cites the 2016 "bleaching" that occurred on Australia's Great Barrier Reef as proof that global warming is not hypothetical and its effects are happening now. According to a study that appeared in the journal Nature last week, the damage from last year's bleaching is likely irreparable, and higher background ocean temperatures, not water quality nor human runoff, are to blame. The Post agrees with the study's conclusion that "immediate global action" is necessary to prevent further ecological disasters, saying "even Republicans will have to admit the issue must be addressed" in the long term. President Trump's proposed cuts to the EPA and withdrawal from the Paris accord show negligence that future leaders will have to make up for "in dollars, lives and ecological catastrophe."

WPOST: NEW UDC PRESIDENT MAY TURN SCHOOL AROUND. The Washington Post (3/19, 11.43M) editorializes that despite the "mixed" assessment the University of the District of Columbia received from DC Auditor Kathy Patterson, new leadership by President Ronald Mason is "the strongest argument for giving UDC more time." While Patterson's evaluation of the Vision 2020 plan shows the school has fallen short of its goal to align undergraduate programs with economic priorities in the District, the Post sees Mason's "generally good reviews" since he took office in July 2015 as reason for optimism that he could succeed "where his predecessors have failed in making the District's only public university a place that educates students effectively."

WPOST: VIRGINIA'S DRIVER'S LICENSE CONFISCATION LAWS UNFAIRLY PUNISH THE POOR. In an editorial, the Washington Post (3/19, 11.43M) writes that Virginia legislators and courts should heed a recent federal court ruling that "all but begged" them to change the laws that punish low-income defendants by confiscating their driver's licenses when they are unable to pay court fines and fees, even when the crime is not driving-related. The Post says the policies to allow community service in place of payment or wage-based payments are not available in most courts. Calling the state "unfriendly terrain for poor people generally," the Post notes lawmakers' failure to expand Medicaid and tightening of voter-ID rules.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"No Crackdown On Illegal Employers."*** A New York Times (3/20, Board, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) editorial says President Trump "began his campaign assailing immigrants as ruthless lawbreakers who steal American jobs with impunity," but his Administration "has been largely silent...about the strongest magnet that has drawn millions of immigrants, legal and not, to the United States for generations: jobs." The Times says American employers "continue to assume relatively little risk by hiring undocumented immigrants," and calls for the resurrection of the Immigration Reform and Control Act, which outlined "a carrots-and-sticks approach to reducing the number of undocumented workers in the American labor force," including a pathway to citizenship.

"Compounding The Risk For Coal Miners." In an editorial, the New York Times (3/20, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) argues that President Trump's "vow to bring back the coal industry's heyday is a delusion. But it's already inspiring Republican legislatures in Appalachia to resurrect a grim element of those boom times: loose safety laws that endangered miners' lives and protected owners' profits." The Times says that while "political pandering is nothing new in Appalachia...this latest bout, launched in tandem with Mr. Trump's fantasy job promises, can only leave remaining miners in greater danger on the job."

"Rome Is Looking Better From Topeka." A New York Times (3/20, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) editorial says Kansas "can only hope that reports are true that the Trump administration will let its governor, Sam Brownback, escape the disaster he created in Topeka for a quieter United Nations agricultural post in Rome. And global humanity can only hope for the best." The Times says Brownback has "used his office as a laboratory for conservative budget experimentation" that has "drained state coffers."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Can DC's University Turn Itself Around?"*** The Washington Post (3/19, 11.43M) editorializes that despite the "mixed" assessment the University of the District of Columbia received from DC Auditor Kathy Patterson, new leadership by President Ronald Mason is "the strongest argument for giving UDC more time." While Patterson's evaluation of the Vision 2020 plan shows the school has fallen short of its goal to align undergraduate programs with economic priorities in the District, the Post sees Mason's "generally good reviews" since he took office in July 2015 as reason for optimism that he could succeed "where his predecessors have failed in making the District's only public university a place that educates students effectively."

"Virginia's War On The Poor Gets A Warning." In an editorial, the Washington Post (3/19, 11.43M) writes that Virginia

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legislators and courts should heed a recent federal court ruling that "all but begged" them to change the laws that punish low-income defendants by confiscating their driver's licenses when they are unable to pay court fines and fees, even when the crime is not driving-related. The Post says the policies to allow community service in place of payment or wage-based payments are not available in most courts. Calling the state "unfriendly terrain for poor people generally," the Post notes lawmakers' failure to expand Medicaid and tightening of voter-ID rules.

"The Great Barrier Reef Is Dying." In an editorial, the Washington Post cites the 2016 "bleaching" that occurred on Australia's Great Barrier Reef as proof that global warming is not hypothetical and its effects are happening now. According to a study that appeared in the journal Nature last week, the damage from last year's bleaching is likely irreparable, and higher background ocean temperatures, not water quality nor human runoff, are to blame. The Post agrees with the study's conclusion that "immediate global action" is necessary to prevent further ecological disasters, saying "even Republicans will have to admit the issue must be addressed" in the long term. President Trump's proposed cuts to the EPA and withdrawal from the Paris accord show negligence that future leaders will have to make up for "in dollars, lives and ecological catastrophe."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Gorsuch Resistance."*** In an editorial, meanwhile, the Wall Street Journal (3/19, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) argues Democrats have not put forth a single substantive argument to oppose Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch.

"Growth Advocates At Treasury." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/19, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) praises two recent senior Treasury Department nominees: Undersecretary for International Affairs David Malpass and Assistant Secretary for International Finance Adam Lerrick. Both individuals add pro-growth policy clout to a White House whose other advisors do not think tax rates matter, Gary Cohn, or favor trade protectionism, Stephen Miller and Stephen Bannon. The Journal says Treasury Secretary Mnuchin lacks policy experience.

"Alex Acosta's Labor Agenda." A Wall Street Journal (3/19, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) calls Labor Secretary-designate Alex Acosta a safe choice for President Trump, but notes that his positions on most labor issues are not known, which makes it important that Senators use his confirmation hearing to get that information.

The Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Divisions On Trade Dominate Global Summit
Bond-Yield Rebound Poses A Threat To Stock Rally
Gorsuch, A Conservative Firebrand In College, Evolved Into A Conciliator
Uber President Of Ride-Sharing Jeff Jones Resigns

New York Times:
Murder Or Self-Defense If Officer Is Killed In Raid?
Hedge Fund Titan's Surefire Bet Turns Into A $4 Billion Loss
Trump Shifting Authority Over Military Operations Back To Pentagon
Jimmy Breslin, Legendary New York City Newspaper Columnist, Dies At 88
New Crop Of Young Adult Novels Explores Race And Police Brutality

Washington Post:
Gorsuch Hearings Will Test The GOP
Tillerson Appears To Give Ground To Beijing
"Nothing Here But Dust"
Convicted Officers Still Collect Pensions
Schools Address Deportation Fears As Families React To Trump Moves
White House Installs Eyes And Ears At Cabinet Agencies

Financial Times:
Tillerson Trip Fails To Narrow US-China Differences
UK And Germany To Sign Defence Co-Operation Deal
Mexico Calls On Its Builders To Boycott Trump's Wall

Washington Times:
Maryland County's Count Suggests Noncitizens Voting Across US
Gun Dealers Face Lagging Sales With Obama Out Of White House

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HHS-OS EF Lit 18-0241-001265
EXT-18-241-E-000448

Ryan: Obamacare Replacement Bill On Track For Passage This Week
Tillerson Welcomes State Department Budget Cuts To "Soft Power" Programs
Opening Shot: Gorsuch Statement To Committee To Set Tone For Confirmation Hearing
CBO Report Rebuts Obamacare "Death Spiral" Argument

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: House Intelligence Committee-Comey; Manhunt-Student Abduction; Manhunt-Baltimore Arsonist; Colorado Wildfires; Paris Airport Attack; North Korea-Rocket Engine; White House Security Scare; Chuck Berry Death; FBI Warning-Virtual Kidnapping; Dubai-Flying Taxis; NCAA Tournament-Northwestern Fan.
CBS: House Intelligence Committee-Comey; Trump-Supreme Court Pick; White House Security Scare; Secretary Tillerson-China Meeting; Afghanistan-US Soldiers Injured; Paris Airport Attack; Colorado Wildfire; Manhunt-Student Abduction; Louisiana Police Officer Killed; Battle For Mosul.
NBC: North Korea-Rocket Engine; House Intelligence Committee-Comey; Trump-Border Wall; Federal Budget-Arts Programs; Colorado Wildfire; Trump-Travel Ban; Robo Calls-Blocking; SpaceX Dragon Returns.

Network TV At A Glance:
House Intelligence Committee – 07 minutes, 20 seconds
North Korea-Rocket Engine – 04 minutes, 20 seconds
Colorado Wildfires – 04 minutes, 00 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: House Intelligence Committee-Comey Testimony; Trump Supreme Court Pick-Confirmation Hearing; Colorado Wildfire; Manhunt-Student Abduction; Weather Forecast.
CBS: House Intelligence Committee-Comey Testimony; Trump Supreme Court Pick-Confirmation Hearing; Confirmation Hearing-Partisan Lines; Healthcare Plan-Paul Ryan; Colorado Wildfire Evacuation; Asian Markets; NCAA Tournament.
NPR: House Intelligence Committee-Comey Testimony; Canada Political Leaders-Great Lakes Protection; Uber President Departure; Colorado-Wildfire Evacuations; Syria-Security Perimeter Breach; Healthcare Plan-Older Americans.
FOX: Trump Supreme Court Pick-Confirmation Hearing; Trump Border Security; House Intelligence Committee-Comey Testimony.

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HHS NEWS BRIEFING

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TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2017 7:30 AM EDT

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Leading the News:

DURING TESTIMONY, PRICE VOWS TO UPHOLD ACA AS LONG AS IT IS LAW. The Wall Street Journal (3/29, Armour, Burton, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports that on Wednesday, during testimony before the House Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, HHS Secretary Tom Price said it is his responsibility to uphold the Affordable Care Act as long as it is the law of the land. Price stated, "So long as the law is on the books, we at the department are obligated to uphold the law."

The Washington Post (3/29, Eilperin, DeBonis, 11.43M) reports Price made it clear the Trump Administration "is still intent on dismantling parts of the Affordable Care Act even if Republicans lack the votes to rewrite it." He stated several times, "What we're committed to is making sure the American people have access to affordable coverage."

The AP (3/29, Alonso-Zaldivar) reports that Price "got strong pushback...from lawmakers of both parties about deep cuts the White House is pressing in medical research, public health and social service programs." The article says "Price also dodged repeated attempts by Democrats" to determine what the Administration has planned for the ACA. The piece adds that Price attempted "to walk a fine line on the Affordable Care Act," and although he acknowledged that "the ACA remains the law of the land, he would not commit on specific steps to help keep it working, or on what the administration might try to do to change it."

Bloomberg News (3/29, Edney, Tracer, 2.41M) quotes Price as saying, "We find ourselves right now in a position that the current system is not working. ... We have to fix the problem."

The Washington Times (3/29, Howell, 272K) reports that Price promised to enforce the ACA as long as it remains law,

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"including its mandate requiring Americans to hold coverage," but he "dodged thornier questions about President Trump's commitment to making the program work." The Times points out that despite Price's promise, Democrats are worried President Trump "will chip away at the law from within, citing his decision to yank up to $5 million in ads for HealthCare.gov, the main Obamacare website, before a critical enrollment deadline."

Also covering the story are NBC News (3/29, Sarlin, 2.67M), CNBC (3/29, Coombs, 2.17M), The Hill (3/29, Sullivan, 1.25M), the New York Daily News (3/29, Joseph, 4.45M), the Washington Examiner (3/29, King, 400K), STAT (3/29, Facher), a separate Washington Examiner (3/29, King, 400K) article, and Modern Healthcare (3/29, Dickson, Subscription Publication, 241K).

Democratic Senators Want US AG To Investigate Price's Stock Trades. Modern Healthcare (3/29, Castellucci, Subscription Publication, 241K) says that on Wednesday, several Democratic senators wrote to US Attorney General Jeff Sessions, asking him "to continue to investigate HHS Secretary Dr. Tom Price's trade deals." The article points out that former New York Attorney General Preet Bharara "was reportedly investigating Price," and there is some speculation that he "was fired by the Trump administration because of the investigation."

Kaiser Health News (3/29, Kopp, Bluth, 2K) says nine senators are urging Sessions "to reveal what he knows about a reported investigation into Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price's stock trades that a top federal prosecutor might have begun before being fired by the Trump administration this month."

The Secretary in the News:

PRICE SAYS TRUMP'S BUDGET SEEKS TO REDUCE INEFFICIENCIES AT NIH. Science Magazine (3/29, Kaiser, 410K) reports the Trump Administration could cut $5.8 billion from NIH's 2018 budget, "yet still fund at least as much research by eliminating overhead payments to universities and research institutions," HHS Secretary Tom Price said during a hearing Wednesday before a House subcommittee. Several lawmakers questioned Price about the 18-percent cut to NIH's $31.7 billion budget which President Trump has proposed. Price told lawmakers that "NIH's work is 'incredibly important.'" Nevertheless, "he said the agency's budget can be trimmed by finding 'inefficiencies,' including the overhead payments." Price also pointed out that "the president's proposal to fold the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) into NIH would not require retaining its $334 million budget because NIH supports similar studies on improving health care delivery."

Healthcare Finance News (3/29, Morse, 94K) quotes Price as saying, "I was struck by the need for efficiencies and decreasing duplication and the like in our entire department." He added, "I was struck by one thing at NIH. That is that about 30 percent of the grant money that goes out is used for indirect expenses, which as you know means that that money goes for something other than the research that's being done." Price told lawmakers that Trump's budget is attempting "to bring focus to the kinds of things that we ought to be able to do, to get a bigger bang for our buck if you will."

SENATE DEMOCRATS SAY THEY WILL WORK WITH TRUMP ON HEALTHCARE OVERHAUL IF HE STOPS ATTACKS ON ACA. The Washington Post (3/29, Sullivan, 11.43M) reports 44 Senate Democrats wrote to President Trump indicating "they are open to working with him on health care – but not before he end his effort to attack the Affordable Care Act." They stated, "Members of the Democratic caucus remain ready and willing to work with you on policies that would improve the stability of the individual insurance market. ... We ask that you begin the work of improving health care for millions of Americans by rescinding your January 20th executive order."

USA Today (3/29, Przybyla, 5.28M) reports that the letter stated, "Your administration must commit to putting an end to all efforts to unravel the ACA." The senators added, "It is clear the fight isn't over," because some Administration officials "are signaling they're going to sabotage this (law)." The piece points out that several courses of "actions Trump and Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price could pursue would take effect in 2018, mainly curbing outreach for enrollment, which is critical to keeping the law afloat."

The Christian Science Monitor (3/29, Hoover, 387K) reports that this move "comes as Democrats are emboldened by the defeat of the Republican-backed reform effort, which was pulled from the House floor last Friday after Republicans failed to come to a consensus."

The Hill (3/29, Carney, 1.25M) also covers the story in its "Floor Action" blog.

NEW JERSEY GOVERNOR TO CHAIR TRUMP ADMINISTRATION PANEL TO ADDRESS OPIOID EPIDEMIC. The CBS Evening News (3/29, story 6, 0:20, Pelley, 11.17M) reported, "Today, President Trump launched a commission to fight opioid addiction. New Jersey Governor Chris Christie will run it."

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NBC Nightly News (3/29, story 3, 0:25, Holt, 16.61M) reported, "New Jersey is one of several states where overdoses has have skyrocketed in recent years. Opioid addiction kills an estimated 78 people a day in this country according to the CDC."

USA Today (3/29, Jackson, 5.28M) reports New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R) will "chair" President Trump's new commission on opioid abuse. In an interview, "Christie said that addiction in New Jersey kills four times as many people as murder and three times as many as car accidents."

The Washington Post (3/29, Rucker, 11.43M) says Christie told the AP that Trump "asked him to lead the effort while serving as governor."

CNN (3/29, Christensen, 29.79M) reports President Trump "said the governor will work with representatives in state and local government, as well as law enforcement, medical professionals, and victims to figure out the best ways to deal with this epidemic."

The AP (3/29, Colvin) reports President Trump also said, "We want to help those who have become so badly addicted. Drug abuse has become a crippling problem throughout the United States. This is a total epidemic and I think it's probably, almost un-talked about compared to the severity that we're witnessing."

The Christian Science Monitor (3/29, Williams, 387K) reports HHS Secretary Tom Price and Attorney General Jeff Sessions will also serve on the commission. The article reports that the commission will look for "federal funding streams that could help address the epidemic" and "is also expected to consider changes to the criminal justice system to support incarcerated opioid addicts after their release from prison." The Trump Administration's decision to create such a commission has been praised by many, but some have also criticized the White House for proposing budget cuts to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's mental health block grant program, which could fund programs to address opioid abuse and addiction.

Vox (3/29, Lopez, 1.15M) reports that President Trump has not nominated people to head the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which both play a role in national drug policy and "deal with drug addiction."

Also covering the story are Politico (3/29, Diamond, Karlin-Smith, 2.46M), the Washington Examiner (3/29, Morrongiello, 400K), the Washington Times (3/29, Boyer, 272K), the NBC News (3/29, Vitali, 2.67M) website, and the Huffington Post (3/29, Fang, 237K).

Editorial: Christie Should Explain To Trump That Medicaid Expansion Helps People Addicted To Opioids. The Newark (NJ) Star-Ledger (3/29, 438K) editorializes that Christie's "first task" on the commission should be to "explain to Trump that killing Medicaid kills the opioid fight." The editorial argues that without Medicaid expansion, over half a million people in New Jersey "would have been left with no health insurance and no access to drug treatment."

Zika Virus News:

FIRST SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BABY WITH ZIKA-RELATED BIRTH DEFECTS RECENTLY BORN IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY. The Los Angeles Times (3/29, Sisson, 4.52M) reports in "LA Now" that a baby recently born in San Diego County "is the first in the region to suffer birth defects after the infant's mother contracted the Zika virus while traveling abroad." Public health officials said the case is a reminder that Zika remains a risk while traveling in other countries.

Singapore Confirms Two Locally Transmitted Cases Of Zika. Reuters (3/29, Aravindan) reports, "Singapore has confirmed two cases of locally transmitted infections of the Zika virus in a northeastern part of the city state." The article points out that Singapore had previously reported six cases this year.

Researchers Speculate On Lack Of Microcephaly Cases In Brazil After Zika Outbreak. STAT (3/29, Branswell) reports a letter to the New England Journal of Medicine "offers a theory for how to explain the missing microcephaly cases" among babies born in Brazil following the second wave of the Zika virus last year. STAT says "one of the vexing dilemmas of the Zika virus is that it so closely resembles related viruses that testing cannot always tell whether a person is infected with Zika or something similar." The authors say other illnesses such as Guillain-Barré syndrome contributed to the prevalence of fevers and rashes in Brazil in 2016. Other possibilities include the fact "that women...who had seen the possible outcome of a Zika infection in pregnancy might have either avoided pregnancies in large numbers or terminated pregnancies."

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HHS in the News:

COMPLEX MEDICAL BILLING SYSTEM CONTRIBUTES TO HIGH HEALTHCARE COSTS IN US. In an over 4,400-word article to appear in its Sunday Magazine, the New York Times (3/29, MM43, Rosenthal, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that "our current medical-billing system" is partly "responsible for the high prices patients are charged." The article outlines the history of healthcare coding, and reports that healthcare professionals and insurers often battle over the correct or appropriate codes for the medical services or procedures rendered before sending the resulting bills to patients. The article mentions that the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Inspector General has investigated Medicare coding practices before and found many instances of abuse.

HHS PLANNING FOR 30% OF ITS SYSTEMS ON CLOUD BY END OF 2017. Healthcare IT News (3/29, Davis, 3K) says HHS will be increasing its cloud services from 18.5% to 30% this year. Currently, the department has 12 cloud service vendors. Fierce Healthcare (3/29, Sweeney, 147K) reports HHS CIO Beth Kiloran "noted that although HHS is smaller than many Fortune 500 business, effectively governing an organization with such a broad focus can be challenging." She also said that "cybersecurity, privacy and end-of-life legacy systems – which consume 70% of the agency's IT budget – were the top three IT challenges facing HHS in the next year."

CHAIR OF HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE SAYS PROPOSED CUT TO NIH 2017 BUDGET WON'T HAPPEN. STAT (3/29, Facher) reports that the chair of the House appropriations health subcommittee, Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK), said that the White House's proposal to cut $1.2 billion from the 2017 budget of the National Institutes of Health is "not going to happen." The White House proposal for that cut was proposed Wednesday and would be in addition to a $5.8 billion cut proposed for the NIH in 2018. Cole said, "It's too late in the process. ... This is a budget where the top lines were devised in a bipartisan agreement last year."

CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE "INDIRECT COSTS FUNDED BY NIH GRANTS." Congressional Quarterly (3/29, Young, Subscription Publication, 967) reports Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK) "said in a hearing he expects further debate on administrative expenses at universities and other organizations that are funded through federal medical research grants." Cole "told reporters...that his panel would examine these so-called indirect costs funded by NIH grants."

AAAS SAYS PROPOSED NIH BUDGET CUTS WOULD BE DISASTROUS. Kristen Brown of Gizmodo (3/29, 2.07M) writes that President Trump's proposed cuts to the NIH budget "will hurt everyone. ... On top of a 20%, $5.8 billion cut to the agency's total budget revealed earlier this month as part of the administration's 2018 budget proposal, on Monday several news outlets reported a new proposal aimed at cutting $1.2 billion from the agency's $34 billion budget for the current fiscal year." Most of that "would come from research grants the agency funds." An American Association for the Advancement of Science analysis concluded that the cuts Trump has proposed "would be an unprecedented disaster. 'No administration has attempted NIH cuts as large as these since AAAS began formally monitoring the budget process in 1976,' the AAAS noted."

NIH Cuts Could Put "Thousands" Of UCSF Jobs At Risk. The San Francisco Business Times (3/29, Subscription Publication, 49K) reports that the University of California, San Francisco is one of its region's largest employers, "and the university relies on federal research funding to keep faculty and researchers employed. President Trump's proposal to cut NIH funding by billions will put hundreds, if not thousands, of UCSF workers and their research projects at risk."

REGENERON PHARMACEUTICALS CO-FOUNDER CRITICIZES PROPOSED CUTS TO FEDERAL FUNDING FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. Bloomberg News (3/30, Tracer, Chen, 2.41M) reports George Yancopoulos, the co-founder of Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, "warned that deep cuts to science budgets proposed by President Donald Trump would jeopardize the health of future generations." Yancopoulos said, "God forbid, I've had situations with my parents, my loved ones, my children, when they have a serious disease, that's when we pray, and that's why as a society, we have to make some decisions about what to invest in." The article notes that the Trump Administration has proposed cutting funding to the National Institutes of Health as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S BUDGET PROPOSAL WOULD CREATE NEW FUND TO ADDRESS PUBLIC HEALTH DISASTERS WHILE CUTTING FUNDING FOR SOME PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCIES. Think Progress (3/29, Raymond, 83K) reports President Trump's budget proposal calls for the establishment of a Federal Emergency Response Fund to address public health disasters, which many public health advocates have called for in the past. However, Trump's proposed budget would also cut funding for several agencies involved in public health, including the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

OPINION: ELIMINATING FOGARTY INTERNATIONAL CENTER WOULD BE "A BIG MISTAKE." Dr. Arthur L. Reingold, an epidemiology and public health professor at the University of California-Berkeley, and Dr. Madhukar Pai, a Canada Research Chair in Epidemiology and Global Health at McGill University, write in STAT (3/29) "First Opinion" that

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President Trump's budget proposal "would eliminate the" NIH's Fogarty International Center. Reingold and Pai contend that eliminating the center "would be a big mistake for the United States and the rest of the world," because the Fogarty Center "has initiated and sustained research around the globe aimed at fighting polio, tuberculosis, AIDS, and other infectious diseases."

NHGRI RESEARCHERS USE FACIAL RECOGNITION SOFTWARE TO IDENTIFY PATIENTS WITH RARE GENETIC DISORDER. CNET News (3/29, Katz, 762K) reports researchers at the National Human Genome Research Institute "successfully used facial recognition software similar to that found in airports and on Facebook to diagnose a rare genetic disease called 22q11.2 deletion syndrome using photos alone," according to a study published in the American Journal of Medical Genetics. The article reports that the research is part of a broader initiative to use facial recognition software to identify individuals with certain genetic disorders, and that the data from the research is now part of the NIH's Atlas of Human Malformation Syndromes in Diverse Populations. Dr. Paul Kruszka, a geneticist at the NHGRI's Medical Genetics Branch, said in a statement, "Human malformation syndromes appear different in different parts of the world. Even experienced clinicians have difficulty diagnosing genetic syndromes in non-European populations."

EDITORIAL: RESEARCHERS MAY BE PAYING MORE ATTENTION TO PEDIATRIC CANCERS. Nature (3/30, 153K) editorializes that "there are positive signs of change" that researchers may be paying more attention to childhood cancers than in the past. The editorial points out that the US Cancer Moonshot Initiative highlighted pediatric cancers "as one of its ten areas of focus," but the editorial also says that it's "difficult to call for more money in a time of tremendous financial uncertainty – particularly in the United States, where President Donald Trump has called for an 18% funding cut to the National Institutes of Health."

FDA NOMINEE WILL RECUSE HIMSELF FROM DECISIONS INVOLVING OVER 20 COMPANIES. The Washington Post (3/29, McGinley, 11.43M) reports that Food and Drug Administration Commissioner nominee Scott Gottlieb "plans to recuse himself for a year from agency decisions involving more than 20 companies that he has worked for, invested in or had some other kind of financial relationship with, according to federal ethics filings." Gottlieb is "selling off financial interests in several firms and resigning from some positions he has held, the document shows."

The New York Times (3/29, Thomas, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that Dr. Gottlieb's "financial relationships with these companies are sure to revive debate over whether someone with such close ties to the industry should be put in charge of an agency that controls its fate."

Bloomberg News (3/29, Langreth, 2.41M) reports that "most of the recusals will last for a year after Gottlieb ends relationships with drugmakers and health companies including Glaxo, Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., and Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc." Also covering the story are Reuters (3/29, Clarke), Congressional Quarterly (3/29, Siddons, Subscription Publication, 967), STAT (3/29, Garde), and the San Francisco Chronicle (3/29, Thomas, 2.2M).

REAUTHORIZATION OF MDUFA NEEDED TO BOOST FDA'S FOCUS ON REAL-WORLD PATIENT DATA. Fierce Healthcare (3/29, 147K) reports that "real-world patient data will serve as an integral part of the FDA's medical device review process, speeding up the approval process to keep pace with digital and technology innovators." However, the "success of that approach relies on the reauthorization" of the Medical Device User Fee Amendments by Congress. According to Fierce Healthcare, "lawmakers commended Jeffrey Shuren, MD, director of the FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH), for the progress the agency has made since the last MDUFA agreement, noting that premarket approval (PMA) times have reduced 35% since 2009, while 510(k) approval times have dropped 11%."

AUDIT FINDS THAT UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL BRANCH IS COMPLYING WITH ANIMAL WELFARE GUIDELINES. The Houston Chronicle (3/29, Rice, 1.91M) reports in a brief item that NIH's Office of Laboratory and Animal Welfare has concluded "that the University of Texas Medical Branch is in compliance with federal animal-welfare guidelines, ending a two-year investigation that put crucial research funding in jeopardy." The investigation "found that UTMB had dealt with problems discovered in on-site visits conducted with agents from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, interviews with a former employee and a 2015 audit."

TRUMP CRITICIZED FOR ALLEGEDLY PAYING WOMEN LESS THAN MEN. Gail Collins writes in a New York Times (3/30, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) op-ed that "the White House was promoting its women's history celebrations as being all about empowerment. It was, Spicer claimed, a longstanding presidential obsession – Trump had 'made women's empowerment a priority throughout the campaign.'" The piece pointed out, however, that Trump reportedly "paid men on his campaign staff one-third more than women." It also mentions that CMS Administrator Seema Verma participated in a special Women's Empowerment Panel.

MOTHER OF YOUNG BOY WHO DIED FROM RARE TUMOR TESTIFIES BEFORE HOUSE COMMITTEE AGAINST PROPOSED NIH BUDGET CUTS. The Detroit Free Press (3/29, Snyder, 1.01M) reports Tammi Carr, the mother of a

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young boy who died from a Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG), testified before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform against President Trump's proposed cuts to NIH funding. Carr said, "When I hear about those potential cuts to NIH funding, it hits me right in the gut."

Fox Business (3/29, Scipioni, 269K) reports that after her son's diagnosis, Carr founded the Chad Tough Foundation to raise funding to research DIPG. MLive (MI) (3/29, Slagter, 878K) also covers the story.

FAMILY OF HENRIETTA LACKS ENGAGED IN FEUD AHEAD OF MOVIE PREMIERE. The Washington Post (3/29, Hendrix, 11.43M) reports that the family of Henrietta Lacks is clashing over her legacy shortly before a new movie, based on a book about Lacks, is set to premiere. The article reports that Lawrence Lacks and his son Ron have leveled "a series of very public charges at the book's author and publisher, [the film's producers], the National Institutes of Health and other family members, accusing them variously of misrepresentation, exploitation and fraud." The NIH has "responded that it wasn't getting involved in a family dispute."

Health Reform:

LAWMAKERS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE SKEPTICAL ABOUT TRUMP'S COMMITMENT TO NEGOTIATING ON HEALTH REFORM. TIME (3/28, Miller, 6.98M) reports the Trump Administration is attempting "to restart talks with the House of Representatives on the defeated health care bill, with senior aides reaching out to Capitol Hill in recent days." So far, "those talks don't appear to be bearing any fruit...and the prospect of a breakthrough after last week's legislative debacle appears to be slim." The article says during "a meeting with a bipartisan group of Senators Tuesday evening, Trump expressed a desire to continue negotiating on the subject, but those comments are being brushed off by both sides of the aisle as empty talk for the news cameras."

TRUMP WANTS ACA TO BE REPLACED, BUT WITH "A GOOD DEAL." On its website, CNBC (3/29, Mangan, 2.17M) reports that President Trump still wants the Affordable Care Act to be replaced, yet, "it's got to be done with 'a good deal,' not 'a bad deal,'" he said. White House spokesman Sean Spicer was "asked how realistic it is to expect an Obamacare replacement effort to be successfully 'resurrected' by Trump." Spicer said, "I think he'd like to get it done."

Roll Call (3/29, Bennett, 63K) reports that the White House is moving "ever-so-slightly toward another try at a health care overhaul package – and Trump administration officials signaled on Wednesday they want a more methodical process this time."

The Washington Examiner (3/29, Morrongiello, 400K) also covers the story.

SOME HOUSE GOP LAWMAKERS WANT TO USE RECONCILIATION TO REPEAL ACA. Roll Call (3/29, McPherson, 63K) reports several House GOP lawmakers "say they still want to use the budget reconciliation process for the current fiscal year to pass legislation, effectively providing themselves with less than two months to get a deal." GOP leaders have not yet made "any concrete decisions on the path forward for health care after pulling a bill last week that would have partially repealed and replaced the 2010 health care law." Republican Study Committee Chairman Mark Walker said reconciliation would "absolutely" be used to advance ACA repeal legislation.

SPICER SAYS TRUMP WAS JOKING ABOUT THE EASE OF REACHING HEALTHCARE DEAL. The AP (3/29, Woodward) reports since the AHCA was defeated last week, President Trump "has sent conflicting signals about trying again and left people guessing about whether his words on the subject are meant to be taken literally." He told the bipartisan group of senators on Tuesday, "I know that we're all going to make a deal on health care. That's such an easy one." The article adds that White House spokesman Sean Spicer "said Wednesday that Trump was only making a lighthearted crack at the reception." The New York Post (3/29, Moore, 3.82M) also covers the story.

Meanwhile, Peter W. Stevenson writes in the Washington Post (3/29, 11.43M) "The Fix" about Trump's comment regarding the ease of a bipartisan healthcare bill. Stevenson says it is difficult "to say what Trump's endgame is here. It's possible he could come up with a plan that satisfies moderates in both parties, even enough to pass a bill. That would be a big step forward for a president who has found it difficult to work with Congress so far – and has an outright hostile relationship with Democrats."

SEN. ALEXANDER TO INTRODUCE MEASURE THAT PROVIDES TEMPORARY RELIEF TO CONSUMERS WITH NO ACA OPTIONS. USA Today (3/29, Collins, 5.28M) reports that on Wednesday, Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) said "he intends to file legislation that would provide temporary relief for millions of people who live in areas where there are no insurers selling policies on the federal health insurance marketplace." The measure would allow "people who get government subsidies to buy insurance use that money to purchase any state-approved plan on the private market if there is no insurer selling policies on the federal exchange, or marketplace, in their area." At present, the subsidies can only be

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used to purchase plans through the exchanges.

The Washington Examiner (3/29, King, 400K) also covers the story.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION COULD STILL TAKE ACTION TO HINDER ACA. Fortune (3/29, Bukhari, 7.12M) reports that Republicans and President Trump failed to pass the AHCA last week, but that does not mean they will not attempt to "wreck" the Affordable Care Act "indirectly." The article says one method "is for Republicans to choke off subsidies given to insurance companies in exchange for limiting the costs of deductibles and copays for low-income recipients." Should that occur, "many providers would likely withdraw from the marketplace."

The NPR (3/29, Kurtzleben, 1.92M) "Shots" blog reports that according to some experts, the Trump Administration could take action to help ACA marketplaces, or they could do things that "could help the markets explode."

GOP PROVISION PREVENTING GOVERNMENT FROM REIMBURSING INSURERS FOR LOSSES. The Cleveland Plain Dealer (3/29, Koff, 976K) reports that the federal government owes health insurers in Ohio more than $100 million under an Affordable Care Act rule, but they may never receive these funds, "thanks to a Republican provision." The article says GOP lawmakers "slipped" the measure "into a spending bill in late 2014, after the Affordable Care Act was under way, restrict[ing] the government in making payments." Consequently, "some insurers have been forced to pare down their medical networks, cut their markets or leave Obamacare altogether" – which has helped to increase premiums.

FOLLOWING AHCA DEFEAT, LIBERALS PUSHING MEDICARE-FOR-ALL PLAN. The Washington Post (3/29, Cunningham, 11.43M) reports liberals are putting forward their own healthcare proposals, hoping "to gain new ground after last week's Republican meltdown over an Obamacare replacement." The article says the "Progressive Change Campaign Committee, a political action committee that aims to represent the 'Elizabeth Warren wing of the Democratic Party,'" started "circulating a petition Wednesday calling for every person to have access to a Medicare-type plan – an idea supported by the party's left wing but viewed with some skepticism by moderates."

HOUSE DEMS SAY GOP MUST MAKE CLEAR GESTURE BEFORE THEY AGREE TO WORKING TOGETHER ON HEALTHCARE. The Hill (3/29, Roubein, 1.25M) reports that House GOP lawmakers, "including those who helped" to defeat the AHCA, "are calling for bipartisanship." However, "Democrats feel burned in the process and before lending a helping hand, say they need to first see clear signals Republicans are committed to working across the aisle." For instance, Republicans "would have to drop their ObamaCare repeal rhetoric," according to some lawmakers and liberal experts.

MODERATE REPUBLICAN SAYS GOP MUST INCLUDE DEMOCRATS IN HEALTH REFORM DEBATE. The Hill (3/29, Hellmann, 1.25M) reports that on Wednesday, Rep. Charlie Dent (R-PA) said GOP lawmakers "should stop shutting out Democrats if they want to pass healthcare reform." Dent, a moderate Republican, said attempting "to pass any type of reform with only one party on board won't work, pointing to the failure of" the AHCA last week. Dent stated, "I think we should engage in healthcare conversations, but it should be from the center out. Republicans and Democrats coming together in areas where there are problems, and then put that legislation out on the floor."

POLL INDICATES TRUMP'S APPROVAL RATING FELL FOLLOWING AHCA'S FAILURE. Politico (3/29, Shepard, 2.46M) reports Americans' "perceptions of President Donald Trump's job performance have eroded following the failure of a long-promised health care bill through Congress, according to a new POLITICO/Morning Consult poll."

The Hill (3/29, Hensch, 1.25M) reports the new survey indicates President Trump's "approval rating is falling in the wake of the GOP's failed effort to repeal and replace" the Affordable Care Act. Data show 46 percent of Americans approve of Trump following the AHCA defeat, compared to 50 percent a week earlier. Meanwhile, 50 percent of respondents said they disapprove of the President.

FREEDOM CAUCUS MEMBER SAYS GROUP TARGETS LEGISLATION WHICH RAISES HEALTHCARE COSTS. The Hill (3/29, Hensch, 1.25M) reports Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH), a founding member of the House Freedom Caucus, said "the group of conservative lawmakers has specific goals for any legislation to repeal and replace ObamaCare." He stated, "We've always been focused on those regulations which are driving up the cost of premiums."

POLL INDICATES 62% OF CONSUMERS DISAPPROVE OF TRUMP'S HANDLING OF HEALTHCARE ISSUES THUS FAR. The AP (3/29, Fram, Swanson) reports 62 percent of Americans disapprove of President Trump's "handling of health care during the initial weeks of his" tenure, according to an Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll. Data show respondents had "more negative than positive reviews" of the six healthcare changes the poll addressed. For instance, 80 percent of them "opposed the Republican proposal to let insurers boost premiums on older people," while 70 percent "disapproved of premium surcharges for people whose coverage lapses."

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POLL INDICATES MAJORITY OF AMERICANS BLAME CONGRESS, NOT TRUMP, FOR AHCA FAILURE. Reuters (3/29, Kahn) reports that for the most part, Americans are blaming Congress instead of President Trump or GOP leaders for the defeat of the AHCA, according to a new Reuters/Ipsos opinion poll. Data show about 26 percent of respondents "said House Democrats were most responsible and 23 percent blamed House Republicans." An additional "13 percent blamed Trump and 10 percent blamed Ryan," while "8 percent blamed the media."

The Hill (3/29, Greenwood, 1.25M) also covers the story.

POLL SHOWS SUPPORT FOR ACA CONTINUES TO GROW. The Washington Times (3/29, McLaughlin, 272K) reports a new Politico/Morning Consult poll indicates the Affordable Care Act's popularity is increasing, "following the failure of President Trump and House GOP leaders to pass a bill that overhauls the nation's health care system." Data show 50 percent of voters now approve of the ACA, while "37 percent of voters support the GOP's continued push to repeal and replace the law." The article points out that the figures represent "a 4 percent spike in approval from a week ago."

RADIO HOST SLAMS MCCONNELL FOR CRITICIZING HOUSE FREEDOM CAUCUS. The Washington Times (3/29, Ernst, 272K) reports radio host Mark Levin is angry "with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and lawmakers who are criticizing the House Freedom Caucus over last week's" defeat of the AHCA. During his show, Levin called McConnell "an unprincipled 'old barnacle' who lacks the ability to forward the cause of freedom and liberty." In addition, he compared McConnell "to a 'mumbling homeless person' who places self-interest above virtues like honesty and integrity."

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION COULD DESTABILIZE ACA MARKETPLACES BY STOPPING SUBSIDY PAYMENTS TO INSURERS. Vox (3/29, Bagley, 1.15M) reports that in the wake of the AHCA's failure, "President Trump is stuck implementing a law he detests." He has warned "that 'ObamaCare will explode,' and in his frustration he will be sorely tempted to do everything in his power to make that prediction come true." The piece points out that an ongoing suit, House v. Price, "has given the administration a bomb it could use to blow up insurance markets across the country." The article says the Administration could harm ACA marketplaces by stopping the subsidies being paid to insurers, which the suit is challenging as being unconstitutional. Yet, such a move "carries huge political risks."

REP. DEGETTE SAYS BIPARTISAN COMPROMISE ON ACA IS POSSIBLE. The Washington Times (3/29, Howell, 272K) reports Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO) "said if she could negotiate a landmark medical cures bill with Republicans in the middle of a bitter campaign last year, then compromise is still within reach despite longstanding partisanship around the Affordable Care Act of 2010." According to DeGette, some "unnamed Republicans have approached her about forging a bipartisan way forward."

HATCH SEES OPPORTUNITY FOR REPEALING ACA LEVIES IN TAX REFORM DRIVE. Reuters (3/29) reports Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch said levies imposed by the Affordable Care Act, including taxes on medical devices and benefit-rich health insurance polices, could be tackled through tax reform or a revised healthcare bill. Hatch told reporters, "Any way we can get rid of those, I think it'd be a good thing." Reuters notes Hatch's comments "suggested the Senate could take a different approach on the taxes once a House tax reform bill reaches his chamber, unless a new healthcare bill surfaces first."

HOUSE GOP LEADERS SAY ACA REPEAL VOTE UNLIKELY NEXT WEEK, DISCUSSIONS ONGOING. The Daily Caller (3/29, Brufke, 898K) reports House Republican leadership said discussions on repealing and replacing Obamacare are ongoing, but legislation is unlikely before their April 7 recess. "There's no vote planned," House Majority Whip Steve Scalise told reporters Wednesday. "I'm always talking to members, and I'm hearing from a lot of them who bring ideas to me which is encouraging." House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy confirmed no vote is on the schedule, saying, "As soon as we have it figured out we'll have the vote."

House GOP May Revive AHCA For Vote Later This Week. Bloomberg Politics (3/29, House, Kapur, 201K) reports that House Republicans may revive the American Health Care Act for a vote later this week or this weekend, according to two GOP representatives, "but it's unclear what changes would be made to the GOP's health bill. They described the discussions on condition of anonymity."

STUDY FINDS ACA RISK PROGRAMS LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD FOR INSURERS. Modern Healthcare (3/29, Livingston, Subscription Publication, 241K) reports that according to a study published Wednesday in the journal Health Affairs, two ACA programs "meant to compensate health insurers that receive higher than average claims" are working as intended. The study showed that risk adjustment and reinsurance "help level the playing field so insurers can focus on other aspects of their business not related to risk selection," said lead author Paul D. Jacobs, a service fellow at HHS' Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. The story explains the programs and notes the study found that "most of the revenue transferred through the risk-adjustment program went from insurers with low paid claims to insurers with high

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paid claims."

ONGOING PUSH FOR ACA REPEAL BRINGS UNCERTAINTY FOR COLORADO INSURERS. The Denver Post (3/29, Matthews, 778K) reports that Rep. Ken Buck on Wednesday said he wants to see the GOP's healthcare overhaul resuscitated for a vote next month, "while a health care consultant warned that the lingering uncertainty around national health policy will probably scare even more insurers away from the coverage exchanges." Kaiser Family Foundation senior fellow Karen Pollitz noted, "The greatest enemy for insurers is uncertainty," adding that federal uncertainty could affect the plans customers see when they go shopping for individual coverage. Charlie Sheffield of the Colorado Association of Health Plans said he has not heard of any insurers planning to pull out of the state's ACA exchange next year, but the Post reports that "Congress and the White House could be enough to cause premium spikes or scare off insurers."

TRUMP'S IMAGE AS A STRONG LEADER WEAKENS IN WAKE OF HEALTHCARE DEFEAT. The Washington Post (3/29, McGregor, 11.43M) reports that "while the quality of 'strong leadership' was something Trump sought to reinforce throughout his campaign, a new poll finds that the number who see it in him appears to be dropping. Following his stinging defeat" on healthcare, 50 percent of respondents in a Economist/YouGov poll "said Trump was either a 'very strong' or 'somewhat strong' leader in a question about leadership qualities. That's down from 54 percent last week; in the first results after his inauguration, 61 percent said Trump was a strong leader."

FREEDOM CAUCUS MEMBER GOHMERT BRUSHES OFF TRUMP TWEET. The Washington Times (3/29, McLaughlin, 272K) reports that Rep. Louie Gohmert said on C-SPAN on Wednesday that President Trump's "attempt to blame the House Freedom Caucus for the failure of the House GOP's health care bill shows that 'nobody is perfect.'" Gohmert, a member of the Freedom Caucus, said, "I am not one who has said the President needs to stop tweeting. I think it is great. It helps him go straight to the people, but you know with that tweet he helped prove the rule that nobody is perfect."

ACA UNCERTAINTY COULD DRIVE INSURERS FROM MARKETPLACES. The Washington Examiner (3/30, King, 400K) reports insurers are seeking certainty on "how cost-sharing reduction payments will work under the law this year" as insurers are currently required to lower copays and deductibles for certain low-income ACA customers for government reimbursement that is the target of a House lawsuit. "If we don't know if those supports are going to be in place, then it is nearly impossible to come up with a good [plan] price," said Ceci Connolly, president and CEO of the Alliance of Community Health Plans. The industry is also worried about the lack of guidance on cost-sharing payments that, if stopped, "could cause insurers to either flee the individual markets or raise premiums."

SENATE BILL WOULD WAIVE ACA INDIVIDUAL MANDATE PENALTY WHERE NO OPTIONS ARE PRESENT. The Washington Examiner (3/30, King, 400K) reports Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker introduced legislation Wednesday that "waives the individual mandate penalty for people who live in an area with no Obamacare insurer" and lets an ACA beneficiary use their subsidy to purchase any state-approved health insurance plan outside of the exchanges. There is "a real prospect that all 230,000 Tennesseans who buy insurance on the exchange—approximately 195,000 with a subsidy—won't have any plans to buy next year," Alexander said in a statement. Corker said that at "some point" Congress and the Administration must resolve the issues that are causing ACA exchanges to "spiral downward."

REPUBLICAN LAWMAKERS WHO BLOCKED GOP'S HEALTHCARE BILL WIN PRAISE IN DISTRICTS. The AP (3/30, Beaumont, Lovan) reports Republican lawmakers who publicly opposed the GOP's healthcare bill to replace the Affordable Care Act "have won praise from constituents for stopping what many saw as a flawed plan, either in the legislation's substance or strategy." An Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll released on March 29 revealed "that 62 percent disapprove of the way Trump is handling health care," and that same poll "found negative views of five of the six changes Republicans envisioned for the bill, including allowing insurers to charge older customers higher premiums than is now allowed, reduced funds for Medicaid and denying federal dollars to Planned Parenthood."

COMMENTARY CONSIDERS HEALTH REFORM. Numerous outlets offer opinions on health reform.

Ross Douthat writes in his column in the New York Times (3/29, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) that "maybe Obamacare is a huge lifesaver, but so far the evidence is conspicuously missing." Douthat says that many supporters of the Affordable Care Act have argued the law has saved many lives, but Douthat argues that "the link between health insurance and actual health has always been a lot murkier than most champions of universal coverage admit."

In U.S. News & World Report (3/29, 1.02M), managing editor for opinion Robert Schlesinger writes that Republicans will continue talking about repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act, but without committing to a timeline it is unlikely they will push for actual legislation to repeal and replace the law. Schlesinger argues that "Republicans recognize their

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base won't simply take their word for it that repeal is impossible, so they have to make noises about continuing to work on it."

Jennifer Fitzgerald, the CEO of PolicyGenius, writes in an opinion piece on CNBC (3/29, 2.17M) that President Trump "can take steps to weaken" the Affordable Care Act, but "he'll be unable to destroy it the way he and other Republicans would like." Fitzgerald argues that Trump could take various actions to undermine the ACA exchanges, but even if the exchanges do not perform well, other aspects of the law will remain in place.

In an opinion piece, Forbes (3/29, 15.17M) contributor Avik Roy writes in "The Apothecary" blog that Republicans could allow insurers to sell health plans across state lines via reconciliation under Senate rules. Roy argues that allowing insurers to sell health plans across states lines would be considered "incidental" to spending or taxes, so such a provision could be passed through reconciliation.

In an opinion piece, the Daily Caller (3/29, 898K) contributor David Krayden writes that Republicans should not wait for the Affordable Care Act to collapse on its own, because "nothing has ever stopped any government from maintaining an idiotic and wasteful program on bureaucratic life support indefinitely." Krayden argues that the ACA will not collapse on its own, and that "it doesn't take long for socialism to take root and begin to corrupt a free society."

Tom Perriello, a former US Representative from Virginia, writes in an opinion piece in the Los Angeles Times (3/29, 4.52M) that he lost his seat in Congress because he voted for the Affordable Care Act, but he doesn't regret voting for the law. Perriello says that since he lost his seat, "hundreds of Americans have reached out to tell me how the ACA has helped them personally."

In the Washington Post (3/29, 11.43M) "Right Turn" blog, contributor Jennifer Rubin writes that healthcare reform "is dead." Rubin argues that House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) tried to ignore "the divide between moderates and conservatives" within the Republican Party, but because that strategy failed, "there seems to be no appetite to repeat the health-care fiasco."

Harold Pollack, a professor at the University of Chicago, writes in the Washington Post (3/29, 11.43M) "PostEverything" blog that the Affordable Care Act "has quietly embedded itself within the fabric of American life" by insuring "20 million people who would otherwise have gone uncovered," which makes it "very difficult for politicians to kill." Pollack argues that the Republicans' failure to repeal the law "is an object lesson in what makes a politically resilient program."

In the Washington Post (3/29, 11.43M) "Plum Line" blog, contributor Paul Waldman writes that "Republicans in Congress may have suffered a huge defeat on ACA repeal, but they're still going to be working like busy little bees, and we can't take our eyes off them for a moment." Waldman says Republicans are now working to allow ISPs to sell their customers' information without their consent.

Rita E. Numerof, PhD, president of Numerof & Associates, and Dr. David B. Nash, the dean of the Jefferson College of Population Health, write in an opinion piece in STAT (3/29) "First Opinion" that the US needs to shift from the fee-for-service model to the population health model in order to control healthcare costs. Numerof and Nash argue that the fee-for-service model incentivizes "more tests and surgeries than may be necessary," and that the US should instead shift to a population health model, which "focuses on managing the health of a population by providing the right interventions for patients at the least costly point in the care continuum." Numerof and Nash point out that "the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is in a unique position to influence delivery organizations," because it is "the largest purchaser of healthcare in the" US.

David Bowen, PhD, the Executive Vice President and Global Practice Director for Healthcare at Hill+Knowlton Strategies, writes in an opinion piece in The Hill (3/29, 1.25M) "Congress Blog" that "there is no more appetite among the bulk of the Republican caucus to revisit repealing and replacing the ACA." Bowen argues that Congressional Republicans now must decide whether to "bind themselves to the vindictive wish for destruction expressed by President Trump" or to "ignore eruptions from the White House and get on with the unspectacular business of governing."

Jacob S. Hacker and Paul Pierson, political science professors at Yale and University of California-Berkeley, write in the Vox (3/29, 1.15M) "The Big Idea" blog that "the AHCA suggests that Republican elites remain unified (if not completely) around one goal: tax cuts for the rich." Hacker and Pierson argue that the problem for Republicans is that their shared goal "is shared by few outside their donor class."

Farzad Mostashari, the former National Coordinator for Health Information Technology at the Department of Health and Human Services, writes in an opinion piece in TIME (3/29, 6.98M) that "the true lesson of" the failure of the American Health Care Act "is that policy matters, perhaps even more than politics." Mostashari points out that Congress passed

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MACRA two years ago with widespread bipartisan support, and argues that “under the right set of circumstances, we might again see an opening for carefully crafted policy that addresses the real and serious healthcare challenges facing Americans.”

Rachel Gershon, an associate at the University of Massachusetts Medical School’s Center for Health Law and Economics, writes in STAT (3/29) “First Opinion” that the Trump Administration could change the US healthcare system by making “state by state changes” by approving waivers under federal law. Gershon argues that the Trump Administration could approve Section 1332 and Section 1115 waivers for states to “drive health policy change at the state level.”

The Washington Post (3/29, Board, 11.43M) says in an editorial that properly administering the ACA is now “the responsibility of [House Speaker] Ryan, his GOP majority and President Trump.” The Congressional Budget Office “projected that, left to operate under reasonable management, Obamacare can work pretty well, preserving the massive coverage gains of the past several years. But one wrong move, motivated by either malice or ignorance, could send the system crashing down.”

Contributor Andrew P. Napolitano writes for the Washington Times (3/29, Napolitano, 272K) that the failure of President Trump and the Republican House to pass legislation repealing the Affordable Care Act is a failure of politics and politicians’ understanding of the constitutional role of the federal government. The premise underlying the ACA is that “health care is a right belonging to everyone in America and the federal government has a constitutional duty to provide it.” Napolitano says the legislation that Republican House leaders offered last week “retained the basic premise of Obamacare” but argues that healthcare is not a right in the Constitution, but rather a purchasable good. Napolitano applauds the 30 “courageous House Republicans who recognize this.”

US Rep. Ken Buck writes for The Hill (3/29, 1.25M) in its “Congress Blog” that support of the American Health Care Act “is the principled, conservative position.” The AHCA “would force spending restraint and reform within the Medicaid system” and remove “strangling regulations of the insurance market,” but Republicans disagreed over its replacement. On replacing the ACA, Buck writes the President “has earned our support” and GOP leaders “deserve our faith.” Buck says “our entire agenda of principled conservative policy relies heavily on healthcare action.”

Ralph Nader writes for the Huffington Post (3/29, 237K) that House Speaker Paul Ryan’s and President Trump’s “cruel health insurance boondoggle” has “created a big opening to put Single Payer or full Medicare for all prominently front and center.” Nader writes that Canada’s Single Payer system “comes in at half the cost per capita [$4,500], compared to what the US spends now.” Seventy-three members of the House have co-signed HR 676, “which is similar to the Canadian system” and has “no copays, nasty deductibles or massive inscrutable computerized billing fraud, while giving people free choice and far lower administrative costs.”

Contributor Wayne Duggan writes for U.S. News & World Report (3/28, 1.02M) that the GOP’s failure to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act has hurt hospital stocks. Stocks for Universal Health Services and HCA Holdings rose after House Republicans withdrew their healthcare reform bill, but “investor optimism seems to have faded on Tuesday, as both stocks are have already given back significant portions of those gains.” Hospitals now face a “difficult long-term climate” of rising interest rates, growing deductibles and higher copays. Height Securities analyst Andrew Parmentier believes Republicans could attempt to include a “skinny” version of their ACA repeal plan in their tax reform bill that could “repeal of all or some of the ACA’s taxes and repeal the individual mandate, replacing it with the surcharge penalty introduced in the AHCA or some other softer penalty intended to compel younger, healthier people to participate.”

The Tulsa (OK) World (3/29, 348K) editorializes that while the Affordable Care Act “isn’t good enough,” Republicans can’t fix it on their own. Tulsa World urges the GOP to drop the rhetoric of “repeal and replace,” and start talking about “reform and repair” because the “real hero ... will be the one who shows the way to compromise and get solutions.”

Mark Meckler, president of Citizens for Self-Governance, writes for The Hill (3/29, 1.25M) in its “Pundits Blog” that House Speaker Paul Ryan’s “stature managed to shrink” in Congress and among conservatives with last week’s healthcare “surrender.” Meckler writes that “this is the era of the outsider,” but Ryan is “the quintessential ‘insider’” who is “widely angering the base, and putting his Speakership in jeopardy.” Meckler lauds a two-page bill by Rep. Mo Brooks repealing Obamacare in one sentence, adding that “this one sentence is more powerful than anything Speaker Ryan has managed to offer in his entire career.”

Conor Sen writes for Bloomberg View (3/29, 125K) that “fake news suffered a very real loss” with the GOP’s failed attempt to enact the American Health Care Act. Fake news “distracts from the administration’s substantive failures,” but it “doesn’t get any work done.” Since the first introduction of the text of AHCA, “the debate over it was strikingly traditional,” and a score from the Congressional Budget Office and estimate it would cost 24 million people their insurance “carried more and

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more weight." Sen writes that "key constituencies figured out the impact that the bill would have on their members," and that "when lawmakers try to take away their health insurance, voters notice."

Adam Davidson writes for the New Yorker (3/29, 3.47M) that if President Trump does nothing but follow the law, Obamacare should remain much as it is now: "in heavily populated areas, there will be several insurance plans; in rural counties, people will have fewer options; in some sparsely populated counties, citizens will have none at all." If Trump wants Obamacare to fail, "he needs to take action to destroy it," including abandoning cost-sharing reductions that could impact 7 million Americans. Trump could also issue waivers to states that want to depart from the plan's requirements and allow states to offer less generous plans. "If Trump decides to hasten the demise of Obamacare, the damage will be felt most acutely in the rural counties in red states," while "the very existence of thriving insurance in Democratic-dominated states will make that argument hard to support."

An op-ed in the Philadelphia Inquirer (3/30, 586K) by Bradely Harris, a master's of public policy candidate at Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy, argues that the "controversial" House Freedom Caucus' "thwarting of President Trump's to repeal the Affordable Care Act was not [its] first taste of success: It has been hijacking the GOP's plans in Congress for years." Harris writes that growing "drama between the intractable caucus and the reckless president promises spectacles surpassing any episode of Celebrity Apprentice." Harris refutes claims that the caucus is "politically unsophisticated," saying that it "repeatedly humiliated Boehner before overthrowing him in a stunningly successful legislative gambit." He also notes that the group's uniqueness comes from "its members' willingness to risk their offices, political relationships, and even the basic functioning of the federal government to stay true to their values."

Healthcare Fraud:

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT JOINING LAWSUIT AGAINST UNITEDHEALTH GROUP FOR IMPROPER PAYMENTS. The Minneapolis-St. Paul (MN) Business Journal (3/29, Rehkamp, Subscription Publication, 76K) reports the federal government has joined a second lawsuit against UnitedHealth Group claiming the insurance company "received billions of dollars in government overpayments related to 'risk adjustments'" Federal prosecutors are looking to consolidate to two lawsuits.

LEADER OF METRO NEW ORLEANS FRAUD CASE GETS 15-YEAR SENTENCE. The Baton Rouge (LA) Advocate (3/28, Simerman, 75K) reports that the leader of Medicare fraud scheme in New Orleans was sentenced to jail for 15 years. The case netted federal prosecutors 13 convictions or plea deals. The last person to be sentenced will be in court in late June.

Healthcare News:

PHARMA GROUP'S REPORT SAYS INSURERS, PBMS DON'T PASS DISCOUNTS ON TO PATIENTS. STAT (3/29, Scott) reports that an analysis from the pharma trade group PhRMA places the blame for higher drug prices on health insurers and pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) for not passing along the benefits of price negotiations. Even though the insurers and PBMs "negotiate with drug makers to lower the cost of drugs for themselves," the patient's obligations "are sometimes based on the original undiscounted list price," according to the study. STAT adds that the undiscounted prices therefore affect patients' deductibles and coinsurance, which the report said "effectively shifts more of the cost of care to the patients."

ABORTED FETUS DISPOSAL BILL SHOULD PASS TEXAS SENATE. The Houston Chronicle (3/29, Ward, 1.91M) says that although there were not enough votes for final approval, a bill requiring "medical centers to bury or [cremate] the remains of aborted fetuses" should easily pass on a follow-up vote after it received in initial approval Wednesday.

CALIFORNIA FILES FELONY CHARGES AGAINST ANTI-ABORTION ACTIVISTS IN PLANNED PARENTHOOD VIDEO CASE. The New York Times (3/29, Pérez-Peña, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports California Attorney General Xavier Becerra "charged David R. Daleiden, 28, and Sandra S. Merritt, 63, with 14 counts of illegal recording, and one count of conspiracy" for secretly recording videos of abortion providers and thereby violating the state's privacy laws. In 2015, Daleiden and Merritt released videos claiming to show Planned Parenthood and others were selling fetal tissue for profit, but investigations could not find evidence to support the claim. The charges against the defendants are not considered crimes in most states and this case "may turn on whether the conversations" were confidential.

AFTER YEARS OF DISPUTES, TELEMEDICINE BILL PASSES TEXAS SENATE UNANIMOUSLY. The Houston Chronicle (3/29, Ward, 1.91M) reports the Texas Senate voted unanimously to legalize telemedicine, specifically by allowing doctors to consult with patients electronically. The bill comes after years of negotiations and disputes between doctors, providers, and insurance groups over the use of telemedicine in the state, but bill author Sen. Charles

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Schwertner said this approved legislation "would allow us to use new, novel and innovative technology," calling it "cutting edge."

KANSAS HOUSE ADVANCES BILL REQUIRING ABORTION PROVIDERS GIVE WOMEN THEIR MEDICAL CREDENTIALS. The AP (3/29, Kite) reports the Kansas House voted 85-38 on Wednesday to advance a bill which would require abortion providers to supply women seeking abortions with typed and printed documents specifying their medical credentials and practice history at least 24 hours before the procedure. Kathy Ostrowski, legislative director for Kansans for Life, "said women seeking abortions should be able to find out information, like whether the doctor has privileges at a hospital in the event that the woman experiences a complication with the abortion." Planned Parenthood lobbyist Elise Higgins called the bill "insulting and unnecessary," and "said the bill implies that women can't make their own decisions."

SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE PASSES BAN ON "DISMEMBERMENT" ABORTIONS. The Charleston (SC) Post and Courier (3/29, Brown, 300K) reports the South Carolina House of Representatives passed a bill on Wednesday to "effectively ban 'dismemberment' abortions." The bill would leave physicians who conduct the medically-termed "dilation and evacuation" abortions subject to fines and incarceration of up to two years. The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has said this method is the safest procedure for women beyond the 13th week of pregnancy. Rep. Lin Bennett (R-Charleston), a sponsor of the bill, said the bill will not fully ban the procedure because "abortion is the law of the land." Vicki Ringer, public affairs director for Planned Parenthood, said the bill would reduce women's access to abortion services.

ABORTION OPPONENTS HOPEFUL DESPITE AHCA SETBACK. The AP (3/29, Crary) reports abortion opponents are still hopeful Congress will cut federal funding to Planned Parenthood despite the disappointment of the failed healthcare overhaul, but there are two approaches they advocate. Americans United for Life's Kristi Hamrick said defunding the nonprofit is a complicated task, so she urges lawmakers to target its multiple funding streams "one at a time." Meanwhile, conservative activist Frank Cannon wrote in a commentary this week that it would be "an absolute disaster" if the GOP-sponsored government spending bill, which has an April deadline, did not result in the defunding of Planned Parenthood. Former Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave said she is confident President Trump would sign any anti-abortion bills that cross his desk.

Human Services News:

IN THE WAKE OF AHCA DEFEAT, TRUMP ADVISER WANTS ADMINISTRATION TO CHILD-CARE INITIATIVE. The Washington Post (3/29, Paquette, 11.43M) reports that Steven Moore of the Heritage Foundation, an economic adviser to President Trump, wants "the administration to delay efforts to make child care more affordable." Moore "said the White House can nab an early win with tax reform – by perhaps opting for a politically safer package." Moore stated, "Trump needs a victory. Individual tax reform is really hard to do. It's politically risky, even though it's the right thing to do." He argued that Trump should "focus instead on corporate tax reform this year...and tackle the individual system in 2018. Such an approach could more quickly slash business expenses nationwide, but working parents would have to wait longer for tax-deductible day care."

WISCONSIN HEALTH OFFICIAL STATES NOBODY LOST FOOD STAMP BENEFITS, THEY MADE A CHOICE. The AP (3/29, Bauer) reports Wisconsin Department of Health Services Secretary Linda Seemeyer "told lawmakers Wednesday that 64,000 adults who lost food stamp benefits because they didn't meet a work requirement made a deliberate choice," and added "I don't think we kicked anybody off." Since April 2015, the state's food stamp program has required "childless adults to work at least 80 hours a month or lose benefits."

GEORGIA SENATE TO VOTE ON ADOPTION LAW CHANGES ON THURSDAY. The AP (3/29, Foody) reports "changes to Georgia adoption law that proponents call long overdue await a final vote entering the General Assembly's final day on Thursday." However, it comes with a "religious freedom" amendment allowing private adoption agencies to refuse referrals from state agencies even if they are receiving state funding. Gov. Nathan Deal asked for removal of the amendment when it was inserted two weeks ago, but the House on Tuesday night passed the bill with the amendment and is set for a vote before the State Senate on Thursday.

EDITORIAL: MEALS ON WHEELS CUTS WOULD JEOPARDIZE DALLAS COMMUNITIES. An editorial in the Dallas Morning News (3/29, 1.12M) responds to White House budget director Mick Mulvaney's comments on plans to cut Meals on Wheels services as part of what he called "programs that don't work." The proposed federal budget would cut spending on Community Block Grant programs, which the Morning News says would jeopardize access to food for "more than 1,400 high-need seniors in Collin County." The piece also says the proposed 17.9 percent cut to the Department of Health and Human Services budget "would put deliveries at risk to 2,400 homebound elderly and disabled in Dallas."

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Medicaid & CHIP:

WITH ACA STILL IN EFFECT, STATES RENEW MEDICAID EXPANSION EFFORTS EVEN AS HOUSE GOP REMAIN COMMITTED TO REFORM. The Atlantic (3/29, Berman, 21.27M) reports that several states that had "opted out of Obamacare's Medicaid expansion are now reconsidering their decision as a result of last year's elections and as Republicans come under new pressure to accept the billions in federal dollars available under the law," with Kansas being the "most aggressive." Largely to block Kansas' push, "conservatives in the U.S. House demanded that GOP leaders add a provision to the repeal bill that would block new states from expanding Medicaid." But with the failure of AHCA, there are no legislative hurdles, although Kansas Gov. Brownback will likely veto the bill. Success of the expansion in GOP-governed states of Ohio and Michigan have influenced "the debate in states that did not initially expand Medicaid." Georgia, Virginia, North Carolina, Maine and Utah are all considering expansion.

The Daily Caller (3/29, Donachie, 898K) says some of those states are considering expanding Medicaid "as a safety precaution if Republicans remain unable to push a viable repeal platform." House Speaker Paul Ryan and House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy both have said that the party is still going to repeal and replace Obamacare, though neither has committed to a timeline. HHS Secretary Tom Price will appear before a House subcommittee to discuss the Trump Administration's next plans on healthcarKansas

Rep. Marshall: Medicaid Expansion Is Not Right For Kansas. STAT (3/29, Facher) says Kansas Congressman Roger Marshall, an obstetrician, says that he wants Medicaid money to go to the disabled, elderly and children, and that he "opposed cuts to Medicare under the ACA, which he has said cost hospitals in non-Medicaid expansion states much of their Medicare revenue but provided no opportunity to make up the difference through increased reimbursements from Medicaid expansion." Marshall said he will not push Gov. Brownback on whether to sign or veto the Kansas bill approving Medicaid expansion.

TEXAS HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE PROPOSES BILL WITH LARGE HEALTHCARE CUTS, SAYS WON'T COMPROMISE ACCESS TO PATIENTS. The Texas Tribune (3/29, Walters, 12K) reports the Texas House Budget Committee has proposed a cut of "$1 billion in state funding for Medicaid.... In doing so, they agreed to forfeit another $1.4 billion in federal funding, though they promised the move would not harm patients' ability to receive health care." The article says the proposal does mean there may be a reduction in the number of doctors and healthcare providers getting paid by the program or that it may restrict patients' eligibility for certain healthcare services.

IOWA'S MEDICAID MANAGEMENT COMPANIES IN RED, STATE TO PROVIDE $10 MILLION TO COVER LOSSES AND FED TO PROVIDE $225 MILLION. The Des Moines (IA) Register (3/29, Leys, 377K) Leys reports that in the past year, Iowa's medicaid program has been run by for-profit companies who have reported losses. In order to help cover these losses, and thereby not lose services, Iowa will provide them with $10 million in assistance which the federal government would provide up to $225 million, most of which would come from ACA. The losses came in spite of cuts in services made after Medicaid was privatized.

CHRISTIE'S EXPANSION OF MEDICAID MADE NEW JERSEYANS AND THEIR CONGRESSMEN RELY ON ACA. Politico (3/29, Jennings, 2.46M) reports Gov. Christie's expansion of Medicaid under ACA compelled four of five Republican New Jersey representatives to vote against AHCA since their constituents now relied on it. Politico says Republican Representatives Chris Smith, Leonard Lance, Frank LoBiondo and Rodney Frelinghuysen all voted against the reform bill because so many people in New Jersey are Medicaid-dependent. Had AHCA passed, more than 150,000 people in the representatives' districts could have lost coverage, according to the Center for American Progress.

MEDICAID OVERHAUL COULD STILL OCCUR EVEN AFTER AHCA PULLED. Bloomberg BNA (3/29, Pelham, 7K) reports Indian Plan 2.0 may become the blueprint for many states moving forward to expand Medicaid coverage but with waivers. Seema Verma as CMS administrator and Brian Neale, likely to be next in line to heading up Medicaid and CHIP, will likely grant waivers to state Medicaid programs on cost sharing and work requirements as they did Indiana. The article also reports that the Governors of Ohio, Michigan, Nevada, and Arkansas wrote in a letter on March 16 to Sen. Mitch McConnell and Speaker Paul Ryan that although they believe Medicaid needs to be reworked, AHCA would be harmful as it provides "no new flexibility for states...and shifts significant new costs to states."

ARKANSAS HYBRID MEDICAID EXPANSION FALLS SHORT, STANDS FOR NEW VOTE ON THURSDAY. The AP (3/29, Demillo) reports a vote on Wednesday "to keep Arkansas' hybrid Medicaid expansion for another year fell short" by two votes in the state House. The article says some lawmakers were "concerned about the cost of Medicaid…It's just a little caution by the membership," Republican Rep. Lane Jean said after the vote. Arkansas News (3/29, Lyon, 1K) says that many members of the House were not present during the vote, including some who would have supported the measure. The Senate passed the bill 27-1 on Tuesday.

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MISSOURI HOUSE REAFFIRMS OPPOSITION TO MEDICAID EXPANSION. The AP (3/29) reports Missouri House Republicans voted 102-41 against a proposal to broaden Medicaid eligibility under the ACA. Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens (R) "still opposes the law and wants an overhaul by Congress."

IT MAY TAKE DECADES TO TURN BASIC RESEARCH INTO COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS, RESEARCH SUGGESTS. The Boston Business Journal (3/29, Bartlett, Subscription Publication, 90K) reports researchers at Bentley University concluded "that it takes over a decade and upward of 40 years for the discoveries coming from basic research to fuel commercial drugs and technologies," according to a study published online in PLOS One. The study's authors warned that their research suggests proposed budget cuts to the NIH could have ramifications for decades to come.

SCOPUS DATABASE REMOVES SEVERAL OF OMICS' OPEN-ACCESS JOURNALS. The Scientist (3/29, Grant, 151K) reports Elsevier's SCOPUS publication database has "removed several of OMICS' open-access journals" because of "publication concerns." The article reports that "OMICS has fielded complaints from research circles and federal science agencies alike for years." The article mentions that "in 2013, the US Department of Health and Human Services told the publisher to stop using mentions of the National Institutes of Health, its employees, or PubMed Central in misleading manners in the pages of its journals."

Health & Medical News:

HEROIN USE INCREASED FIVE-FOLD OVER PAST DECADE, RESEARCHERS SAY. Reuters (3/29, Reaney) reports that "heroin use in the United States has risen five-fold" over the past 10 years, while heroin addiction "has more than tripled, with the biggest jumps among whites and men with low incomes and little education," researchers say. They found "no differences in heroin use or addiction among the major regions of the country." Their findings were published online in JAMA Psychiatry.

CNN (3/29, Kounang, 29.79M) reports that "more people die from drug overdoses than from guns or car accidents." Now, more people die of drug overdoses than died from AIDS during the "peak" of the epidemic in 1995.

TIME (3/29, Sifferlin, 6.98M) reports that heroin use increased among white Americans "increased from 0.34% in the earlier years to 1.90% in the later years," compared to "0.32% in 2001-2002 and 1.05% in 2012-2013" among non-whites.

Also covering the story are the NBC News (3/29, Fox, 2.67M) website and The Guardian (UK) (3/29, Davis, 4.07M).

TWO DOZEN HOUSE, SENATE LAWMAKERS INTRODUCE BILLS TO ADDRESS DRUG PRICES. STAT (3/29, Silverman) reports that some two dozen House and Senate lawmakers – all Democrats except for Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) – "introduced identical bills" on Wednesday that use multiple ways to address "the rising cost of medicines, from allowing Medicare to negotiate prices to removing tax breaks that drug makers receive for advertising expenses." STAT says the reaction from House and Senate Republicans "are loath to adopt some of the ideas," but "lawmakers appear to be betting that [President] Trump may embrace some of the proposals." STAT links to the legislation.

HOUSE BILL WOULD ALLOW MORE COMMUNICATION ABOUT OFF-LABEL USE. Regulatory Focus (3/29, Brennan) reports that Rep. Morgan Griffith (R-VA) introduced a bill in the House allowing "the scientific exchange of information about a drug," which would give pharma companies more latitude to conduct off-label communications with physicians. Griffith's bill says the "scientific exchange" can include "scientific findings in scientific or lay media; published scientific studies; letters to the editor; communications at scientific meetings or conferences; medical or scientific publications, reference texts or clinical practice guidelines; communication on a manufacturer or sponsor's ongoing research and development; and other health economic or outcomes information." The communications would have to include "a conspicuous and prominent statement" that a drug is not approved for a particular use and therefore isn't approved for marketing for that use.

GUM DISEASE MAY BE ASSOCIATED WITH EARLIER DEATH IN OLDER WOMEN, STUDY SUGGESTS. CNN (3/29, Scutti, 29.79M) reports that research published in the Journal of the American Heart Association suggests "gum disease and tooth loss are connected to a higher risk of early death in women past the age of menopause."

HealthDay (3/29, Preidt, 21K) reports that investigators "tracked data on more than 57,000 women aged 55 and older." The researchers found that "a history of gum disease was associated with a 12 percent higher risk of death from any cause."

NEW DRUG TO TREAT MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS APPROVED FOR US MARKETS. The New York Times (3/28, Thomas, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that the FDA approved the first drug to "treat a severe form of multiple sclerosis" after successful clinical trails appeared to stop the progression of the disease "with few side effects." Dr. Fred D.

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Lublin of the Corinne Goldsmith Dickinson Center for Multiple Sclerosis at Mount Sinai Hospital said that this new treatment option "opens doors for us" and is an "encouraging result." The drug, to be sold under the name Ocrevus, will be distributed by the Swiss pharmaceutical company Roche, and will cost $65,000 per year on the American market, a "25 percent decrease" in cost from the existing drug used to treat M.S., the company said. On NBC Nightly News (3/29, story 6, 2:10, Holt, 16.61M), Rehema Ellis reported that "patients with the kind of M.S. that relapses" saw the number of episodes they face cut in half and the progression of the disease stop completely. According to Dr. Stephen Hauser of the UCSF Weill Institute For Neurosciences, the new drug is "indeed a game changer for people with M.S." Similarly, ABC World News Tonight (3/29, story 11, 0:25, Muir, 14.63M) reported that the FDA is "clearing the drug to treat people with a more common form of the disease."

PRICING FOR NEWLY APPROVED DUPIXENT, OCREVUS MAY INDICATE MODERATION IN DRUG PRICING. The Wall Street Journal (3/29, Grant, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports the recent FDA approvals of Dupixent and Ocrevus may indicate that the high-pricing trend for breakthrough drugs is moderating. Both have relatively high price tags, but when considered alongside similar treatments and the context of the pharmaceutical market as a whole, the drugs offer reasonably moderate pricing in comparison.

FDA HAS NO OBJECTION TO EGALET DISTRIBUTING MATERIALS TO DOCTORS REGARDING ARYMO ER AS ABUSE-DETERRENT. The Philadelphia Inquirer (3/29, Loyd, 586K) reports Egalet Corp. announced March 29 that the Food and Drug Administration has no objection to Egalet distributing materials to doctors highlighting the abuse-deterrent properties of Arymo ER. The FDA in January approved Egalet's claim that the drug "deters abuse by people seeking to dissolve and inject it" but not that it "deters abuse by those trying to snort" or chew it.

STAT: DUPIXENT'S SUCCESS OR FAILURE COULD SIGNAL "NEW NORMAL" FOR BIOTECH. STAT (3/29, Garde) reports that with Dupixent's approval March 28, the pharmaceutical industry "may soon find out whether" the recent failures of several would-be blockbuster drugs "were aberrant blips or a frightening glimpse of the new normal." The article notes that "an increasingly powerful and pugilistic class of payers and middlemen has mobilized against biotech and its high-priced therapies, demanding rebates, rejecting prescriptions, and forcing the industry to recalibrate its expectations." The article speculates that Dupixent's $37,000-a-year list price could "derail" its possibilities for success.

OHIO BILL WOULD REQUIRE DOCTORS TO FOLLOW CDC GUIDELINES FOR OPIOID PRESCRIPTIONS. The Columbus (OH) Dispatch (3/29, Siegel, 529K) reports the new legislation introduced in the Ohio House and Senate would require state doctors "to follow federal Centers for Disease Control guidelines" for opioid prescriptions, thereby "limit[ing] acute pain prescriptions to three days, or up to seven days if the doctor goes through training in alternatives and offers treatment options."

INCREASE IN PREMATURE DEATHS AMONG 25- TO 44-YEAR-OLDS DRIVEN BY DRUG OVERDOSES, REPORT FINDS. In an updated version of its article from March 28, USA Today (3/29, O'Donnell, 5.28M) reports "premature deaths among those aged 25-44 were way up in 2015," driven primarily by "a surge of drug overdoses in suburban areas," a report by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation revealed Wednesday. The report found that "85% of the increase in premature deaths was attributed to a rapid increase in deaths among people aged 15 to 44," and while "many issues contributed to the increase...the drug overdose epidemic is a 'clear driver of this trend' among those 25- to 44-year-old." The report also found "a rural and urban divide, along with racial differences."

Bloomberg News (3/29, Coy, 2.41M) also reports.

LANE: WHO SHOULD BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR OPIOID EPIDEMIC? In the Washington Post (3/29, 11.43M), columnist Charles Lane writes, "Prescription opioid overdose deaths were rare before the 1990s, suggesting the" national epidemic "could have been avoided, and that one or more persons or institutions can and should be held accountable." Lane admits he doesn't know "who, exactly," is responsible for the epidemic, but says he wants to hear Dr. Richard Sackler's opinion. Lane notes, "Sackler is the scion of one of the wealthiest families in the world," and "the source of the Sacklers' fortune is...Purdue Pharma, maker of OxyContin, a potentially addictive painkiller that...came on the market in 1995 — an event many consider the trigger of the opioid epidemic." Lane also points out that "no investigation of the crisis would be complete without examining the role of all the gatekeepers — the Food and Drug Administration, the Drug Enforcement Administration, state regulators and prescribing physicians — that were supposed to protect the public."

RIGHT-TO-TRY BILL PASSES MARYLAND SENATE. The Baltimore Sun (3/30, Yeager, 714K) reports a right-to-try bill passed on a unanimous vote in the Maryland Senate March 29, just "a week and a half after a similar measure sailed through the House of Delegates." The two bills' sponsors are now working to modify the House measure "so that it's identical to the Senate version. If lawmakers can reconcile differences between the two measures, a bill could soon be sent to Gov. Larry Hogan's desk."

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REASON FOUNDATION ASSOCIATE: US FALLING BEHIND IN MAXIMIZING ACCESS TO TOBACCO ALTERNATIVES. Guy Bentley, a Reason Foundation research associate and contributor to the Washington Examiner's (3/29, 400K) Beltway Confidential blog, writes that the U.S. is failing to ensure the "maximum possible access to new devices and products" that reduce the harms of smoking. As an example, he notes that PMI and BAT are "struggling to keep up with demand" for their heat-not-burn products in Japan, adding that "this is good news for public health and consumer choice, with smoking rates declining and millions of people reducing their risk of an early death." Instead, the U.S. "e-cigarette business faces obliteration and tobacco companies hoping to introduce newer and safer products onto the market face enormous regulatory hurdles."

New York Health Department Undercuts Its Own Case For E-Liquid Tax. Brian Fojtik, a Senior Fellow at the Reason Foundation, writes for the New York Post (3/29, 3.82M) that the survey data that New York's Department of Health is using to support a $12 tax on 30ml e-liquid bottles "undercut" the government's case by demonstrating that "e-cigarettes and other vapor products might actually prove to be the best way to reduce youth smoking." He writes, "To put it simply, allowing smokers or potential smokers the opportunity freely to choose safer alternatives has done proportionately more to reduce teen smoking in a short period than a 50-year, expensive, taxpayer-funded, all-out government assault on the problem." He adds, "While UK authorities focus on fighting smoking, which kills people, their US counterparts focus on fighting nicotine, which doesn't."

ARIZONA PASSES LAW ALLOWING OFF-LABEL MARKETING OF MEDICINES. STAT (3/29, Silverman) reports that Arizona has passed a law that allows pharma companies to promote drugs for off-label uses if "the information given doctors is truthful." Arizona is the first state to do so, STAT says, adding that "the law was hatched by the Goldwater Institute," and it "is vowing to duplicate that campaign by introducing off-label bills around the country." STAT also backgrounds the issue of off-label promotion, which has been the subject of First Amendment lawsuits that have favored the companies and left the FDA without definitive new regulations on the issue.

SCHOOLS ACROSS US STOCKING NALOXONE. The New York Times (3/29, Harris, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports schools across the country now stock naloxone. The article reports that New York "has a program that provides it free to schools, with 64 districts participating so far." Through the program, schools in the state can "receive two doses of generic intranasal naloxone in a little nylon bag."

FDA DECLINES TO APPROVE GENERIC VERSION OF POPULAR LUNG DRUG. Reuters (3/29, Grover) reports that the Food and Drug Administration declined to approve Mylan NV's generic version of GlaxoSmithKline Plc's Advair (fluticasone propionate). Another generic version of the drug, made by Hikma Pharmaceuticals, "is awaiting an FDA decision by May 10."

Fierce Pharma (3/29, Helfand, 3K) reports that Mylan "didn't say why the product got a complete response letter (CRL)," nor did it indicate "whether it's a short-term delay fixable with current data and information or a longer-term problem."

LUNG CANCER TREATMENT EXAMINED. US News & World Report (3/29, 1.02M) has a 1,700-word feature on the treatment of lung cancer, writing that "early detection and improved treatment options are helping some lung cancer patients live longer." Leena Gandhi, director of thoracic medical oncology at the Perlmutter Cancer Center at NYU Langone Medical Center, said, "Treatment has changed dramatically, especially in the last 10 to 15 years." Radiation therapy advances "are making a difference," and oncologists "are also getting better at analyzing the genetic makeup of cancers."

RESEARCH FINDS THAT CONTRA DANCING MAY AID FORNIX. The Denver Post (3/29, Whaley, 778K) reports that a Colorado State University research team "found that dance training in contra or English country dancing – think square dancing, but in lines – seems to have a positive effect on the fornix, a white-matter tract in the middle of the brain that is basically the brain's wiring." A team led by Aga Burzynska said "found that integrity of the fornix increased in the dance group, while integrity declined in half of the other participants involved in other activities." However, "it's not just any dance that will save brains. Researchers said contra dancing is best because it 'minimizes lead-follow roles. Instead these social dances required participants to move between partners during each dance.'"

HPV VACCINE MAY NOT BE DANGEROUS WHEN INADVERTENTLY GIVEN EARLY IN PREGNANCY, STUDY SUGGESTS. Reuters (3/29, Emery) reports that research published online in the New England Journal of Medicine suggests human papillomavirus vaccine "is not dangerous...when it is inadvertently given during early pregnancy." Investigators found that "among 1,665 women exposed to the...vaccine while pregnant, there was no increased risk of having a child with a major birth defect compared to 6,660 women not exposed during pregnancy." The investigators also did not see an "elevated risk for spontaneous abortion, preterm birth, low birthweight, stillbirth or having a child who is small for gestational age."

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CONTRALATERAL PROPHYLACTIC MASTECTOMIES INCREASING, RESEARCH INDICATES. The New York Times (3/29, Rabin, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) "Well" blog reports that research published in JAMA Surgery indicates "one in three breast cancer patients under 45 removed the healthy breast along with the breast affected by cancer in 2012." This is "a sharp increase from the one in 10 younger women with breast cancer who had double mastectomies eight years earlier." While "the rate of double mastectomies was highest among women under 45," the data indicated that the rate also increased among older women.

On its website, NBC News (3/29, Fox, 2.67M) reports that the study also found that where patients "live has a strong effect on" the decision, with the data indicating "young women in five states – Nebraska, Missouri, Colorado, Iowa, and South Dakota – were much more likely than other women to have preventive mastectomies." Also covering the story are the Philadelphia Inquirer (3/29, McCullough, 586K) and HealthDay (3/29, Doheny, 21K).

MICHIGAN CONFIRMS FIRST CASE OF MEASLES THIS YEAR IN THE STATE. MLive (MI) (3/29, 878K) reports Michigan health officials have confirmed the state's first case of measles this year. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services said the patient has been hospitalized and is recovering. The incident is "related to exposure during international travel and underscores the importance of following all vaccine recommendations." The World Health Organization has classified measles as a "highly contagious, serious disease caused by a virus" that is one of the leading causes of death among children. MDHHS has advised vaccination as the most effective means of prevention.

The AP (3/29) reports the state of Michigan confirmed one case of measles in 2016 and five cases in 2014.

OKLAHOMA SYPHILIS OUTBREAKS LINKED TO DRUG USE. The Oklahoman (3/29, Cosgrove, 380K) reports Oklahoma state officials confirmed on Friday that Oklahoma County is facing a syphilis outbreak. Nearly 80 residents have been infected in an outbreak that Kristen Eberly, Oklahoma Health Department HIV and STD services head, said is "the largest that I've seen" in her 13 years of service at the department. Eberly said the same population that is most prone to opioid use and overdoses now has "syphilis to worry about, as well."

MUMPS OUTBREAKS CAUSE CONCERN OVER VACCINATION EFFECTIVENESS. STAT (3/29, Branswell) reports on efforts to increase the effectiveness of the mumps vaccine after last year saw "the second-highest annual case count of mumps in more than a quarter-century." STAT points to vaccination efforts in northwest Arkansas, where initiatives have slowly decreased the spread, though concerns remain over the lasting impact. Some health officials worry that the resurgence of the mumps "could undermine the public's faith in immunizations, critical public health tools that are already under attack from people who believe vaccines are more dangerous than the diseases against which they protect." The piece says the CDC has recently established a mumps panel "to look for answers as to why mumps cases have been on the rise, and what can be done to reverse the trend."

NEW YORK CITY BEGINS BANNING MOHELS WITH HERPES FROM PERFORMING CIRCUMCISION PRACTICE. Newsday (NY) (3/29, Chayes, 1.3M) reports the New York City health department recently began prohibiting "mohels who test positive for herpes and who may have passed the virus to an infant from sucking the blood from a circumcision wound in a controversial procedure practiced by some ultra-Orthodox Jews." The ban comes after six cases of neonatal herpes possibly linked to the practice were detected in the city. Mayor Bill de Blasio said the names of mohels who have herpes will not be publicized, and parents looking to circumcise their infant boys should still ask if a mohel has herpes before completing the practice. While Orthodox Jewish organizations like Agudath Israel of America "have disputed that the practice causes herpes transmission," city health commissioner Dr. Mary Bassett told Newsday that evidence linking the practice to herpes transmission is "incontrovertible."

EVERETT, WASHINGTON SUES PHARMACEUTICAL MAKER OVER OPIOID ANALGESIC DISTRIBUTION. The CBS Evening News (3/29, story 7, 2:25, Pelley, 11.17M) reported that Everett, WA, has filed a lawsuit against pharmaceutical maker Purdue Pharma, claiming that the city's "heroin crisis is fueled by the aggressive distribution and abundant supply of" opioid analgesics. CBS New correspondent Kenneth Craig explained that "the lawsuit claims Purdue knowingly, recklessly, and/or negligently supplied Oxycontin [oxycodone] to suspicious physicians and pharmacies." The suit also "alleges Purdue monitored the illegal trafficking of its" medicines, "knew high volumes were being distributed, and didn't share the information with law enforcement."

CNN EXAMINES MEDICAL USES OF UMBILICAL CORD BLOOD. On its website, CNN (3/29, Mosaic, 29.79M) reports on the medical uses of umbilical cord blood transplants, which can be used to treat cancer in place of a bone marrow transplant. "Like bone marrow, cord blood is unusually rich in hematopoietic stem cells" and progenitor cells, but "unlike bone marrow, cord blood can be collected in advance and stored for decades in liquid nitrogen." However, cord blood is saved in only five percent of US births, "despite dozens of studies documenting its curative powers." There is also some contention among researchers over "how to keep patients alive" after cord blood transplants "until their new bone marrow cells could kick in." Some scientists have suggested doubling the transplant volume, while others contend that "improved

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patient survival" seems "to depend more upon a revised roster of drugs given pre-transplant." The article also notes that the use of cord blood to treat acute radiation syndrome is of interest to the HHS' Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority.

GENETICS TESTING LAB OFFERS TOOL TO DETERMINE CAUSES OF PREGNANCY LOSS. The Wausau (WI) Daily Herald (3/29, Uhlig, 67K) reports researchers at PreventionGenetics, a genetics testing lab, are searching for "a new, better way to determine the causes of pregnancy loss." In December, the lab unveiled "a first-of-its-kind process of determining why unborn or just-born infants have died, called the Comprehensive Miscarriage, Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Panel." Their testing panel "uses genetic expertise and sophisticated technology developed over the past decade or so to identify DNA deficiencies in the child that cause pregnancy loss." The article notes that the PreventionGenetics panel "is based at its very core on the work of the Human Genome Project. Begun in the 1990, the international scientific effort completed in 2003 the vast and intricate blueprint that provides the instructions for the development of a human being, according to the National Human Genome Research Institute."

Global Health:

EMA EXPEDITED DRUG APPROVAL PLAN WORRIES SOME NATIONAL AGENCIES. Reuters (3/29, Burger) reports the European Medicines Agency's push to expedite the approval of new drugs is facing resistance from some national agencies. In particular, Germany's IQWiG and France's Haute Autorite de Sante have both expressed concern that speeding up the approval process could "expose patients to greater risks."

QUEBEC TO TAKE ACTION ON DRUG PRICES UNLESS INDUSTRY PRESENTS A SUITABLE PLAN. Bloomberg News (3/29, Rastello, 2.41M) reports that Quebec "plans to move soon to enforce a new law letting the Canadian province seek lower drug prices through a bidding process, unless pharmaceutical companies make a convincing case for other options to reduce the cost of medicine." Health Minister Gaetan Barrette said, "Be it with a proposal from the industry, or with the enforcement of our own law on tendering, a significant move will be made by the end of the parliamentary session," which is in mid-June.

FINAL LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL GIVEN FOR MEDICINAL USE OF CANNABIS OIL IN ARGENTINA. The AP (3/29) reports "Argentina's Senate has given final legislative approval to a bill legalizing the use of cannabis oil and other marijuana derivatives for medicinal purposes." The legislators also approved a medical marijuana research program guaranteeing "free access" of cannabis oil and derivatives to anyone who joins the program.

AMANCIO ORTEGA WILL GIVE $344 MILLION FOR BREAST CANCER TECHNOLOGY IN SPAIN. Reuters (3/29) reports Amancio Ortega announced on Wednesday that his foundation will spend 320 million euros (USD $344 million) to provide hospitals in Spain with new breast cancer-screening technology. Reuters says the donation will be the Amancio Ortega Foundation's "biggest outlay to date."

NIGERIA FACES MENINGITIS OUTBREAK; 269 DEAD. Reuters (3/29) reports 269 people in Nigeria have died in recent weeks due to an outbreak of meningitis. The Nigeria Center for Disease Control said in a Twitter post that 1,828 suspected meningitis infections were reported in 15 of the nation's 36 states. The NCDC said it is working with the World Health Organization, the UN Children's Fund, and Medecins Sans Frontieres, or Doctors Without Borders, to stymie the outbreak.

National News:

BURR, WARNER MAKE "PUBLIC SHOW OF UNITY" AS SENATE RUSSIA INQUIRY BEGINS. With House Intelligence Chairman Devin Nunes' ability to lead a fair inquiry into claims of Russian ties to President Trump and interference in the 2016 election under scrutiny, the leaders of the Senate intelligence panel held a news conference Wednesday to discuss their own inquiry. Coverage focuses on the marked difference between the turmoil in the House and the amity that Senate Intelligence Chairman Richard Burr and Vice Chairman Mark Warner showed.

Scott Pelley opened the CBS Evening News (3/29, lead story, 2:20, 11.17M), "We've known for some time that the Russians meddled in the US presidential election, but today, we got a chilling account of one of the tactics used. The ranking Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee said Russia paid more than 1,000 hackers to create fake, anti-Clinton news. The top Republican and Democrat on the Senate panel spoke at a news conference today, and their unity was in sharp contrast to the feuding in the parallel investigation in the House." CBS' Jeff Pegues: "Burr said the Senate committee is reviewing thousands of documents. Both Sen. Burr and the top Democrat on the committee, Mark Warner, made a public show of unity." Warner: "An outside foreign adversary effectively sought to hijack our most critical democratic process, the election of a president. And in that process, decided to favor one candidate over another."

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Pegues: “The senators stood in stark contrast to their counter-parts in the House. The investigation there has been stalled by partisan bickering.”

NBC Nightly News (3/29, story 2, 2:35, Holt, 16.61M) reported on the “two diverging tracks in Congress, as the House Russia investigation devolves into chaos and finger-pointing and an ugly war of words that appears to have prompted a bipartisan show from the senators, running their own investigation in the upper chamber.” NBC’s Peter Alexander: “Ahead of the Senate committee’s first hearing on the Russia investigation, a bipartisan show of force.” Warner: “I have confidence in Richard Burr that we, together with the members of the committee, will get to the bottom of this.” Alexander: “That cooperation a stark contrast to the House Intelligence Committee, now paralyzed by politics.” On ABC World News Tonight (3/29, story 4, 3:30, Muir, 14.63M), Mary Bruce reported, “Even some Republicans are losing patience” with Nunes and are “looking to the Senate to lead the charge.”

The AP (3/29, Riechmann) says that Burr and Warner “made a point of putting themselves at arm’s length from the House investigation marked by partisanship and disputes.” Burr said, “We’re not asking the House to play any role in our investigation. We don’t plan to play any role in their investigation. ... Mark and I work hand in hand on this. ... We’re partners to see that this is completed and that we have a product at the end of the day that we can, in bipartisanship, support.” Bloomberg Politics (3/29, Dennis, 201K) reports that Burr and Warner “said they trust each other and pledged a fully bipartisan investigation.”

USA Today (3/29, Johnson, 5.28M) says that “while much of the spotlight has been cast on the turmoil engulfing” Nunes, the Senate committee “has been gathering information and seeking testimony from a roster of prospective witnesses.” The New York Times (3/29, Flegenheimer, Huetteman, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) says that Burr and Warner made “a conspicuous show of bipartisanship,” their “composed and seemingly unified display serv[ing] as a contrast to the explosive and often bewildering statements” from Nunes. The Los Angeles Times (3/29, Lauter, Cloud, 4.52M) also says that the senators “emphasized the bipartisan nature of the panel’s efforts, drawing a determined, though unstated, contrast with the partisan dysfunction of a parallel investigation in the House.” Politico (3/29, Wright, Matishak, 2.46M) writes, “The House investigation into Russia’s election meddling is in shambles. The Senate is more than happy to fill the void.”

The Washington Times (3/29, Boylan, 272K) quotes Burr as saying, “This one is one of the biggest investigations the Hill has seen in my time here. To date, we have made 20 requests for individuals to be interviewed. Five are already scheduled on the books, and probably within the next 10 days, the remaining 15 will have a scheduled date for those individuals to be interviewed by our staff.”

Fox News Special Report (3/29, 1.53M) said Senate Finance Committee ranking Democrat Ron Wyden on Wednesday “urged the intelligence panel to dig into financial ties between President Trump, his associates, and Russia.” However, Manu Raju reported on CNN’s Situation Room (3/29, 554K) that Burr said that while the panel is looking into those financial ties, he “would not say whether or not they will try to get Donald Trump’s tax return, something that some Democrats want. [Burr] said that’s not in the scope of their committee.”

The Washington Post (3/29, Demirjian, DeBonis, 11.43M) reports that GOP Rep. Charlie Dent said in a Wednesday interview that the Senate should take the lead. Dent said, “The House is paralyzed on this thing. The Senate is moving forward. I think that’s the only committee that’s going to be able to bring us a report at this point.” The Post calls Dent “one of the first Republican voices to openly advocate moving the Russia investigation out of the House Intelligence Committee’s hands.” The Washington Times (3/29, McLaughlin, 272K) and Politico (3/29, McCaskill, 2.46M) also report on Dent’s remarks, and the Washington Times (3/29, McLaughlin, 272K) additionally reports that “Democrats are pointing out that Sens. John McCain and Lindsey Graham have also raised questions” about Nunes.

Nunes: “Democrats Aren’t Really Serious About This Investigation.” Politico (3/29, Quigley, 2.46M) reports that Nunes “tried to blame Democrats for the troubles plaguing the panel’s investigation.” He said Wednesday, “We’re beginning to figure out who’s actually serious about the investigation because it appears like the Democrats aren’t really serious about this investigation.”

Spicer Says He “Will Look Into” How Nunes Got Access To White House Grounds. On the CBS Evening News (3/29, story 2, 1:45, 11.17M), Scott Pelley reported that Nunes “says that he met with a secret source on the White House grounds, and today, Major Garrett pressed the President’s spokesman for details on when and how Nunes was admitted and who he met with.” Garrett: “Do you have any information to live up to the commitment you made here on Monday to provide more details about how that happened. In a process you just told us yet again is above board and totally appropriate?” White House press secretary Sean Spicer: “I don’t have anything for you on that at this time. But, again, I don’t.” Garrett: “Have you looked into it?” Spicer: “I have asked some preliminary questions. I have not gotten answers yet, and I think, so, no, I don’t have anything further on that.” Garrett: “Are you going to continue to look into it?” Spicer: “I

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will, I will look into that." The Washington Post (3/29, Bump, 11.43M) presents a timeline of "the key points of what Nunes and the White House said and did."

Comey Reportedly Sought To Publish Op-Ed On Russian Election Meddling Last Summer. The Hill (3/29, Greenwood, 1.25M) reports that FBI Director Comey "sought to publish an op-ed as early as last summer about Russian efforts to influence the 2016 presidential election, but was barred from doing so by the Obama White House." According to Newsweek, "in a White House meeting in June or July, Comey reportedly brought with him a draft of the proposed op-ed and presented it to top administration officials" including then-Secretary of State John Kerry and then-Attorney General Loretta Lynch. The White House "ultimately rejected the idea, deciding instead that any effort to make information about Russian election meddling public should be coordinated between multiple federal agencies, according to the report."

CNN (3/29, Watkins, 29.79M) reports on its website that Comey said Wednesday that the FBI "makes its decisions on a nonpartisan basis and said he doesn't care about the political backlash of the choices he makes." Speaking at the Intelligence and National Security Alliance Leadership dinner, Comey said, "I know that when I make a hard decision, a storm is going to follow. Honestly, I don't care."

Ryan: Congressional Leadership "All Knew" About Russian Meddling Attempts. The CBS Evening News (3/29, story 4, 1:25, Pelley, 11.17M) aired a clip of a CBS This Morning interview with House Speaker Ryan that will air today. Ryan said, "Mitch McConnell, Chuck Schumer, and Nancy Pelosi and I sent a letter to the secretaries of state before the election saying, 'Heads up. Be on the watch-out. Something's happening. Guard your data.' So we all knew this before the election. We all knew Russia was trying to meddle with our election, and we already know right now they're trying to do it with other countries."

CBS: "No Credible Source" Alleges That Clinton Was Paid By Russia For US Uranium. On the CBS Evening News (3/29, story 5, 1:00, 11.17M), anchor Scott Pelley said that President Trump "asked why the media are not covering 'money from Russia to Clinton for the sale of uranium.' Well, here's why: No credible source alleges that Hillary Clinton was paid by Russia for American uranium. But like most conspiracy theories, there is an atom of truth in this." Pelley explained that while a deal allowing a Russian company to buy 20 percent of American uranium deposits was approved by a committee that included "Clinton's State Department," that committee also included the Departments of Treasury, Justice, Defense, Homeland Security, Commerce, and Energy, along with the US Trade Representative and the Office of Science and Technology. Pelley added, "Separately, the deal was okayed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Secretary Clinton could not have stopped the deal."

CBS Poll: 74 Percent Of Republicans Believe Trump Was Wiretapped. The New York Post (3/29, Moore, 3.82M) reports that 74 percent of Republicans in a CBS Poll "believe President Trump's claims he was wiretapped at Trump Tower during the presidential election...but only 21 percent of Democrats agreed."

Stone Defamation Trial Postponed. The New York Daily News (3/29, Brown, 4.45M) reports that the start of a defamation trial against Roger Stone, the "longtime adviser to President Trump," was delayed Tuesday "by the revelation he was in Washington following an order from the Senate Intelligence Committee." Warren Redlich, a former Florida Libertarian gubernatorial candidate, is suing Stone.

WPost Profiles Dossier Source Millian. The Washington Post (3/29, Helderman, Hamburger, 11.43M) has a 2,700-word feature on Belarusan-American businessman Sergei Millian, the source of the "salacious claim" in the dossier on Trump compiled by former spy Christopher Steele. The Post says Millian "is either a shrewd businessman with high-level access to both Trump's inner circle and the Kremlin, or a bystander unwittingly caught up in a global controversy."

ADMINISTRATION ASKS COURT TO DELAY RULING ON OBAMA'S CLEAN POWER PLAN. The AP (3/29, Biesecker, Hananel) reports that the Trump Administration has asked the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia to "postpone ruling on lawsuits over Obama-era restrictions on carbon emissions." In a motion filed "hours after...Trump signed an executive order seeking to undo his predecessor's efforts to curb climate change," Justice Department lawyers argued, "Because the rule is under agency review and may be significantly modified or rescinded through further rulemaking in accordance with the executive order, holding this case in abeyance is the most efficient and logical course of action here." The AP adds that a coalition of environmental groups and "16 mostly Democratic-led states" plan to "oppose the administration's request for a delay."

Interior Secretary Zinke said on Fox News' Fox & Friends (3/29, 831K) that "it is better to produce energy here under reasonable regulation than watch it get produced overseas with no regulation. As a former SEAL, I can tell you I have seen a lot of countries and I have seen what happens in the Middle East and Africa when there is no regulation. So environmentally, it is better to produce energy here and export our cleaner coal." Later (3/29, 831K) in the interview, Zinke was asked if it is possible to be "environmentally responsible and be pro-coal." Zinke said, "Absolutely. And my intention is

to be a steward of the majesty of our public land and make sure we can create wealth and jobs on some of it."

Sen. Bernie Sanders took a very different view on MSNBC's Morning Joe (3/29, 270K). Sanders argued, "You have a President telling who tells the world that in his view, after intensive study, he has concluded, unlike the rest of the scientific community, that climate change is a hoax emanating from china. And what he's done in appointing the people he has appointed is a danger, a horrific danger, not only to our generation but to our children and our grandchildren." Sanders added, "What this guy is doing is really an international embarrassment and endangering the future of our country."

Environmental Groups Sue To Block Trump's Climate Order. Meanwhile, environmental groups "made good on their promise" to fight Trump's efforts to roll back the Clean Power Plan, joining forces with an American Indian Tribe to "ask a federal court to block an order that lifts restrictions on coal sales from federal lands," the AP (3/29, Webber, Brown) reports. Earthjustice attorney Jenny Harbine filed the lawsuit in US District Court in Montana "on behalf of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, Sierra Club, and Center for Biological Diversity."

WPost Analysis: Experts Say Trump Order Will Not Save Coal Jobs. A Washington Post (3/29, Fears, 11.43M) analysis says that as Trump signed his executive order lifting a moratorium on federal coal leases, he portrayed the action as the fulfillment of his promise "to revive the struggling coal industry and bring back thousands of lost mining jobs in rural America." However, according to industry experts, "coal mining jobs will continue to be lost, not because of blocked access to coal, but because power plant owners are turning to natural gas." The New York Times (3/29, Tabuchi, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) says the jobs to which Trump alluded when signing the order "have steadily become vestiges of the past" as the coal industry "has been replacing workers with machines and explosives." According to energy and labor specialists, "no one — including Mr. Trump — can bring them all back."

PRUITT REFUSES TO BAN PESTICIDE OBAMA SOUGHT TO OUTLAW. The Washington Post (3/29, Dennis, 11.43M) reports that EPA Administrator Pruitt on Wednesday refused to ban "the chemical compound chlorpyrifos, also known as Lorsban," a "commonly used pesticide that the Obama administration had sought to outlaw based on mounting concerns about its risks to human health." In 2015, Obama's EPA "proposed in 2015 to revoke all uses of chlorpyrifos on food," and a Federal judge "had given the EPA until Friday to decide whether to finalize its ban of the pesticide." Pruitt declined to do so, saying in a statement, "We need to provide regulatory certainty to the thousands of American farms that rely on chlorpyrifos, while still protecting human health and the environment. ... By reversing the previous administration's steps to ban one of the most widely used pesticides in the world, we are returning to using sound science in decision-making – rather than predetermined results."

The New York Times (3/29, Lipton, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) says Pruitt rejected "the scientific conclusion of the agency's own chemical safety experts." The Times adds that the USDA "supported Mr. Pruitt's action." Sheryl Kunickis, director of the USDA Office of Pest Management Policy, said in a statement, "It means that this important pest management tool will remain available to growers, helping to ensure an abundant and affordable food supply for this nation."

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ABOLISHES OBAMA PROGRAM TO PROMOTE SCHOOL DIVERSITY. The Washington Post (3/29, Brown, 11.43M) reports that the Education Department has discontinued a $12 million Obama-era grant program intended to "help local districts devise ways to boost socioeconomic diversity within their schools." According to a Department official, the program was abolished "because it would not be a wise use of tax dollars, in part because the money was to be used for planning, not implementation." The official added that the move "says nothing about the administration's interest in diversity."

DEVOS: US SCHOOLS CAN'T GET MUCH WORSE. The Washington Post (3/29, Strauss, 11.43M) reports that at a Brookings Institution event Wednesday to unveil its fifth annual Education Choice and Competition Index, Education Secretary DeVos "said...that U.S. public schools nationwide are in such bad shape that she isn't 'sure how they could get a lot worse.'" Asked by Brookings senior fellow Russ Whitehurst "whether she could envision a situation in which a choice environment implemented poorly could actually have 'negative impacts on families,' with parents having more choice of schools but academic achievements and outcomes getting worse," DeVos replied, "I'm not sure how they could get a lot worse on a nationwide basis than they are today. I mean, the fact that our PISA scores have continued to deteriorate as compared to the rest of the world and that we've seen stagnant at best results with the NAEP scores over the years. I'm not sure we can deteriorate a whole lot."

The New York Times (3/29, Green, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) says DeVos made a case for school choice "that she said focused on the 'individual child,'" and "called for the rejection of an 'us versus them mentality' when it comes to investing in programs, like charter schools and school vouchers, to which President Trump has proposed giving part of a $1.4 billion funding increase in the fiscal year that begins in October." DeVos said, "Our nation's commitment is to provide a quality education to every child to serve the greater public, common good. ... Accordingly, we must shift the paradigm to

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think about education funding as investments made in individual children, not in institutions or buildings."

CHAO: ADMINISTRATION WILL UNVEIL INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN LATER THIS YEAR. During an event at the Transportation Department's headquarters, Transportation Secretary Chao said the Administration will "unveil a $1 trillion infrastructure plan later this year," Reuters (3/29, Shepardson) reports. According to Chao, the plan would include "a strategic, targeted program of investment valued at $1 trillion over 10 years. The proposal will cover more than transportation infrastructure, it will include energy, water and potentially broadband and veterans hospitals as well." While her comments "were the most detailed timetable from the administration about its plans to unveil a plan," Chao "did not offer details of funding for projects."

In an analysis for the Washington Post (3/29, O'Brien, 11.43M) "Wonkblog," Post reporter Matt O'Brien writes that while Trump hopes to use the infrastructure plan "to woo Democrats to his side on tax reform, and, in the process, cut the recalcitrantly right-wing House Freedom Caucus out of any negotiations," Trump "has lost whatever leverage he might have once had over Democrats" after doing "just about everything he could to alienate" them. In addition, Trump's "inability to unite Republicans" behind the healthcare bill "showed Democrats that they don't have to make a deal with him out of fear of him making an extremely conservative deal with the House Freedom Caucus." As a result, O'Brien writes, if Trump wants votes from Democrats, "it's going to have to be entirely on Democratic terms, which, whether he realizes it or not, are quite different even when it comes to infrastructure."

WPOST: GORSUCH FIGHT MAY SEE SENATE TAKE ANOTHER STEP TOWARD ELIMINATING FILIBUSTERS. The Washington Post (3/29, Kane, 11.43M) reports that it appears "Democrats have enough votes to block [Supreme Court nominee Neil] Gorsuch's confirmation next week with a filibuster," which, "in turn, probably would prompt the Republicans to change the rules unilaterally to allow Gorsuch's confirmation, and all other Supreme Court picks thereafter, by a simple majority." The Post says, "It would be the second time in 3½ years that the Senate majority has breached the long-held standard of first clearing a two-thirds majority vote to alter the chamber's rules. The first time Democrats, then led by Harry M. Reid (Nev.), ended 60-vote filibusters for all nominees except those for the Supreme Court." The Post says that "once both sides are guilty of breaching that standard on nominations, it would seem to be only a matter of time before a future majority obliterates filibusters on other legislation."

Sen. Bernie Sanders said on MSNBC's Morning Joe (3/29, 270K) that he will vote against Gorsuch because "his views are very, very right wing." Sanders added, "I think it should take 60 votes for him to get the appointment." Sen.

Debbie Stabenow said on MSNBC MTP Daily (3/29) that "seven of the eight current Supreme Court justices had over 60 votes in their process...from President Clinton, George W. Bush, to President Obama. This is about getting a nominee who can get 60 votes. From my perspective, this is someone that has always sided with big institutions, big corporations, big entities. ... In my book, this is somebody out of the mainstream. We should have a nominee that can get a bipartisan 60-vote threshold. That's really what we said when we were in the majority."

Will: Senators Should Reform The Filibusters To Restore Institutional Equilibrium. In a column for the Washington Post (3/29, Will, 11.43M), George Will writes that the Senate should reform the filibuster, changing Senate rules "to rectify a mistake made 47 years ago" that has contributed to the atrophy of congressional power in favor of executive authority. Will says "the promiscuous use of faux filibusters" that require 60 voices to proceed with a vote "blurs the implicit constitutional principle that extraordinary majorities are required only for extraordinary matters." Affirming the principle of majoritarianism would help to right the disequilibrium of the federal government.

ADMINISTRATION CONSIDERING WAY FORWARD FOLLOWING HEALTHCARE DEFEAT. USA Today (3/29, Jackson, 5.28M) reports the Administration and its "allies are pondering a variety of ways forward" following the "defeat" of their first effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act. USA Today says that among the possible next efforts are "tax reform," "a temporary spending plan," and "another crack at healthcare." While "critics question the administration's focus, or lack of it," USA Today says, Administration officials "said they are working on what [Trump] promised during last year's campaign." White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said, "All of these are important and have been priorities that the president laid out months ago." Sanders added that officials are considering "the best path forward."

SCHUMER SAYS GOP WILL HAVE TO REACH OUT TO DEMOCRATS TO ACHIEVE BIPARTISANSHIP. The Washington Times (3/29, Dinan, 272K) reports Senate Minority Leader Schumer said Wednesday that Republicans will have to reach out to his party if they want bipartisanship instead of writing bills and then asking for Democratic support. Schumer said, "Bipartisanship means sitting down with the other side, getting our ideas and hashing out a compromise."

"Virtually No Relationship At All" Between Trump, Schumer. Politico (3/28, Goldmacher, Everett, 2.46M) says that there has been "virtually no relationship at all" between President Trump and Schumer. Politico adds that Trump and Schumer have not held a one-on-one meeting or spoken on the phone in private since the President took office. Schumer

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told Politico last week that "right now there's not much to talk about." Meanwhile, a "top White House official" said Trump "really hasn't mentioned [Schumer] in a long time. That's really telling in and of itself."

Politico: With New "Leverage," Democrats Must Decide How Closely To Work With GOP. Politico Magazine (3/29, Scher) says that "with the Republican caucus fractured and even moderate Senate Democrats feeling feisty," Democrats "are in demand" as "the road to legislation now runs through" Senate Minority Leader Schumer and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi. However, Politico adds that the Democrats' "newfound leverage brings with it a fresh conundrum" of whether they should "seize the opportunity to shape legislation" or continue "with full resistance." Politico says that "full resistance has paid off handsomely so far," but "resistance to all things Trump will likely prove impossible." Politico provides a "handy guide for acceptable bipartisanship in Trump's tempestuous Washington."

WPOST ANALYSIS: TASK OF SAVING GOP AGENDA FALLS ON MCCONNELL. The Washington Post (3/29, Sullivan, 11.43M) reports on its front page that the "daunting effort to salvage" the GOP agenda "has fallen suddenly and squarely on the shoulders of" Senate Majority Leader McConnell. McConnell, according to the Post, "is under heavy pressure to put President Trump's to-do list back on track by" confirming Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch and preventing a government shutdown "in the face of intensifying Democratic resistance." The Post says McConnell's "task is to bring the chamber together."

RYAN'S REPUTATION AS POLICY EXPERT UNDER FIRE AFTER HEALTHCARE BILL'S FAILURE. The Washington Post (3/29, Ehrenfreund, 11.43M) reports that while House Speaker Ryan "has long had a reputation as a 'serious' policymaker in Washington," in the wake of "the failure of a Ryan-championed bill to repeal Obama's Affordable Care Act that was panned by experts on the left and right, Ryan's reputation as a policy expert is under renewed assault." Critics cite the bill's collapse as "proof of what they've said all along: Ryan always presented himself as a serious thinker, but his ideas are half-baked at best." The Post says that Ryan's record "reveals that although he demonstrated far more expertise than the typical lawmaker, he has yet to confront fully the difficult compromises involved in making federal policy with a comprehensive plan that can achieve conservative goals on a major issue."

NYTIMES ANALYSIS: "TRUMP BUMP" NOT EVIDENT IN ECONOMIC DATA. A New York Times (3/29, Schwartz, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) analysis says that while there is "talk of a Trump bump" with increased consumer confidence and stocks up 5 percent for the year, the "boom is apparent everywhere except in the economic data." The first quarter will end Friday, and according to the Times, "growth in the first three months of the Trump administration is looking much the way it did under President Barack Obama." Experts see the GDP for the quarter "coming in at only about 1 percent, on an annualized basis — less than half the pace in the second half of 2016, and a far cry from President Trump's own 4 percent target."

WSJournal: Strict Immigration Policies Exacerbating US Labor Shortage. The Wall Street Journal (3/29, Board, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) editorializes that US employers, particularly in the construction and agriculture fields, are seeing labor shortages that could be aggravated by more strict immigration policies. The Journal argues that for Trump's vision of employers producing more in the US, additional foreign workers and improved guest worker programs to get them in the country legally will be needed.

EXISTING HOME SALES HIT 10-MONTH HIGH IN FEBRUARY. A report Wednesday from the National Association of Realtors showed that "contracts to buy previously owned US homes jumped to a 10-month high in February," suggesting "robust demand for housing ahead of the busy spring selling season," Reuters (3/29, Mutikani) reports. The NAR's Pending Home Sales Index, based on contracts signed last month, "surged 5.5 percent to 112.3," marking "the highest reading since April and the second best showing since May 2006."

WPOST ANALYSIS: AUTO LOAN DEFAULTS THREATEN CAR SALES, NOT ECONOMY. The Washington Post (3/29, Heath, 11.43M) reports that an increase in delinquency of auto loans – particularly among subprime borrowers – could depress car sales, but likely will not affect the overall US economy. As with mortgages prior to the 2008-09 financial crisis, the Post says, car loans are bundled and "securitized," or sold as bonds to global investors. The Post adds that bad car loans do not pose a threat equivalent to bad mortgages because the car loan market is much smaller ($1.1 trillion, compared to the $10 trillion mortgage market) and their shorter loan cycles make it easier "to spot trouble and prevent big losses from developing over many years." The Post says that car loan defaults often correlate with unemployment levels, which are currently low, and risky car loans play an active role in the economy as many employees in rural areas need a car to get to work.

DIONNE: TRUMP HAS NO PLAN TO ELEVATE WORKING-CLASS AMERICANS. E.J. Dionne writes in his Washington Post (3/29, Dionne, 11.43M) column that when an Administration policy "that helps some corporate sector can be repackaged to make it look like a pro-worker move, President Trump will always hide his real purpose behind a phalanx of workers." But, "workers and consumers are nowhere to be seen or heard when it comes to the rest of Trump's corporate

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priorities." While Trump "has no coherent approach to lifting up working-class Americans," Dionne argues, Democrats "need to do more than just embarrass him about the tilt of his policies toward the best-off. They need to put serious thought and energy into pushing a comprehensive program to relieve economic insecurity across racial lines."

WPOST ANALYSIS: TRUMP'S HISTORY OVERSHADOWS ADMINISTRATION COMMEMORATIONS OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH. The Washington Post (3/29, Johnson, 11.43M) reports that as Women's History Month comes to a close, First Lady Melania Trump proclaimed said Wednesday that "wherever women are diminished, the entire world is diminished with them." Later, White House press secretary Sean Spicer told a briefing that the President "made women's empowerment a priority throughout the campaign." Also Wednesday, the President "attended a women's empowerment panel and jokingly asked whether anyone had heard of Susan B. Anthony." The Post calls it "a discordant series of remarks given Trump's history of controversial comments about and allegations of mistreatment of women over the years." Citing that history, the Post says it has "cast a shadow of sorts over the administration's commemorations of women's accomplishments over the past month, particularly events involving the president or the White House."

TRUMP'S "SECOND AMENDMENT COALITION" HAS NOT MET. The Washington Times (3/29, Shepherd, 272K) cites a USA Today report (3/29, Gaudiano, 5.28M) which said that a policy panel President Trump created as a candidate "to advise him as president on gun-rights issues has yet to convene and may never formally do so, at least as an official arm of the Trump administration." Trump announced the creation of the Second Amendment Coalition days before the general election in a news release that said the panel would "continue to advise Mr. Trump and Governor [Mike] Pence as they protect our Supreme Court and our right to keep and bear arms." However, "the White House now says that group was a 'campaign coalition' and not intended to be a formal part of the Trump administration."

ROSENBAUM: TRUMP DOES NOT HAVE AUTHORITY TO REVOKE OBAMA'S NATIONAL MONUMENTS. In a Washington Post (3/29, Rosenbaum, 11.43M) op-ed, Robert D. Rosenbaum, a retired partner of the law firm of Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP and chairman of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council of the National Parks Conservation Association, that while critics of the national monuments created by President Obama argue that President Trump should revoke the orders establishing them, the Antiquities Act "does not say the president may rescind such designations." Revocation advocates "argue that the president has the implied power to do so," but since the issue deals with "the management of federal lands," the Constitution's property clause grants that power "exclusively to Congress."

KLAIN: BANNON'S GOALS CONFLICT WITH STATED MISSION OF KUSHNER'S NEW ROLE. In a Washington Post (3/29, Klain, 11.43M) op-ed titled "Kushner And Bannon Have Opposite Missions. Which One Will Win?", Ronald Klain – who served as a senior White House aide to both Presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton and was a senior adviser to Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign – says that Jared Kushner has been tapped to "lead an effort to make government more efficient," heading up "President Trump's new 'Office of American Innovation.'" Klain says he expects the effort to accomplish little, largely because "there is no way to make the government more efficient if you don't believe in the government and what it does. ... Trump strategist Stephen K. Bannon's stated mission of 'deconstructing' the government is at odds with any genuine effort to 'reconstruct' it – and it's easy to guess which is the true aim of the White House."

POLITICO ANALYSIS SEES CONNECTION BETWEEN SPICER'S USE OF "PHENOMENAL," DIFFICULT ISSUES FOR WHITE HOUSE. Politico (3/29, Nussbaum, 2.46M) reports in a analysis that there is "an unmistakable connection" between White House press secretary Sean Spicer's use of the word "phenomenal" and "issues that seem to be going not so hot for the White House." Spicer has used the term to describe "the health care debacle, the travel ban setback, difficulties with Mexico, [and] a slew of empty positions across the government." The Politico analysis goes on to cite a number of examples of Spicer using the term.

NYTIMES EXAMINES TRUMP'S CHANGING OPINION OF CHICAGO. The New York Times (3/29, Bosman, Davey, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) highlights what it says are President Trump's changing views of the city of Chicago. While Trump once "loved the place" and called it a "great city," in recent months, he has "repeatedly — obsessively, in the view of some — commented on Chicago's street violence in interviews, debates and off-hour social media outbursts." According to the Times "politics" may be partially responsible for the change as Chicago "is Democratic to its core" and it "an easy foil when describing, as Mr. Trump does quite a bit, how dire urban America has become." However, "personal pique may also be an important factor." During the campaign, the city's "tight-knit, high-dollar Republican establishment showed tepid support, and he wound up canceling a rally here before he even arrived on stage." The Times adds that "it may be the rejection he faced when he brought in his grand dream of putting up the world's tallest skyscraper that stings most of all."

PRO-TRUMP GROUP LAUNCHES AD CAMPAIGN PROMOTING HIS AGENDA. USA Today (3/29, Schouten, 5.28M) reports that President Trump's "supporters on Wednesday launched an advertising campaign to boost his agenda and target a key group of Democratic senators. Making America Great, a new nonprofit aligned with Trump donor Rebekah Mercer, announced plans to air at least $1 million in television and digital ads" that "will run in the nation's capital and 10

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states that Trump won last November: Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, North Dakota, Florida, Missouri, Indiana and Montana. Democratic senators face re-election next year in all 10 states. The 30-second ad highlights Trump's early actions, ranging from his push to reduce Environmental Protection Agency regulations to his approval of the Keystone XL Pipeline."

WITH TRUMP IN WHITE HOUSE, DEMOCRATS SEE FUNDRAISING SURGE. Under the headline "Trump Serves As Rocket Fuel For Democratic Fundraising," Politico (3/29, Debenedetti, Bland, 2.46M) reported, "Democrats are on a torrid fundraising pace in the first months of the Donald Trump era, powered by enraged small donors who are plowing millions of dollars worth of online contributions into campaign and committee treasuries." Politico said an "analysis" it conducted "suggests many Democratic Senate incumbents – particularly those who have been most outspoken in their resistance to Trump – are on a trajectory to raise more money online than in any previous nonelection year." Politico added that "February figures reported to the Federal Election Commission by ActBlue, the left-leaning online fundraising platform, suggest members of Congress as well as many progressive groups are harnessing the energy of town halls and marches and translating it into a surge of online fundraising well in advance of the 2018 election season."

WPOST: TRUMP NOW AS POPULAR AS RYAN AMONG WISCONSIN REPUBLICANS. In an online "analysis" for the Washington Post (3/29, Bump, 11.43M), Philip Bump pointed out that Wisconsin's 2016 GOP presidential primary, which was easily won by Sen. Ted Cruz in late March of last year, "was the last contest that [now-President] Trump would lose" in the Republican race. Bump added that since that contest, "Wisconsin Republicans have grown more and more fond of" Trump, "and this month, for the first time," his "approval ratings match" those of House Speaker Paul Ryan. Bump added that Trump "has been more popular with Republicans than Ryan has for a long time. But now that sentiment has spread even to Ryan's home turf, that bastion of the Republican establishment, that Alamo of the traditional GOP. The Trump takeover is complete."

SPICER SAYS TRUMP WILLING TO HELP IN PRICE SPECIAL ELECTION. In a report on the special election to succeed ex-Rep. Tom Price, The Hill (3/29, Hagen, 1.25M) reported that White House press secretary Sean Spicer on Wednesday said that President Trump "is willing to help the GOP in" the "special election 'if needed.'" However, Spicer "stayed noncommittal about whether Trump would actually campaign or offer other concrete support" in the contest. Said Spicer, "I think that, if needed, the president has always been very clear that he wants to support the team and help the team. I have not looked into the race in Georgia." The Hill added, "It's not clear whether Trump's involvement would actually help Republicans in the race. While Trump won the state of Georgia by 5 percentage points over Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, he only won the 6th District by 1 point."

All 18 Candidates In Special Election Take Part In Forum. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (3/29, Bluestein, 1.41M) reports that the raft of candidates battling in the special election "kept the escalating feuds with each other largely beneath the surface and instead focused on a range of competing ideologies on tax overhauls and health policies Wednesday at the first major event featuring all 18 contenders." The crowded forum "underscored how jumbled the contest is. Eleven Republicans, five Democrats and two independents will all share the same ballot, and they're scrambling to land what would likely be a single spot on the ballot in a runoff against" ex-congressional aide Jon Ossoff, who polls have shown leading the jungle primary.

O'REILLY: NATIONAL PRESS DESPISES TRUMP. In his "Talking Points Memo" segment on Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor (3/29, 767K), Bill O'Reilly lamented what he called "a climate of hatred" against President Trump. O'Reilly argued, "As a historian, I can tell you I have never seen the national press despise a President more than they do Donald Trump. Richard Nixon might have come close at the end of his term but what we have now is unfair and destructive for America."

STATE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE CHARGED WITH MISLEADING FBI IN CHINA CASE. The AP (3/29, Nuckols, Tucker) reports that "veteran State Department employee" Candace Marie Claiborne has been charged with making false statements to the FBI "about gifts she had received from Chinese intelligence agents," the Justice Department said Wednesday. Claiborne is accused of "concealing her contacts with the intelligence agents and failing to report gifts she had received from them, including an iPhone, a laptop, international travel and vacations, school tuition and cash wired to an account." USA Today (3/29, Johnson, 5.28M) reports Claiborne, "who joined the State Department in 1999 as an office management specialist with subsequent postings in Iraq, China and Sudan," was arrested Tuesday.

Reuters (3/29, Hosenball, Torbati) quotes State Department spokesman Mark Toner as saying, "When a public servant is suspected of potential misconduct or federal crimes that violate the public trust, we vigorously investigate such claims." The Washington Times (3/29, Noble, 272K) quotes acting Assistant Attorney General for National Security Mary B. McCord as saying Claiborne, who possessed a Top Secret security clearance, "used her position and her access to sensitive diplomatic data for personal profit." The Wall Street Journal (3/29, Viswanatha, O'Keeffe, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports that a spokesman for the US Attorney's office declined to comment on the identity of Claiborne's co-conspirator.

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DOJ IG: DEA SEIZES CASH FROM PEOPLE NOT CHARGED WITH CRIMES. The Washington Post (3/29, Ingraham, 11.43M) reports that the Justice Department's Office of Inspector General has found that the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) "takes billions of dollars in cash from people who are never charged with criminal activity." According to a report issued on Wednesday by the inspector general, since 2007, the DEA "has seized more than $4 billion in cash from people suspected of involvement with the drug trade," but "81 percent of those seizures, totaling $3.2 billion, were conducted administratively, meaning no civil or criminal charges were brought against the owners of the cash and no judicial review of the seizures ever occurred." The Post notes that "these seizures are all legal under the controversial practice of civil asset forfeiture," but "the practice does not require authorities to obtain a criminal conviction, and it allows departments to keep seized cash and property for themselves unless individuals successfully challenge the forfeiture in court."

The Washington Times (3/29, Noble, 272K) reports that "while the seizures are supposed to be made as part of drug investigations," the IG's report "finds that the cash seizures aren't always helping law enforcement advance criminal investigations." The Times adds that "a review of 100 instances in which DEA agents seized cash found that in 56 cases, agents were unable to verify that the confiscation of cash 'had advanced or were related to ongoing investigations, initiated new investigations, led to arrests, or led to prosecution,' according to a Department of Justice Inspector General's report released Wednesday. 'When seizure and administrative forfeitures do not ultimately advance an investigation or prosecution, law enforcement creates the appearance, and risks the reality, that it is more interested in seizing and forfeiting cash than advancing an investigation or prosecution,' the inspector general's report states."

The Wall Street Journal (3/29, A6, Viswanatha, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports that the report could provide ammunition for critics of the practice, who argue that law enforcement officials have too much authority and ample incentive to seize property allegedly linked to criminal activity.

NORTH CAROLINA LAWMAKERS REACH DEAL TO REPEAL BATHROOM LAW. Republican lawmakers in North Carolina announced late Wednesday that they have come to an agreement to repeal a controversial state law which prohibits "transgender people from using restrooms in accordance with their gender identities," Reuters (3/29) reports. While details were not released, a vote on the compromise is set for Thursday morning.

MEASURE ALLOWS CONSUMERS' ONLINE INFORMATION TO BE SOLD. Scott Pelley reported on the CBS Evening News (3/29, story 12, 1:40, Pelley, 11.17M) that "what you do and where you go on the Internet is about to become even less private" under "a new Federal law." Errol Barnett added that the measure "allows your online information to be stored and sold by broadband internet service providers like AT&T, Comcast, and Verizon, without your consent. Your browsing history, online shopping habits, even apps and GPS history on your cell phone can now be up for sale." Sen. Jeff Flake "says singling out ISPs is unfair." Flake: "You can always opt out by contact the Internet service provider and saying you don't want your data to be sold." Barnett said "there is currently no law requiring ISPs to allow you to opt out. The decision is up to each individual company, and...these businesses know your digital footprint is worth billions of dollars to marketing and ad agencies."

Politico (3/29, Byers, 2.46M) says congressional Republicans "drew blood this week" by passing the bill and their "next target is likely to be" net neutrality rules. According to Politico, the Republican "technology offensive has handed a potential political weapon to Democrats and consumer groups, who are eager to use it." Democrats "have ratcheted up the political rhetoric and messaging in hopes of turning voters against the GOP."

ROTHENBERG: 2018 COULD SEE "REAL FIGHT" FOR HOUSE MAJORITY. Writing for Inside Elections (3/29, Rothenberg), veteran political analyst Stuart Rothenberg said that he thinks "the House will see a real fight for control" in the 2018 midterm elections. Pointing out that a number of polls have shown President Trump's approval rating declining since taking office, Rothenberg said "it's...likely that the administration will continue to be defined by controversy and chaos, with the president in the middle of the maelstrom." Rothenberg added, "The great risk for the GOP is that voters are likely to tire of the turmoil and tumult that surrounds Trump. If that happens, especially if other aspects of the Republican agenda frighten swing voters, the midterm electorate is likely to be receptive to House Democrats' 'check Trump' message."

DEMOCRATIC REP. O'ROURKE EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE CHALLENGE TO CRUZ ON FRIDAY. The Dallas Morning News (3/29, Lovegrove, 1.12M) reports that Rep. Beto O'Rourke, who is "widely expected to launch a" 2018 bid to unseat Sen. Ted Cruz, "emailed supporters Wednesday to invite them to a 'big announcement' on Friday in El Paso." After "his Friday event in El Paso, O'Rourke is launching a tour around some of the biggest cities in Texas, a common tactic for new Senate candidates. He is scheduled to hold meet and greets in Dallas on Friday evening, Waco on Saturday morning, Austin on Saturday afternoon and Houston on Sunday afternoon."

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The Houston Chronicle (3/29, Lambrecht, Diaz, 1.91M) reports that O'Rourke on Friday "plans to declare" a 2018 challenge to Cruz, "according to Democratic sources in Texas." The Chronicle adds, "A Cruz-O'Rourke race would offer a stark ideological contrast; a staunch conservative and self-described Constitutionalist versus an unabashed liberal who supports recreational marijuana."

The Texas Tribune (3/29, Livingston, 12K) reports, "Multiple Democratic leadership sources on Capitol Hill have been operating under the assumption that an O'Rourke Senate campaign is inevitable. In an email to supporters on Wednesday, O'Rourke's campaign wrote, 'Together, we can do something really big, and really powerful for the state of Texas – and for this country. Congressman Beto O'Rourke has a big announcement to make on Friday.'"

The AP (3/29, Werner) reports that O'Rourke "would enter next year's contest against Cruz as a considerable underdog in Republican-leaning Texas." The AP adds that Rep. Joaquin Castro "also has been discussed as a potential challenger to Cruz." Castro political director Matthew Jones on Wednesday said in a statement, "It's no secret that Joaquin is heavily weighing a Senate run, and he will continue to have those discussions with his family, friends and supporters across Texas. He plans to make his decision in the coming weeks."

Politico (3/29, Everett, Caygle, Schneider, 2.46M) reported that O'Rourke "is expected to announce Friday he will" seek to take on Cruz in next year's election, "people familiar with the decision confirmed." Politico added, "With Democrats defending 25 seats in 2018, including 10 in states won by President Donald Trump, a competitive race against Cruz would be a major boon to the party. Only two other GOP-held seats, Arizona and Nevada, are currently expected to be competitive. Democrats would need to pick up three seats to win the majority." USA Today (3/29, Estepa, 5.28M) reports, "It's been decades since the last time Texas voters sent a Democrat to the Senate."

The Washington Times (3/29, Shepherd, 272K) reports, "An unabashed liberal who cruised to election three times in a safe district – he participated in House Democrats' pro-gun control sit-in on the House floor in June of last year – Mr. O'Rourke faces an uphill battle in a statewide race in deep-red Texas." The Huffington Post (3/29, Bobic, 237K) reported, "Cruz's seat is considered a long-shot bid for Democrats in a deeply conservative state like Texas. An able campaigner," Cruz "boosted his national prominence last year after finishing second in the crowded 2016 GOP presidential primary. In February," he "reported $4.2 million in cash on hand for his re-election campaign."

The Hill (3/29, Hagen, 1.25M) reported, "With Democrats facing a tough Senate, the Texas Senate race would likely not receive national resources." Roll Call (3/29, Garcia, 63K) reported that if O'Rourke runs for Senate, he "would have to give up a seat that he won with 85.7 percent of the vote in 2016 and an 80 percent Hispanic population."

SANDERS SAYS HE'LL REMAIN AN INDEPENDENT. The Washington Times (3/29, McLaughlin, 272K) reports that Sen. Bernie Sanders "has no plans to self-identify as a Democrat. Asked Wednesday whether he would have more credibility if he joined the Democratic Party after running for the party's presidential nomination and endorsing a candidate in the race to lead the Democratic National Committee," Sanders – appearing on MSNBC – replied, "No, not necessarily." Sanders added, "No. 1, I was elected in Vermont as an independent, and No. 2, in Vermont you cannot register as a Democrat." The Times points out that Vermont "does not have party registration."

VIRGINIA GOVERNOR'S RACE POLL: GILLESPIE IN STATISTICAL TIE WITH DEMOCRATS. In a report on the 2017 race to succeed term-limited Gov. Terry McAuliffe, the Washington Post (3/29, Nirappil, 11.43M) says that a Christopher Newport University survey of 831 Virginia voters, taken March 16-26, shows ex-RNC chief Ed Gillespie "would tie with either of the Democrats vying for their party's nomination in this year's gubernatorial contest." In hypothetical general election matchups, Gillespie leads Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam 40%-39%, and the Republican ties ex-Rep. Tom Perriello at 39% each. The Post says, "A fifth of voters were undecided in both match-ups." Polls have shown Gillespie leading his primary foes – Prince William County Supervisor Corey Stewart and state Sen. Frank Wagner – by large margins.

The Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (3/29, Moomaw, 324K) reports that in other hypothetical general election matchups, Northam leads Wagner 40%-34% and Stewart 41%-33%. Perriello leads Wagner 38%-35% and Stewart 40%-34%.

Establishment-Favorite Gillespie Besting Trump-Styled Stewart In GOP Race. Writing on the website of the Washington Post (3/29, Hohmann, 11.43M), James Hohmann said that Gillespie is the frontrunner in the GOP primary and the favorite of the Republican establishment, while Stewart is attempting to channel President Trump's style. Hohmann added that Gillespie "is not running against Trump so much as he's running as his own man, trying to focus on local issues and fly below the national radar." He also "heavily emphasizes electability." Stewart, meanwhile, "prides himself on being an 'in your face' flamethrower, but he also argues that he can win."

Stewart Ad "Incorrectly" States Gillespie Stance On Confederate Monuments. The Washington Post (3/29, Nirappil, 11.43M) reports that Gillespie spokesman Matt Moran "says a new attack ad launched by" Stewart's "campaign is

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deceptive and a sign of desperation." Stewart "began airing a new radio ad and YouTube video on Wednesday that incorrectly says Gillespie told The Washington Post he is opposed to any state legislation that would bar local communities from removing Confederate monuments." Of Stewart, Moran said, "It's pretty clear that he's desperate to salvage a flailing campaign."

The Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (3/29, Moomaw, 324K) reports that Stewart's ad includes "an altered newspaper headline the Gillespie campaign has denounced as blatantly false." The "altered headline" is "meant to appear as if it was published by The Washington Post. ... 'Gillespie: I'm OK with Charlottesville Taking Down the General Lee Monument' the headline reads in the video, a repeat of a fake headline circulated on Facebook by a conservative group called the Conservative Response Team." Gillespie "has said he personally opposes the Charlottesville City Council's decision to move the statue, but believes those decisions should be made by local governments, not the state."

CLINTON BLASTS TRUMP ADMINISTRATION IN RARE PUBLIC APPEARANCE. In a "rare post-election public appearance" Tuesday, Hillary Clinton, who has "kept a low-profile since her stunning loss to President Trump," appeared at the Professional Business Women of California conference in San Francisco, where she "[took] aim at the Trump administration," the Washington Times (3/29, McLaughlin, 272K) reports. Clinton, whose appearance at the event was "to promote the rights and opportunities of women," said, "I am thrilled to be out of the woods, and in the company of so many inspiring women, and there is no place I'd rather than here with you – other than the White House." The Times says Clinton "lament[ed] the lack of women in the Trump administration," and "criticized Mr. Trump and House GOP leaders, celebrating the "wave of resistance" that rose up against their push to repeal and replace Obamacare."

In a separate story, the Washington Times (3/29, Boyer, 272K) says Clinton also criticized White House press secretary Sean Spicer's exchange during Tuesday's press briefing with American Urban Radio Networks reporter Amy Ryan. According to Clinton, Ryan was "patronized and cut off" while trying to ask Spicer a question. The criticism drew a response from "the White House and its allies" as well as Spicer himself, who "told radio host Hugh Hewitt that he was 'kind of astonished' by Mrs. Clinton's criticism." Spicer said, "To suggest that somehow because of her gender or race that she be treated differently I think is frankly demeaning to her. ... She's a tough woman. April's a tough reporter."

Sources Say Clinton Speech Not A Precursor To "A More Forceful" Return To Politics. On its website, CNN (3/29, Merica, 29.79M) reported that while Hillary Clinton's "speech Wednesday night to a group of businesswomen in San Francisco may have been the most political she has been since losing" to President Trump, "people close to" her "stress the speech doesn't foretell a more forceful jump back into the political fray." CNN added, "Aides say that Clinton has yet to make a final decision about how she wants to spend her time in the coming years and is taking her time. ... A source familiar with Clinton's plans said that while she has had meetings and phone calls with aides to try to understand what happened in 2016, the calls are more focused on making sure things improve for Democrats going forward and less about reliving the mistakes her campaign made."

AREAS THAT HEAVILY LOST JOBS TO ROBOTS WERE LESS LIKELY TO BACK HILLARY CLINTON. Writing on the website of the Washington Post (3/29, Bump, 11.43M), Philip Bump said that a National Bureau of Economic Research analysis determined that "as many as 670,000 American jobs [may] have been lost since 1993 thanks to the introduction of automation in manufacturing." Areas "most affected by that boom in automation – that introduction of robots, if you will – were also places that in 2016 were more likely to support Sen. Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump over Hillary Clinton," specifically "the Midwest and Rust Belt and along the Gulf Coast."

THE WHO'S ROGER DALTREY: "A DEAD DOG WOULD HAVE" DEFEATED CLINTON. The Hill (3/29, Kurtz, 1.25M) reported that Roger Daltrey, frontman for The Who, "says Democrats threw away the presidential election by having Hillary Clinton on the ticket, saying 'a dead dog would have won' against her. 'On other pieces of politics, let's put it this way: when you say that middle America and the Democrats lost it, but Trump didn't really win it – because Democrats threw it away by putting [Hilary Clinton] up,'" Daltrey "told NME in an interview published Wednesday. 'A dead dog would have won it against [her],'" Daltrey added.

POLL: CUOMO APPROVAL RATING AT 52%; 53% DON'T WANT HIM TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT. The Rochester (NY) Democrat & Chronicle (3/29, Riback, 337K) reports that a Quinnipiac University survey of 1,446 New York voters, taken March 23-27, shows Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who faces reelection next year and has been mentioned as a potential 2020 presidential candidate, with a 52% approval rating. However, 52% of those surveyed "did not think Cuomo would make a good president." Even so, 57% "said they would like" Cuomo "to become a national leader who challenges the policies of the Trump Administration." Said Quinnipiac's Maurice Carroll of the poll results, "Use the bully pulpit against President Donald Trump, governor, but stay out of Washington – that's the mixed message that New Yorkers have for Gov. Andrew Cuomo."

Newsday (NY) (3/29, Gormley, 1.3M) reports that he 52% figure is Cuomo's "best job-approval rating since December

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2014." However, the survey also shows that 53% found "said Cuomo shouldn't run for president in 2020."

MCAULIFFE NOT RULING OUT A 2020 WHITE HOUSE RUN. ABC News (3/29, Beggin, 3.09M) reported on its website that Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe isn't ruling out a 2020 run for president. Speaking on Wednesday with ABC News' Jonathan Karl and Rick Klein on the "Powerhouse Politics" podcast, McAuliffe said of a possible run, "You know my personality, go big or go home," adding, "I'm not thinking about it, but I never take anything off the table." McAuliffe is term-limited from seeking reelection this year.

PROFESSOR: SOME BELIEVE TRUMP'S FALSEHOODS BECAUSE HE'S DELIVERING "AN EMOTIONAL TRUTH." In a piece for the Washington Post (3/29, Mansfield, 11.43M), Cornell University professor Anna Katharine Mansfield wrote, "The thing that baffles most opponents of President Trump (and apparently all comedians) is that he and his staff show a blatant disregard for facts." Mansfield said, "Trump supporters who accept or even defend" his false claims "must be stupid or willfully blind, those who oppose him say." However, Mansfield said that simply calling out Trump's falsehoods "and hoping that everyone will get on board isn't going to be effective, because Trump often is delivering a certain kind of truth – an emotional truth. ... Facts don't matter if the emotional impact is real."

ANIMAL WELFARE BILL INTRODUCED WITH BIPARTISAN SUPPORT. The Washington Post (3/29, Brulliard, 11.43M) reports that there is a bipartisan effort currently moving through the House to ban "wild or exotic animal performances in traveling circuses." While similar bills have been proposed in the past, Rep. Ryan Costello said that animal performances do not "have any place in the fabric of our society" and hopes his proposed legislation will find political traction.

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING ADDRESSES US GYMNASTICS SEXUAL ABUSE ALLEGATIONS. At a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on Tuesday, the New York Times (3/29, Macur, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports, a US Olympic Committee official apologized to gymnasts who were victims of sexual abuse. The Times says former gymnasts Jamie Dantzscher and Jessica Howard testified to being assaulted by former USA Gymnastics National Team Doctor Larry Nassar, now in custody in Michigan "facing multiple sexual assault and child pornography charges." USA Gymnastics Board Chairman Paul Parilla was invited to testify but did not, instead issuing a statement sympathizing with the victims but not acknowledging culpability. Sen. Richard Blumenthal called for an investigation of USA Gymnastics, and Sen. Dianne Feinstein appealed to the group to change its board of directors and prioritize sexual assault prevention, the Times adds.

BASHING TRUMP, MUSLIM IMMIGRANT JOINS CALIFORNIA LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RACE. The AP (3/29) reports that "Pakistani-born" Dr. Asif Mahmood on Wednesday announced that he was entering California's "2018 race for lieutenant governor on a platform of saving Obamacare, providing free community college education and fighting what he termed 'Donald Trump's hate.'" During a news conference, Mahmood said, "I am a proud Muslim and I love America," adding, "President Trump continues to attack people like me: immigrants, people of color and Muslims. I say President Trump has it all wrong. It's time to get tough on hate. California must be the leader of the Trump resistance, and I will fight him every step of the way."

On its website, the New York Times (3/29, Bromwich, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reported that in a Tuesday interview it conducted with Mahmood, he said, "The divisive and hateful agenda of Donald Trump compels me to run," adding, "I am a proud Muslim. I am a Muslim immigrant. I am from the state of California. I am a triple threat to Donald Trump." Mahmood is bidding to succeed term-limited Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, who is running for governor next year.

TRUMP ALLIES SLATED TO TESTIFY IN SUIT RELATED TO 2010 NEW YORK GOVERNOR'S RACE. USA Today (3/29, Campbell, 5.28M) reports, "Three allies of President Trump will be in New York state court this week to face accusations they were behind a salacious mailer in the 2010 New York gubernatorial race. Roger Stone, Michael Caputo and Carl Paladino went to trial Wednesday in the civil case filed by Warren Redlich, the former Libertarian candidate for governor whose Albany, N.Y.-area neighborhood was blanketed with an unfounded mailer asserting he was a sexual predator. Redlich is seeking a judgment of at least $20 million."

NYTIMES: THERAPISTS SAY PATIENTS STRESSED OVER NEWS. The New York Times (3/29, Alderman, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that in the leadup to November's election, "we heard from therapists about how their patients were feeling fearful, angry and distrustful in reaction to the contentious presidential race. Now, these same therapists report that many of their patients are even more upset as they struggle to make sense of the direction in which the country is heading. And many can't tear themselves away from the news. 'So much is coming at us,' said Sue Elias, a psychotherapist in New York City. 'There's a chronic sense of anxiety among my patients that I have never seen before.'"

REPORT: CLIMATE CHANGE CAN HARM MENTAL HEALTH. The Washington Post (3/29, Naqvi, 11.43M) reports the severe weather events and natural disasters associated with climate change can have a "dramatic impact on mental

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health," according to a report the American Psychological Association and ecoAmerica published Wednesday. The events can cause fear, grief, anxiety, depression, and unhealthy behavior, and those who experience tragic events can develop post-traumatic stress disorder. Having social support can temper climate change's negative effects on mental health, but severe weather events can disproportionately effect those living in communities where livelihoods are directly tied to the environment.

Report: Air Pollution From Global Trade Causes Premature Death Across National Borders. The AP (3/29, Borenstein) reports the consumption of goods from foreign countries contributes to premature deaths in the countries of production and those nearby, according to a study co-authored by University of East Anglia economist Dabo Guan. More than 750,000 people die prematurely due to air pollution caused by the production and transportation of goods made in one place and sold elsewhere, and 411,000 of those deaths occur in countries different than the country of production. Guan said this means the issue "requires global cooperation." Co-author Steven Davis, an atmospheric scientist at the University of California Irvine, indicated that producing more goods locally would lower the number of premature deaths globally, even if it raises the toll within the US, because America has stricter emissions standards.

Samenow: House Climate Change Hearing Predictably Unproductive. Writing for the Washington Post's (3/29, Samenow, 11.43M) "Capital Weather Gang," Jason Samenow argues the House Science Committee's hearing on climate change science Wednesday morning was predictable in that "political theater upstaged most of any productive discussion of science." The witnesses, a majority of whom the GOP chose, "engaged in a fruitless debate" that failed to "advance new, productive ideas to manage the problem." While Republican-selected witnesses emphasized the uncertainty of climate science, Penn State University's Michael Mann, whom the Democrats chose, "was clear and articulate" in his defense of the consensus view that the change is man made, "but outnumbered by foes and subject to frequent attack."

Political Organization Sends Book Doubting Climate Science To 200,000 Teachers. The Washington Post (3/29, Fritz, 11.43M) reports the Heartland Institute intends to send the book "Why Scientists Disagree About Global Warning" to 200,000 science teachers around the country in coming weeks. While the book appears "pretty official," National Center for Science Education Director Ann Reid told PBS Frontline the content of the book is "dressed up to look like science" and is "clearly intended to confuse teachers." The Post posts in excerpted form a story Frontline (3/28, Worth, 1.42M) published Tuesday that says "news of the propaganda campaign is particularly relevant" because the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology heard testimony on climate change Wednesday, with three of the four invitees rejecting the "overwhelmingly accepted science of climate change." If the government accepts that there is not consensus on the causes of climate change, it will be difficult to implement carbon dioxide regulations.

MEDIA ANALYSES: WESTINGHOUSE BANKRUPTCY A BLOW TO NUCLEAR INDUSTRY. In a front-page story, the Wall Street Journal (3/29, Gold, Texas, Negishi, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports Westinghouse Electric Co. filed for bankruptcy Wednesday, a move that has implications for parent-company Toshiba and relations between the US and Japan. Toshiba Chief Executive Satoshi Tsunakawa said Wednesday that the bankruptcy signaled the company's withdrawal from overseas nuclear power and therefore ended its exposure to risk. Meanwhile CEO Tom Fanning of Southern Co., the Atlanta power company who has two reactors under construction, said the completion of the reactors is an international political issue because of Japanese President Shinzo Abe's promise to President Trump in February to help create American jobs. Both Southern and Scana, another Westinghouse customer with reactors under construction, said separately after the Wednesday announcement that they would finance construction for at least 30 more days.

According to the Washington Post (3/29, Mufson, 11.43M), while the filing is "a blow to the nuclear power industry," some American companies may be interested in acquiring Westinghouse, or certain pieces of the company, as former Nuclear Regulatory Commission member Jeffrey Merrifield said "there is a lot of value" in the company's new AP1000 reactor model. Many US legislators and nuclear industry officials indicate the design could start a "nuclear renaissance" in the US.

SURVEY: SUPPORT FOR LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA SURGED TO 57% IN 2016. The Washington Post (3/29, Ingraham, 11.43M) reports public support for the legalization of recreational marijuana grew to 57 percent in 2016, up five percent from 2014, according to data recently released from the General Social Survey. The survey shows that two-thirds of respondents between 18 and 34 support legalization, as do more than half of those 35 to 49 and 50 to 64, but only 42 percent of those 65 and older support legalization. As for political affiliation, more than 60 percent of Democrats and independents support legal marijuana, while only 40 percent of Republicans do. The Post says that in 2000, the issue had bipartisan opposition, with only 29 percent of Democrats and 26 percent of Republicans supporting legalization.

SUPREME COURT SIDES WITH FREE-SPEECH CHALLENGE TO CREDIT CARD FEES. The New York Times (3/29, Liptak, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that the Supreme Court ruled on Wednesday that the First Amendment "applies to a New York law concerning credit card fees." The Times calls the decision "a victory for five businesses that had sought to tell their customers that they imposed a surcharge for using credit cards," but notes that the court "decided only that the law regulated their speech rather than their conduct, and it left it to an appeals court to determine whether

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the law violated the First Amendment. 'The law tells merchants nothing about the amount they are allowed to collect from a cash or credit card payer,' Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. wrote for the majority. 'Sellers are free to charge $10 for cash and $9.70, $10, $10.30 or any other amount for credit. What the law does regulate is how sellers may communicate their prices.'"

The Los Angeles Times (3/29, Savage, 4.52M) reports that under the ruling, "merchants may soon have the right to tell customers they will pay a surcharge if they use a credit card rather than pay with cash." The court "cast doubt" on laws in California, New York, Florida and seven other states "that make it illegal for sellers to 'impose a surcharge' on credit card sales." According to the Times, "these long-standing laws, strongly backed by the credit card industry, have been interpreted to mean retailers may not advertise or disclose that the price includes a 2% to 3% surcharge for using a credit or debit card," but "in an unanimous decision, the justices said these laws 'regulate speech' and may be challenged as violations of the 1st Amendment."

JUSTICES RELIVE HORRIFIC 1884 DC MURDER, WEIGHING WITHHELD EVIDENCE. The New York Times (3/29, Liptak, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that "at an unusual Supreme Court argument" on Wednesday, "the justices tried to sort out who was responsible for a notorious 1984 murder in Washington." According to the Times, the legal question in the case "was whether the convictions of seven defendants should be set aside because prosecutors had withheld evidence about another suspect," but "he argument barely touched on legal principles," and "was instead dominated by an intense effort to reconstruct what happened more than three decades ago." Prosecutors "had presented no physical evidence, relying on eyewitness testimony," which "was enough to convict eight defendants, including one who has since died, of brutally assaulting and killing Catherine Fuller."

The Washington Post (3/29, Barnes, Alexander, 11.43M) reports that the justices "more closely resembled jurors in a murder trial" who were "absorbed in the details of a horrific killing that shocked Washington three decades ago." The justices "were considering whether federal prosecutors withheld crucial evidence in the case of" Fuller, "whose body was found inside a garage tucked into an alley near Eighth and H streets NE on Oct. 1, 1984." The Post adds that "sixteen boys and young men, and one teenage girl, were arrested," and "eight of the men were convicted and sentenced to as much as 35 years to life in prison." Those convicted now argue that federal prosecutors "should have told defense lawyers about another man they had received information on," which "would have allowed them to try to convince the jury that 19-year-old James McMillan, who had committed other robberies in the neighborhood, could have committed the crime by himself or with a confederate."

TWO FORMER ASSOCIATES OF CHRISTIE SENTENCED IN BRIDGEGATE SCANDAL. ABC World News Tonight (3/29, story 7, 1:40, Muir, 14.63M) reported that two former associates of New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie were sentenced on Wednesday to federal prison for their rules in "shutting down the George Washington Bridge connecting New York City to New Jersey, trapping commuters, school buses, and even ambulances on America's busiest bridge." Prosecutors "made the case" that "it was all an act of political revenge to benefit Governor Christie that affected so many drivers trapped." ABC (Davis) added that Bill Baroni was sentenced to two years in prison, and Bridget Anne Kelly to 18 months "for causing a four-day traffic jam at the nation's busiest bridge" in "an act of political revenge prosecutors said, against a mayor who refused to endorse Christie for re-election."

The New York Times (3/29, Corasaniti, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that that Kelly, 44, who was Christie's deputy chief of staff, and Baroni, 45, had been convicted by a federal jury last fall of conspiracy and fraud charges after a seven-week trial. As she handed down Baroni's sentence, US District Judge Susan D. Wigenton said "What occurred in September of 2013 was an outrageous abuse of power," and called it a "sad day" for the state of New Jersey. Federal prosecutors "portrayed Mr. Baroni's actions as 'brazen, calculated and a mean spirited use of power,' and repeatedly pointed to allegations of perjury during the trial as the basis for their recommendation of mandatory imprisonment. 'Those are the actions out of the playbook of some dictator of a banana republic,' said Lee M. Cortes, an assistant U.S. attorney. 'It is incomprehensible that such actions could take place here, in the United States.'"

The AP (3/29, Porter) reports that Judge Wigenton "said it was clear there was never a legitimate traffic study, as they claimed during the trial, and said the defendants sought to mislead the jury with their testimony." The AP adds that "during Kelly's portion of the hearing, Wigenton also blamed the culture in Trenton, the state capital." Testimony at trial "described angry tirades by the governor and detailed his subordinates using the Port Authority as a source of political favors for politicians whose endorsements they sought."

The Bergen (NJ) Record (3/29, Berger, Racioppi) reports that Baroni and Kelly were convicted "on seven counts of conspiracy, fraud and civil-rights violations," and prosecutors "had asked Wigenton to impose a prison term of about three years for each defendant for what they called 'a stunningly brazen and vindictive abuse of power," while defense attorneys "requested probation and community service." The Record notes that both Baroni and Kelly are expected to appeal their convictions.

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SHOTS FIRED AS WOMAN TRIES TO RAM US CAPITOL POLICE. NBC Nightly News (3/29, story 4, 0:25, Holt, 16.61M) reported police at the US Capitol police attempted to stop a woman "driving erratically" who hit a police car and nearly struck officers, which occurred at 9:30 Wednesday morning, according to the Washington Post (3/29, Hermann, Hedgpeth, 11.43M) According to DC police, Capitol police pursued the suspect on foot and took her into custody near the US Botanic Garden by 9:45 am. Capitol spokeswoman Eva Malecki said during a press conference that while shots were fired during the arrest, no one was shot. The New York Times (3/29, Fandos, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports Malecki said police first saw the suspect as an "erratic and aggressive driver," and after a preliminary investigation the incident appeared to be "criminal in nature with no nexus to terrorism." Authorities did not yet have a sense of the suspect's motive. "Sources" told ABC World News Tonight (3/29, story 3, 1:45, Muir, 14.63M) the 20-year-old suspect has a history of mental illness.

BAIL-BOND INDUSTRY FIGHTING TO STAY ALIVE IN MARYLAND. The Washington Post (3/29, Wiggins, 11.43M) reports that the bail-bond industry in Maryland is "pulling out all the stops" as they push lawmakers to pass a bill that would reverse a state's Court of Appeals decision that instructed judges not to set bail on certain poor defendants. The decision by the Court of Appeals has caused the bail-bond industry to lose as much as 70 percent of its business in Maryland, but the industry's "last-ditch" effort may be having some effect. The Post adds that the "powerful" Legislative Black Caucus is meeting this week to consider whether to support or oppose the bill, and that while the head of the Black Caucus remains undecided, she does see "some merit" in the bill. Lawmakers are under "heavy pressure" from lobbyists to support the pro-bail bill, which passed the state Senate last week.

FORMER CONGRESSMAN STOCKMAN, AIDE CHARGED WITH FRAUD. The New York Times (3/29, Chokshi, Fernandez, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that former Rep. Steve Stockman was indicted Tuesday, along with former aide Jason Posey, on charges of mail and wire fraud, conspiracy, money laundering, and misleading the FEC, according to a Justice Department statement. The Justice Department alleged that Stockman solicited $1.25 million in charitable donations between May 2010 and October 2014 that he then used for other purposes, including "to illegally finance his campaigns." The Times adds that the Justice Department charges indicate that in 2010, Stockman "redirected a sizable share of $285,000 intended for charity to cover personal expenses for himself" and aides, and "used much of $165,000 in charitable donations raised in 2011 and 2012 to pay for his congressional campaign." Posey used a nonprofit as a front to raise "approximately $450,000" spent on campaign and personal expenses, the Times reports.

NYTIMES EXAMINES "FERGUSON EFFECT." The New York Times (3/29, Dewan, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) examines the "Ferguson effect" theory that protests in the wake of the fatal police shooting of Michael Brown and other incidents resulted in higher crime because authorities felt "under siege" from a hostile public. Studies show overall crime did not increase in the year after Brown's death, but the Times says in Chicago and Baltimore, where violent crime rates did increase, it is unclear the Ferguson effect is to blame. One sociologist suggests the spikes in homicide could stem from a demoralized community by the perception that the police are unjust. Meanwhile, the Times says the crime increases are correlated with higher racial segregation, lower educational achievement, and the heroin epidemic. The author of one sociology study suggests that "de-policing" could be a positive phenomenon in which police conduct fewer searches and are more likely to find contraband, for instance.

COLLEGES WEIGH FREE SPEECH RIGHTS, SECURITY CONCERNS AS PROTESTS OF CONTROVERSIAL SPEAKERS INCREASE. The New York Times (3/29, Hauser, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports there were 43 reported instances of revoked invitations or efforts to block speakers from coming to American universities and colleges because of opposition to their ideas, compared to six in 2000, according to Foundation for Individual Rights in Education. The trend means that growing numbers of schools have to weigh their support of free speech, even when speakers' views do not reflect their values, and prepare for extra security costs. Suggesting that social media likely has contributed to the uptick in dis-invitations because it allows for the viral spread of speakers' ideas, Cohn said, "This may be the time of reckoning for this particular aspect of the free speech movement on campus."

WSJOURNAL PRAISES BALTIMORE MAYOR'S VETO OF MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE. A Wall Street Journal (3/29, Board, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) editorial praises Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh for vetoing a bill that would have increased the city's minimum wage to $15 per hour by 2022. The Journal says that while Pugh campaigned for an increase in the minimum wage, she said her mind was changed that an increase above Maryland's prevailing minimum wage would have driven jobs and tax revenue out of the city.

WSJOURNAL: COURTS SHOULD REJECT SEATTLE ORDINANCE IMPACTING UBER, LYFT DRIVERS. The Wall Street Journal (3/29, Board, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) editorializes in favor of a pair of legal challenges to a Seattle law that allows unions to avoid secret elections and organize workers using a public card-check process to hold a vote on unionization and, in turn, impose union dues on local Uber and Lyft drivers. The Journal says the courts should declare the arrangement illegal, and argues that if they fail to do so, it will spread throughout the nation.

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Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Crisis Upon Crisis In Venezuela."*** A New York Times (3/29, Board, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) editorial highlights "how precipitously [Venezuela's] global standing has eroded under President Nicolás Maduro." The Times argues that a "fruitful step for the international community would be to find ways to help alleviate Venezuela's immediate problems" including "persuading the government to accept humanitarian aid by putting forward detailed offers of needed food and medicine." In addition, an "international priority should be to press the government to hold local elections" and "release political prisoners." While the Maduro government will likely "dismiss all overtures and cast them as meddling by its neighbors," they "could become harder to reject if a large international coalition presents them to the Venezuelan people as assistance that should not be interpreted as an affront to their country's sovereignty."

"Ignoring Diplomacy's Past And Its Future Promise." In an editorial, the New York Times (3/29, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) says that "as President Trump tries to slash the State Department and its foreign aid programs," it is "worth remembering" that one of the US's "greatest contributions to international peace resulted from a historic investment in foreign aid" following World War II. The Times says Secretary of State Tillerson "has been shockingly complicit in Mr. Trump's miserly approach," but adds that Congress, "which holds the purse strings, is pushing back."

"Turkey's Path Away From Democracy." The New York Times (3/29, Board, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) argues in an editorial that an April 16 referendum in Turkey on proposed constitutional changes would essentially give President Recep Tayyip Erdogan "unfettered power." The proposed changes would give the president "sole authority to appoint and dismiss government ministers" as well as the ability to "dissolve Parliament on any grounds." In addition, he would appoint "six of the 13 members of the country's top judicial board, and the others would be elected by Parliament, which would most likely be controlled by the political forces of the president." The Times says Erdogan "is aware that this could mark a fateful retreat from the Westernization that has guided Turkey for several decades now," and urges Turks "to ask whether they really want to take so dangerous a step backward."

"A Grand Bronx Plan Requires Local Input." The New York Times (3/30, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) in an editorial criticizes the Sheridan Expressway and welcomes Gov. Andrew Cuomo's proposal to "turn the expressway into a ground-level boulevard," though it also says the governor needs to engage "local groups and experts in New York City government — to make sure the boulevard is only as big and wide as it absolutely needs to be, is maximally hospitable to street life and pedestrian safety and is beautiful to boot."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Obamacare Is The Republicans' Responsibility Now."*** The Washington Post (3/29, Board, 11.43M) says in an editorial that properly administering the ACA is now "the responsibility of [House Speaker] Ryan, his GOP majority and President Trump. ... The Congressional Budget Office projected that, left to operate under reasonable management, Obamacare can work pretty well, preserving the massive coverage gains of the past several years. But one wrong move, motivated by either malice or ignorance, could send the system crashing down."

"China Betrays The Promise Of Democracy In Hong Kong." The Washington Post (3/29, 11.43M) editorializes that the arrest of nine activist leaders in the 2014 free election protests by "Hong Kong proxies" of Chinese President Xi Jinping for crimes with potential mutli-year prison sentence was a "naked crackdown on dissent" in a place where free speech should be guaranteed according to the "one country, two systems" policy. The Post says "there's a good chance that the repression will backfire" by giving more reason for the public to support the opposition. However, the State Department's failure to comment on the Tuesday arrests beyond saying the Administration is "aware" of them indicates Beijing's calculations that President Trump "will shrug off the assault on the democrats" hold true.

"A Struggling DC High School Notches A Landmark Achievement." A Washington Post (3/29, Board, 11.43M) editorial.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"America's Growing Labor Shortage."*** The Wall Street Journal (3/29, Board, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) editorializes that US employers, particularly in the construction and agriculture fields, are seeing labor shortages that could be aggravated by more strict immigration policies. The Journal argues that for Trump's vision of employers producing more in the US, additional foreign workers and improved guest worker programs to get them in the country legally will be needed.

"Minimum Wage Reality Check." A Wall Street Journal (3/29, Board, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) editorial praises Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh for vetoing a bill that would have increased the city's minimum wage to $15 per hour by 2022. The Journal says that while Pugh campaigned for an increase in the minimum wage, she said her mind was changed that an increase above Maryland's prevailing minimum wage would have driven jobs and tax revenue out of the city.

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"Seattle's Union Raid On Uber." The Wall Street Journal (3/29, Board, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) editorializes in favor of a pair of legal challenges to a Seattle law that allows unions to avoid secret elections and organize workers using a public card-check process to hold a vote on unionization and, in turn, impose union dues on local Uber and Lyft drivers. The Journal says the courts should declare the arrangement illegal, and argues that if they fail to do so, it will spread throughout the nation.

The Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Trump's Rapid Rapprochement Plans With Russia Fade
Britain Sets Historic Brexit Process In Motion
Toshiba's Westinghouse Electric Files For Bankruptcy Protection
Whatever Happened To Free Trade?

New York Times:
US War Footprint Grows In Middle East, With No Endgame In Sight
China Poised To Take Lead On Climate After Trump's Move To Undo Policies
Rex Tillerson To Lift Human Rights Conditions On Arms Sale To Bahrain
Senate Intelligence Committee Leaders Vow Thorough Russian Investigation
Pillars Of The West Shaken By "Brexit," But They're Not Crumbling Yet
2 Christie Allies Are Sentenced In George Washington Bridge Scandal

Washington Post:
Britain Triggers Brexit Escape
McConnell Bearing The Burden Of His Party
Hispanic Firms Bidding On Wall Face Moral Crisis
Insider Or Opportunist? A Wild Card In Russia Story.
In Trump's View, Omarosa More Than Apprentice

Financial Times:
Brexit Begins As Theresa May Triggers Article 50
Toshiba's Westinghouse Files For Bankruptcy Protection
May Sends Historic Brexit Letter To Brussels

Washington Times:
Liberal Professors Call For Boycott Of Studies Confirming Trump Claim Of Voter Fraud
Democrats' Snub Of Trump Invite Reveals Difficulties In Bridging Partisan Divide
HHS Chief Pledges To Uphold Obamacare, Including Mandate
Famine Looms In South Sudan As Government Devotes Resources To War Effort
D.C. Residents Baffled By Lack Of Attention Over Missing Children
Contractors Vying To Build Trump's Border Wall Face Blowback

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Capitol Shooting Scare; Nunes-White House Connection; Failed Healthcare Reform; Ivanka Trump-White House Job; New Jersey-Bridgegate; Texas-Bus Crash; Oklahoma-Home Defense; Peru-Plane On Fire; Health-MS Treatment Drug; Hiker-Baby Bear; Junior Fire Marshall Program.
CBS: Russia Hacking Investigation; Nunes-White House Connection; Russia Interference-Public Poll; Speaker Ryan-Russia Investigation Interview; Trump-Clinton Comment Fact Check; Trump-Anti-Opioid Commission; Opioid Manufacturer Suit; Texas-Bus Crash; Severe Weather; Mosul-Civilian Casualty; First Lady-Public Appearance; Internet Privacy Bill; Rock Music-American Pie.
NBC: Ivanka Trump-White House Job; Russia Hacking Investigation; Trump-Anti-Opioid Commission; Capitol Shooting Scare; Severe Weather; Health-MS Treatment Drug; Oklahoma-Home Defense; Storm Chaser-Job Danger; Texas-Bus Crash; US Women's Hockey; Wizard Of Oz Song; Academy Awards Blooper; Jackie Kennedy Letters.

Network TV At A Glance:
Nunes-White House Connection – 5 minutes, 15 seconds
Weather – 5 minutes, 10 seconds
Russia Hacking Investigation – 4 minutes, 55 seconds
Ivanka Trump-White House Job – 3 minutes, 50 seconds

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Health-MS Treatment Drug – 2 minutes, 35 seconds
Texas-Bus Crash – 2 minutes, 20 seconds
Capitol Shooting Scare – 2 minutes, 10 seconds
Trump-Anti-Opioid Commission – 45 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: North Carolina-Bathroom Bill; Revised Immigration Order-Legal Challenge; Pilot Mid-Air Death; Mexico-Drug Smuggling; Texas-Bus Crash.
CBS: Texas-Bus Crash; Seattle-Sanctuary City; Failed Healthcare Reform; Trump-Women's Empowerment Event; Ivanka Trump-White House Job; New Jersey-Bridgegate.
FOX: Texas-Bus Crash; Seattle-Sanctuary City; Revised Immigration Order-Legal Challenge; Severe Weather.
NPR: Revised Immigration Order-Legal Challenge; Seattle-Sanctuary City; Border Wall-Bids; Nunes-White House Connection; Mosul-Civilian Casualty; Zika Virus.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Stephen Colbert: "Anyone here use the internet? You might want to knock it off because Congress has now voted to allow internet providers sell your web-browsing history."

Stephen Colbert: "I guarantee you there's not a voter of any political stripe anywhere in America who asked for this. No one. No one in America stood up in a town hall and said, 'Sir, I demand that you let someone else make money off my shameful desires.'"

James Corden: "Congress voted to allow internet service providers to sell their customers' web data without permission. They're saying they can sell all of your data without permission. It's incredible. I will just give all the viewers at home a moment to clear their browser history."

Trevor Noah: "Why isn't Donald Trump going to honor this classic presidential tradition? It's throwing a baseball, not releasing his tax returns. Come on, Trump."

Trevor Noah: "Deregulation isn't going to help. Energy production has moved on. Coal jobs are like those dads who went out to get cigarettes. They're not coming back."

Jimmy Fallon: "In a new interview, Trump's son-in-law and top adviser Jared Kushner said the government should run like a company where the citizens are the customers. And people said, 'Well, in that case, we have a President we'd like to exchange.'"

Seth Meyers: "President Trump told senators yesterday that they would make a deal on healthcare because, quote, 'That's such an easy one.' Okay, well, just make sure your healthcare plan covers amnesia."

Seth Meyers: "First Lady Melania Trump spoke today at the State Department. Well, technically, all she said was, 'Sanctuary!'"

Seth Meyers: "According to a new poll, President Vladimir Putin's approval rating among Russians is above 80%. Of course, that's largely because he conducted the poll in person."

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TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2017 7:30 AM EDT

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+ Clyburn Likens Trump To Strom Thurmond.
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+ Price, Zinke Specials To Offer "First Ballot Tests" Of Trump Presidency.
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+ WSJournal: Yellen's Fix For Low-Income Unemployment Relies On Government Programs.
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Leading the News:

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HOUSE GOP LAWMAKERS MULLING ANOTHER PROPOSAL TO REPEAL, REPLACE ACA. The New York Times (3/28, Pear, Peters, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports House GOP leaders and the White House, "under extreme pressure from conservative activists, have restarted negotiations on legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act, with House leaders declaring that Democrats were celebrating the law's survival prematurely." Even though the AHCA was just pulled on Friday, "senior White House officials are now saying they have hope that they can still score the kind of big legislative victory that has so far eluded Mr. Trump." According to House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI), "We're not going to retrench into our corners or put up dividing lines. ... There's too much at stake to get bogged down in all of that."

The AP (3/28, Fram) reports Ryan said he will seek GOP lawmakers' support once more to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, although he provided no timeline. In addition, GOP leaders have yet to determine "how to overcome the deep GOP divisions that crumpled their legislation last week in a humiliating retreat for themselves and President Donald Trump."

Politico (3/28, Bade, Cheney, Bresnahan, 2.46M) reports that on Tuesday, House GOP lawmakers "were out in force...insisting they're not giving up their push to repeal and replace Obamacare," although "they're nowhere near a consensus on how to move forward." The article says they are determined to devise another plan to replace the ACA. Ryan said, "We're going to keep talking to each other until we get it right."

The Hill (3/28, Sullivan, Hellmann, 1.25M) reports that despite the GOP's determination, any proposal to repeal and replace the ACA "faces long odds." The article points out that House GOP lawmakers "were unable to come together last week, and leaders had to pull the bill from consideration in a major defeat." It remains "unclear what could change to allow the policy differences in the conference to be bridged."

The Washington Times (3/28, Howell, 272K) reports that following a closed-door meeting, House Republicans said "they wanted to find a way forward on health care but were still reaching for common ground." The piece explains that "any repeal bill must pass on GOP votes alone and meet arcane Senate rules to avoid a Democratic filibuster."

On its website, CNN (3/28, Fox, Walsh, Mattingly, 29.79M) reports many Republicans said on Tuesday that their party is not prepared "to abandon health care despite the fact that President Donald Trump made it clear last week it was time to get on to tax reform." Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC) "said if Republicans could find the votes, the House could again bring up last week's bill as early as this week, noting that the House Freedom Caucus was 'probably feeling a lot of heat.'"

Also covering the story are Bloomberg Politics (3/28, House, Wasson, 201K), Reuters (3/28, Cowan), CNBC (3/28, Mangan, 2.17M), the Huffington Post (3/28, Fuller, 237K), NPR (3/28, Davis, 1.92M), the New York Daily News (3/28, Joseph, 4.45M), Roll Call (3/28, Mershon, Williams, McPherson, 63K), U.S. News & World Report (3/28, Leonard, 1.02M), the Daily Caller (3/28, Brufke, 898K), and the Washington Examiner (3/28, Ferrechio, 400K).

Senate GOP, White House Ready To Abandon ACA Repeal Efforts. The AP (3/28, Werner) reports even as House Republicans vowed to pursue another plan to repeal and replace the ACA, the White House and Senate GOP lawmakers seemed "ready to abandon" that course of action, "at least for now." Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) made his views on the matter very clear on Tuesday. He said, "It's pretty obvious we were not able, in the House, to pass a replacement. Our Democratic friends ought to be pretty happy about that because we have the existing law in place, and I think we're just going to have to see how that works out. ... We believe it will not work out well, but we'll see."

Hospital Stocks Fell On Tuesday At The Prospect Of Another ACA Repeal Proposal. On its website, CNBC (3/28, Thomas, 2.17M) reports that hospital stocks fell on Tuesday after news broke that House GOP lawmakers were considering how to devise another plan to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. The article says hospital stocks fell by "more than 7 percent Tuesday." Many of those same stocks rose significantly on Monday after House GOP leadership pulled the AHCA, ending that particular effort to replace the ACA.

Reuters (3/28, Erman, Cowan, Abutaleb) also covers the story.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION PROPOSES $1.23 BILLION CUT TO RESEARCH FUNDING FROM NIH FOR CURRENT FISCAL YEAR. The New York Times (3/28, A21, Steinhauer, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports, "Ten legislative days before funding would run out, Congress is heading toward another government shutdown showdown." This is because "Democrats and many Republicans are likely to refuse to go along with President Trump's request for money for a border wall financed in part by outsize cuts to medical research." Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) said, "I'm not going to spend a lot of money on a wall." He added, "I'm not going to support a big cut to the N.I.H. I'm not going to support big cuts to the State Department."

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Bloomberg Politics (3/28, Edney, 201K) reports the Trump Administration "has proposed cutting $1.23 billion this fiscal year from research funded by the National Institutes of Health, according to a White House document." The article reports that the proposed cut is part of a broader proposal to cut $18 billion during the current fiscal year. The article also mentions that the Trump Administration "is requesting $65.1 billion for the Department of Health and Human Services in fiscal 2018, down from $84.6 billion in 2016" and that Secretary of Health and Human Services Tom Price "is scheduled to appear before the House Committee on Appropriations" today.

STAT (3/28, Scott) reports that the proposed cut to the NIH's funding "would wipe $50 million from funding for IDeA grants, which are intended to help spread biomedical research geographically across the United States," according to the White House document. The Trump Administration has also proposed cutting $100 million from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

The Hill (3/28, Lane, 1.25M) reports $300 million of the proposed cut to the NIH would come "from PEPFAR, an international program to combat HIV and AIDS focused mainly in Africa."

GenomeWeb (3/28, 1K) reports the Trump Administration has also proposed cutting $40 million in funding for the Food and Drug Administration and $314 million from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, during the current fiscal year. Vox (3/28, Belluz, 1.15M) and the NBC News (3/28, Fox, 2.67M) website also cover the story.

NIH Director Says "We Shouldn't Get Too Concerned" About Proposed NIH Budget Cut. Bloomberg BNA (3/28, Elfin, 7K) reports NIH Director Francis S. Collins "said March 27 he's not especially worried" about President Trump's proposed $32 billion cut to the NIH's annual budget in fiscal year 2018. Collins said, "We shouldn't get too concerned at the moment about the need to shrink the [NIH] enterprise," and pointed out that the funding for many large NIH projects has already been allocated under the 21st Century Cures Act.

Moody's Warns Proposed Budget Cuts Could Hurt Universities And Colleges That Rely On Federal Funding. The Washington Post (3/28, Douglas-Gabriel, 11.43M) reports President Trump's proposed cuts to the National Institutes of Health and other agencies "could hurt the bottom line of colleges and universities that rely on those government dollars," according to Moody's Investors Service. The article points out that around 80% of NIH's budget goes towards "grants to 300,000 researchers at universities across the country."

Ann Romney Criticizes Proposed NIH Budget Cuts. Yahoo! News (3/28, Golodryga, 8.62M) reports that in an interview with Yahoo News and Finance Anchor Bianna, Ann Romney, wife of former presidential candidate Mitt Romney, criticized President Trump's proposed budget cuts to the NIH. Romney said, "I will be the first one down lobbying against this."

The Hill (3/28, Savransky, 1.25M) "Blog Briefing Room" points out that "Romney, who is living with multiple sclerosis, said it's important that NIH continue receiving funding so that progress can be made and people can eventually be treated using new research."

Two Cleveland Clinic Cardiologists Concerned About Proposed NIH Budget Cut For Next Year. Crain's Cleveland Business (3/28, Suttell, 77K) reports Dr. Leslie Cho, the head of preventive cardiology at the Cleveland Clinic, and Dr. Steven Nissen, the chief of cardiology at the Cleveland Clinic, are both concerned about the Trump Administration's proposed 20% cut to the NIH's budget next year. Dr. Cho said, "There are trials that we have to do that will never be funded by drug companies. We rely on NIH," while Dr. Nissen pointed out that NIH-funded research has helped lead to the development of blockbuster drugs.

Tech Times (3/28, 135K) also covers the story of the Cleveland Clinic cardiologists sharing their concerns about the proposed budget cuts and also quotes other health researchers sharing similar concerns.

Biotech Entrepreneur Who Attended Trump's Address To Congress As "Guest Of Honor" Criticizes Proposed NIH Budget Cuts. The Hill (3/28, Seipel, 1.25M) "Blog Briefing Room" reports that a man who attended President Trump's address to Congress last month as a "guest of honor" has criticized President Trump's proposed budget cuts to the NIH. John Crowley, a biotech entrepreneur who founded a company to research his daughter's rare genetic disease, said in an interview with Axios that NIH research funding plays a "crucial role" in medical research.

Axios (3/28, Primack) reports that Crowley said in the interview, "For me as an entrepreneur, it's all about inventions and healing, and I think NIH plays a crucial role. It's part of this virtuous circle that it necessary to advance medicines to patients, which also includes the grants that NIH provides to our academic institutions."

Editorial: Proposed Budget Cuts To NIH Would Have "Profound" Impact On Scientific Research In Memphis. The Memphis (TN) Commercial Appeal (3/28, 229K) editorializes that the Trump Administration's proposed budget cuts to the

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National Institutes of Health would have a "profound" impact on the "scientific research community" in Memphis. The editorial says that the NIH provides a significant amount of funding to several local institutions, and that reducing research funding "would shift the responsibility to solve some of science's most difficult challenges onto the shoulders of future generations."

Column: Proposed Elimination Of NIH's Fogarty International Center Would Undermine America's Leadership In Global Health. Michele Barry, the director of Stanford University's Center for Innovation in Global Health, and Derek Yach, a consultant to the Vitality Institute for Health Promotion, write in a column in USA Today (3/28, 5.28M) that President Trump's proposed budget "would completely eliminate the National Institutes of Health's Fogarty International Center – one of the most effective tools we have to fight global diseases." Barry and Yach argue that eliminating the center "would undermine progress, erode trust in America's leadership in global health, and increase the risk of a devastating and preventable epidemic in the US."

Former AHRQ Director Argues Moving Agency From HHS To NIH Could Help Research. Healthcare IT News (3/28, Lagasse, 3K) reports Andrew Bindman, the former director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, has argued that moving the agency from the Department of Health and Human Services to "under the purview of the National Institutes of Health," as proposed by the Trump Administration, may help research. Bindman argued in a recent blog post that "the proposal to relocate AHRQ within the NIH is a threatening change, but under the right conditions a reorganization could represent a new beginning with an opportunity to refocus within a larger new home." Bindman also noted in his blog post that the Affordable Care Act reassigned "AHRQ's responsibility for conducting comparative effectiveness research to the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute" and "also created the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation."

The Secretary in the News:

PRICE HAS AUTHORITY TO "UNDERMINE" ACA UNTIL IT IS REPEALED. McClatchy (3/28, Pugh, 74K) reports given that House Republicans do not have a schedule for their renewed effort to repeal and replace the healthcare law, HHS Secretary Tom Price "will continue to undermine the Affordable Care Act in the meantime." HHS spokesperson Alleigh Marré stated, "The ACA is fundamentally flawed, failing and cannot be fixed through administrative action," adding, "In line with the department's mission to improve the health and well-being of the American people, Secretary Price and the HHS team will continue to pursue actions to mitigate the ACA's harmful effects and protect patients."

Fierce Healthcare (3/28, Small, 147K) reports Price was supposed "to be in charge of implementing a new healthcare policy overhaul crafted by Congress," but in light of the AHCA's defeat, "he is faced with the task of administering the various aspects of a law he opposes."

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION REGARDING ACA SUBSIDIES COULD IMPACT MARKETPLACES. Politico (3/29, Demko, 2.46M) reports President Trump is warning that the Affordable Care Act will "explode," yet "if that happens, it is likely because his administration supplies the spark that detonates the marketplaces." The article says the White House may "decide at any time to eliminate subsidies relied upon by insurers to lower costs for Obamacare's poorest customers, as a result of a court win by House Republicans last spring." The piece adds that more insight "may come Wednesday when Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price testifies before a House appropriations subcommittee," at which time he may reveal more about HHS' plans for the health law.

MEDICAID EXPANSION GAINS STEAM IN SEVERAL STATES AFTER AHCA BILL FAILED. The Washington Post (3/28, Deppisch, 11.43M) reports that for the "19 states that never expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, the calculus has quickly changed," even while House Speaker Ryan says that he will keep pushing for healthcare change. With Obamacare repeal less likely, it appears that those opposing Medicaid expansion "have just lost their best argument." Lawmakers in Kansas, Georgia, Virginia, Maine, North Carolina and Arkansas are looking into expansion. The article says "once Medicaid is expanded, it is politically very hard to take coverage away from people."

The Wall Street Journal (3/28, Armour, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) adds that Florida, Missouri, Idaho, Utah and Wyoming may also be reviewing their position on expanding Medicaid. Nonetheless, HHS Secretary Tom Price has informed governors that this Administration will be more willing to look at different ways of handling Medicaid programs at the state level.

According to a front-page story in the Washington Post (3/28, A1, Delreal, Somashekhar, 11.43M), Kansas' "abrupt reversal" could be "the front edge of a larger shift nationally, as state lawmakers absorb the repercussions of congressional Republicans' failed attempt to repeal and replace elements of the Affordable Care Act."

GEORGIA CONSIDERING MEDICAID EXPANSION AFTER AHCA SHELVED. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (3/28, Torres, 1.41M) reports "Gov. Nathan Deal's administration is exploring changes to Georgia's Medicaid program after a

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sweeping Republican overhaul of the Affordable Care Act was scuttled in a stunning rebuke to Donald Trump and Congressional leaders." The article said Deal "would review healthcare options that could include changes to "mandated minimum coverage" provisions, which require the state Medicaid program to cover a range of health services to recipients." There are no significant changes likely to come this year, changes which would require a familiar face, former Georgia Rep. Tom Price, to approve as HHS secretary.

MEDICARE PAYMENT REFORMS RULES MAY CHANGE UNDER PRICE. The Fiscal Times (3/28, 49K) says that "Former Rep. Tom Price of Georgia, the new HHS secretary, is a sharp critic of the move to a "value-based" system of payments to physicians and argues that they could seriously undermine the traditional doctor-patient relationship." The article says this "new approach is consistent with a move in the private sector and government over the past decade toward a 'value-based payment' that rewards quality of service and results rather than taking a more piecemeal approach regardless of the clinical need or the appropriateness of those services." However, critics such as Price, who controls the rule making at CMS, believe the "new system is hopelessly complicated" and undermines the patient-doctor relationship.

HHS in the News:

HHS SET TO TRANSFER MORE SYSTEMS TO CLOUD. The Wall Street Journal (3/28, Loten, 6.37M) reports the Department of Health and Human Services is moving forward with plans to transfer more of its systems to the digital cloud. Beth Killoran, the department's chief information officer, said Tuesday during an online Q&A hosted by Federal News Radio that 18.5 percent of the department's systems were moved to the cloud in 2016, and the agency plans to move 30 percent in the coming year.

MASSACHUSETTS ASKS VERMA FOR FLEXIBILITY REGARDING BENEFITS. The Springfield (MA) Republican (3/28, Schoenberg, 366K) reports Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker, through State Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders, has requested CMS administrator Seema Verma to allow Massachusetts "a large amount of flexibility from the federal government in administering Massachusetts' Medicaid program" including benefits. The article says, "Massachusetts has had near-universal health insurance coverage since former governor Mitt Romney's 2006 reforms. But MassHealth costs have been steadily increasing over the last several years, partially due to federal changes." Some of the items listed in Sudders' request to Verma include "more robust benefits" and imposing "its own employer mandate," as well as changing the "the size of businesses that are required to buy health insurance for their workers."

NIH NAMES 10 SEMIFINALISTS IN COMPETITION FOR ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE DIAGNOSTICS. GenomeWeb (3/28, 1K) reports the National Institutes of Health announced "10 semifinalists in the first phase of a $20 million competition to develop novel diagnostics for antibiotic resistance." The article explains that the competition was launched last year by "the NIH and the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response to promote the development of new point-of-care in vitro diagnostics to identify and characterize antibiotic-resistant bacteria, as well as to distinguish between viral and bacterial infections." Robert Eisinger, the special assistant for scientific projects for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Office of the Director, said in a statement, "We were quite pleased with the number of new and innovative concepts we received for this first phase of the competition. The response underscores the level of importance the scientific community places on this critical issue."

ANALYSIS: STUDIES ON CAUSES OF CANCER CONFUSE MEDIA, MISLEAD PUBLIC. The Atlantic (3/28, 21.27M) science staff writer Ed Yong writes that a 2015 study on the causes of cancer in different body parts "spawned more than a hundred rebuttals" and resulted in "botched headlines" because the authors "framed their results in terms of 'bad luck.'" The article reports that the two authors of the 2015 study have now produced an updated study, but failed to fix some of the errors in their first. The article quotes Clarice Weinberg, a statistician at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, who said the studies may overestimate how many cases of cancer are attributable to unpreventable DNA mutations, because environmental factors are "inherently harder to study than [inherited] mutations or replicative errors. We know quite a lot about carcinogenic effects of smoking, obesity and certain occupational exposures, but not much about other environmental factors."

INTEREST IN ME/CFS RESEARCH GROWING. Nature (3/28, Maxmen, 153K) reports more researchers are studying chronic fatigue syndrome, or myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME/CFS), which used to be considered "psychosomatic, but studies now suggest that it involves problems in the chemical reactions, or pathways, within cells." The article points out that the National Institutes of Health doubled its research funding to study the condition from 2016 to 2017 after the US Institute of Medicine released a report that concluded the condition had not been studied enough. The article also mentions that Avindra Nath, a neurologist at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, enrolled patients this month in a new study on the condition.

TRUMP'S FDA NOMINEE PLEDGES TO RECUSE HIMSELF FROM DECISIONS ON DRUG COMPANIES HE HAS

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WORKED FOR. The Wall Street Journal (3/29, Burton, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports the Administration's Food and Drug Administration commissioner nominee Scott Gottlieb will recuse himself from the agency's decisions on over 20 drug companies for a year. Gottlieb revealed the companies he worked with, which include GlaxoSmithKline and Bristol-Myers Squibb, in a financial disclosure filing. He also pledged to Office of Government Ethics officials that in addition to recusing himself, he would divest his interest in the companies and resign from any positions he held.

Bloomberg Politics (3/29, Langreth, Edney, 201K) reports Gottlieb intends to "make streamlining approvals his top priority, according to a person familiar with the administration's thinking. He's particularly focused on complex medications that combine old drugs with newer delivery devices, as well as those with unusually complicated formulations."

FDA APPROVES FURTHER TRIALS FOR FIU'S PROSTHETIC HAND SYSTEM. The South Florida Business Journal (3/28, Lima, Subscription Publication, 40K) reports Florida International University announced Tuesday that the FDA has approved further trials of the university's prosthetic hand system. The prosthetic is "similar to a pacemaker" in that it "works by delivering electrical pulses to specific nerves in the arm, using a wireless device that can be surgically implanted within the nerves. Sensors embedded in the prosthetic send signals to the implanted device, which then elicits sensations by delivering pulses." Grace Peng, program director at National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, which has collaborated on development of the prosthetic, said, "This unique system, integrating the long-term efforts of academia and industry, is an example of the bioengineering partnerships we promote."

PHARMACEUTICAL EXECUTIVES LUKEWARM ON CUTTING FDA REGULATIONS. Fortune (3/28, Mukherjee, 7.12M) reports that President Trump "is planning to take the ax to Food and Drug Administration regulations." While some pharmaceutical executives "see the value of less regulatory red tape, they're not cheering the prospect of scrapping all the rules." One reason is that a "drug-approval process perceived as rushed could cause insurance companies to balk at reimbursing treatments that aren't proven effective." Additionally, certain regulations act as barriers to entry for "would-be competitors."

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING DISPLAYS COMPETING VIEWS ON FDA'S MEDICAL DEVICE APPROVAL PROCESS. Congressional Quarterly (3/28, Siddons, Subscription Publication, 967) reports that a recent hearing of the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee demonstrated "lawmakers' competing desires for the Food and Drug Administration's oversight of medical devices." Some lawmakers called for the FDA "to apply a more consistent and less burdensome approach to device approvals, especially as the agency is poised to collect larger fees from device makers." Others worried "that speeding the review process could result in products that could harm patients, and that the FDA doesn't do an adequate job of notifying affected patients."

Health Reform:

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S ACTIONS COULD RESULT IN COLLAPSE OF ACA MARKETPLACES. The Washington Post (3/28, Johnson, 11.43M) reports that despite the failure of the AHCA, President Trump and GOP lawmakers "still have plenty of ways to cripple" the Affordable Care Act "without pulling it off the books." By putting an end to the subsidies insurers receive through the ACA, "the administration and congressional Republicans could undermine the law's insurance exchanges."

On its website, CNN Money (3/28, Luhby, 3.59M) reports that according to Trump and House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI), the ACA is on the verge of collapse. The article says there is something "they can do that will likely drive a stake through its heart – refuse to fund the law's cost-sharing subsidies." The piece adds that insurers use these subsidies to help defray premium costs for about 7 million low-income people enrolled in ACA plans. Last year, House GOP lawmakers sued the Obama Administration over the payments, alleging they were illegal. Now that Republicans control Congress and the White House, "House GOP lawmakers are in the uncomfortable situation of suing Health Secretary Tom Price."

Money (3/28, O'Brien, 3.92M) reports that the Trump Administration has the authority to force ACA marketplaces to collapse. The article says "active or passive efforts to weaken Obamacare could cause the failure of the individual marketplaces and jeopardize the health care of the more than 12 million Americans covered on them."

Bloomberg News (3/28, Tracer, 2.41M) reports that last week, Trump warned that the Affordable Care Act is "exploding." The article wonders if this assessment is accurate, and concludes that it is not. It points out that while "there are areas of the country where the ACA's markets are working well," there are others which are "struggling."

Also covering the story are NBC News (3/28, Fox, 2.67M), The Atlantic (3/28, Khazan, 21.27M) and the Daily Intelligencer (NY) (3/28, Kilgore, 795K).

INSURERS CONCERNED ABOUT PENDING ACA LAWSUITS. On its website, CNBC (3/28, Coombs, 2.17M) reports

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the failure of the AHCA eliminated "some uncertainty for insurers as they prepare to determine rates for 2018," yet "there are still unresolved legal issues, which could pose big hurdles ahead." In particular, insurers are worried "about what House Republicans and the Trump administration will do about cost-sharing reduction subsidies for low-income people on Obamacare exchange plans."

MCCONNELL EXPECTS ACA STATUS QUO TO PERSIST FOR SOME TIME. The Hill (3/28, Sullivan, 1.25M) reports that on Tuesday, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) said the Affordable Care Act "will stay put, sounding resigned to the law continuing even as the House tries to revive repeal efforts." While House Republicans said they are prepared to continue ACA repeal efforts, "the Senate was wary of the previous legislation from the start, and McConnell spoke of the effort in the past tense."

The Washington Examiner (3/28, Ferrechio, 400K) quotes McConnell as saying, "I think where we are on Obamacare, regretfully, at the moment, is where the Democrats want us to be, which is the status quo." He added, "We are just going to see how that works out. ... We believe it will not work out well."

SOME TOP GOP LAWMAKERS SEEK MEANS OF FUNDING ACA SUBSIDIES. The Hill (3/28, Sullivan, 1.25M) reports some top House Republicans "say they want to find a way to fund ObamaCare payments" over which they sued the Obama Administration. These subsidies reimburse insurers for discounting premiums to lower-income ACA enrollees. Insurers are warning that they will completely exit ACA markets if the payments are stopped. The GOP lawmakers acknowledge these payments must be funded, and argue that doing so "would go a long way to stabilizing the market and removing a major source of insurer anxiety, though other problems would of course remain."

FREEDOM CAUCUS AT ODDS OVER WHETHER TO FORCE VOTE ON ACA REPEAL-ONLY BILL. Politico (3/28, Bade, Cheney, 2.46M) reports members of the House Freedom Caucus who contributed to the defeat of the AHCA "are divided over whether they should try to force a floor vote on a repeal-only bill with a procedural tool that could put their GOP colleagues in a bind." Some of the group's most conservative members "are already setting in motion plans to file a so-called discharge petition." This move "forces the chamber to vote on legislation – in this case, one of the group member's Obamacare repeal bills – after it garners more than 216 lawmakers' signatures."

The Hill (3/28, Sullivan, 1.25M) reports that Rep. Mo Brooks (R-AL) unveiled a proposal to repeal the ACA completely, but the "measure that has no real path to passage given opposition from moderate Republicans and an inability to get through a filibuster in the Senate."

MAINE GOVERNOR UNABLE TO IGNORE ACA DESPITE HIS OPPOSITION TO IT. The AP (3/28, Villeneuve) reports that on Tuesday, Maine Gov. Paul LePage said "he wants to work with legislators to just 'do our own thing' and suggested Maine's workers' compensation insurance system could serve as a model for the federal government." LePage argued that the Affordable Care Act "is not sustainable," and warned that GOP lawmakers "who want to wait until the health care overhaul implodes are hurting the American people and should be voted out of office." The article adds that despite LePage's sentiments towards the ACA, it will be difficult for Maine to obtain a waiver allowing it to independently run its own healthcare system.

On its website, CNN (3/28, Massie, 29.79M) reports that LePage criticized lawmakers who maintain the ACA should be allowed to fail on its own. He stated, "That's about as sensible as go jump off a bridge. That makes no sense. If you are telling people let it fail so the American people can get hurt more and when they get hurt more maybe we'll do something, why don't you go jump off a bridge? That's just about as sensible."

The Hill (3/28, Greenwood, 1.25M) and the Portland (ME) Press Herald (3/28, Thistle, 177K) also cover the story.

REPUBLICANS FACING RE-ELECTION IN 2018 UNCERTAIN ABOUT STANCE ON ACA. The New York Times (3/28, Martin, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that as Republicans begin to accept their inability to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, those "eyeing next year's congressional campaign are grappling with a new dilemma: Do they risk depressing their conservative base by abandoning the repeal effort, or anger a broader set of voters by reviving a deeply unpopular bill even closer to the midterm elections?" The article points out that this issue is even more pressing in the House, "where the Republican majority could be at risk in 2018 if the party's voters are demoralized, and Democratic activists, energized by the chance to send a message to President Trump, stream to the polls."

SOME CONSUMERS CONVINCED THEY MAY BE ABLE TO AVOID PAYING ACA PENALTY THIS YEAR. Bloomberg News (3/28, Steverman, 2.41M) reports that this year, consumers are supposed to pay a penalty if they lack health coverage, according to the ACA's rules. Yet, as April 15 approaches, some believe they may be able to avoid paying the penalty. That is because following President Trump's inauguration, the IRS altered "the way it handled the health coverage question on tax returns. Initially this tax season, the agency was automatically rejecting 'silent' tax returns –

those that didn't indicate whether the taxpayer had insurance coverage," yet it "reversed course a few weeks after Trump, on his first day in office, ordered agencies to ease the burdens of complying with the ACA."

EFFORTS BY TRUMP TO "UNDERMINE" ACA EXPECTED TO DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACT HIS SUPPORTERS. The Huffington Post (3/28, Scheller, 237K) reports that according to its own analysis and a poll conducted by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, if congressional Republicans and President Trump "undermine" the Affordable Care Act, this move would disproportionately impact counties which voted for Trump in November. Data show that in areas "with just one or two insurers offering coverage through the law's new exchanges, 54.5 percent of residents voted for Trump in 2016, while just 40.8 percent voted for Clinton."

Similarly, Vox (3/28, Belluz, 1.15M) reports that if the Trump Administration moves to curb the ACA, those who would be most at risk are people who live in rural areas, "the very same places that voted for Donald Trump."

PELOSI URGES DEMOCRATIC COLLEAGUES TO DEVISE PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE ACA. Politico (3/28, Caygle, 2.46M) reports that in the wake of the failure of the AHCA, "House Democrats are charging ahead with their own push to tweak" the Affordable Care Act. On Tuesday, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) wrote to her caucus, "requesting members send their ideas to strengthen the law as soon as possible." She and other top Democrats on healthcare panels intend to discuss these ideas on Wednesday morning.

The Washington Times (3/28, Howell, 272K) reports that in the letter, Pelosi "said Democrats can preserve their recent victory by offering ways to build on the Affordable Care Act, which extended coverage to more than 20 million but is suffering from soaring premiums and dwindling choices on its web-based exchanges." She wrote, "After the collapse of TrumpCare, we must ensure that the Trump Administration does not sabotage the ACA out of spite. ... Then, we can work to improve and update the Affordable Care Act and the health security it provides tens of millions of Americans."

The Huffington Post (3/28, Bendery, 237K) also quotes Pelosi as stating, "It would be my hope to create a list of priorities to engage with our colleagues, with social media and advocacy groups, and perhaps even with the President."

FOLLOWING DEFEAT OF AHCA, DCCC TARGETING VULNERABLE GOP LAWMAKERS. The Hill (3/28, Hagen, Kamisar, 1.25M) reports that on Monday, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) "launched a series of digital ads targeting more than a dozen electorally vulnerable GOP lawmakers." The article points out that many of these GOP lawmakers are from districts which "supported Hillary Clinton for president in 2016, compounding the headache for these lawmakers who could find themselves tied to a deeply unpopular bill backed by a president whom many of their constituents opposed."

TESTER SAYS HE WOULD SUPPORT ACA REPEAL PROPOSAL. The Washington Examiner (3/28, Chaitin, 400K) reports that during a Tuesday appearance on CNN, Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) said "he is open to supporting a Republican bill to repeal and replace Obamacare." CNN's Kate Bolduan pointed out that President Trump, via Twitter, predicted "that when Obamacare 'folds' then Democrats will come to the table to make a deal." Bolduan then asked Tester if he would back "such a deal if it would repeal and replace" the Affordable Care Act. Tester, "up for re-election in 2018 in a state Trump won by 20 percentage points," responded, "I absolutely do, and I hope it happens sooner rather than later."

SPICER SAYS SOME 205 TO 210 HOUSE REPUBLICANS SUPPORTED AHCA. The Washington Examiner (3/28, Westwood, 400K) reports that according to White House press secretary Sean Spicer, House Republicans "had between 205 and 210 votes in favor of the failed Obamacare replacement bill last week." He added, "To get to 216, to get to 218...there are certain things that people want...that weren't worth doing because it would make the deal bad."

LABRADOR DEFENDS HOUSE FREEDOM CAUCUS OPPOSITION TO AHCA. The Washington Times (3/28, McLaughlin, 272K) reports Rep. Raul Labrador on Tuesday said on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" that the House Freedom Caucus wanted to reduce the cost of health care for everybody. Defending the group's opposition to the AHCA, Labrador said, "Every health care expert understands that about 67 percent of the increases of health insurance are based on essential health benefits and this Title 1 that provided more regulations in the health care industry." He added, "We can get rid of those things and reduce the cost of health insurance for most Americans."

CONNECTICUT HEALTH EXCHANGE AUTHORIZES NARROWER NETWORK PLANS. The Connecticut Mirror (3/28, Becker) reports Access Health CT, Connecticut's health insurance exchange, "recently voted to loosen the requirements on the size of insurance provider networks on plans sold to its customers starting next year." The article reports that the exchange expects "some customers would welcome" a health plan that covers fewer hospitals and physicians in exchange for lower premiums, but the Connecticut State Medical Society warned that the change could decrease patients' access to care.

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FAILURE OF HOUSE REPUBLICANS' HEALTHCARE BILL WILL "NOT BE A MAJOR SETBACK" FOR HEALTH INSURERS IN HARTFORD AREA. The Hartford (CT) Courant (3/27, Blair, 445K) reports the failure of the House Republicans' healthcare bill will "not be a major setback" for health insurers in the Hartford area, according to industry experts. The article points out that Aetna and Cigna "are not major players in health exchanges."

WEGMANN: MCCRERY DEFENDED ACA AS A LOBBYIST, NOT FORMER GOP LAWMAKER. In a commentary for the Washington Examiner (3/28, 400K) , Phillip Wegmann writes that "lawmaker-turned-lobbyist" John McCrery defended Obamacare in an interview CNBC's John Harwood that "made for a neat narrative, detailing how one old Republican was urging his colleagues to compromise on healthcare." McCrery told Harwood that "sooner or later," Republicans would have to accept "something like Obamacare." Wegmann says McCrery remarks reflect his role as a lobbyist for Capitol Counsel LLC and his clients include drugmakers Merck and Sanofi and the American Health Care Association.

FOUR ACA FIXES THAT COULD HELP IMPROVE STABILITY. In a 2,656-word story, Politico Magazine (3/28, Grunwald) highlights four policy fixes that could plausibly improve the ACA and attract bipartisan support. "The leading enemy of stability is uncertainty," and for insurers that uncertainty is an ongoing House lawsuit seeking to block cost-sharing subsidies that reduce out-of-pocket costs for more than 6 million customers on the exchanges below the poverty line. In addition to ending the lawsuit, states can take on reinsurance funding to help insurers cover the highest-cost cases. The Trump Administration could advance new rules proposed by the Department of Health and Human Services that give insurers more flexibility and close loopholes. Democrats and Republicans could also work to target runaway drug costs.

CRUZ SAYS HEALTH CARE OVERHAUL MUST GET DONE. The Texas Tribune (3/28, Livingston, 12K) reports that Sen. Ted Cruz members of the Federalist Society on Tuesday that "failure is not an option" when it comes to GOP efforts to overhaul the ACA. Cruz "portrayed himself as a consensus builder on the matter." Cruz said, "18 days does not a final product make," suggesting his colleagues focus on "areas of consensus."

COMMENTARY CONSIDERS HEALTH REFORM. Numerous outlets offer opinions on health reform.

Michael R. Strain, a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, writes in an opinion piece in the Washington Post (3/28, 11.43M) "PostEverything" blog that "it would be an error to conclude that the Affordable Care Act is working well because House Republicans failed to pass a bill to repeal and replace it." Strain argues that concerns about a "death spiral" are "overblown," but "insurers are pulling out of the exchanges."

In an opinion piece, the Washington Times (3/28, 272K) contributor Cheryl K. Chumley writes that President Donald Trump should not work with Democrats on healthcare reform. Chumley argues that Trump should "forget the Democrats," because he doesn't "need 'em" and "the American voter doesn't want 'em."

Megan McArdle writes in her column in Bloomberg View (3/28, 125K) that a new paper found millions of people gained healthcare coverage under the Affordable Care Act, "but it's not obvious that these people got any healthier." McArdle cites the paper which said, "No statistically significant effects on risky behaviors or self-assessed health emerge for the full sample."

Michael Reagan, the president of The Reagan Legacy Foundation, writes in an opinion piece in The Hill (3/28, 1.25M) that the reason the American Health Care Act failed to pass was because of the reconciliation process. Reagan argues that House Republican leaders were "so focused on crafting a bill to repeal and replace ObamaCare that could get passed via reconciliation in the Senate they didn't put the correct bill together."

Jonathan M. Ruga, the CEO of Sentry Financial Corporation, writes in an opinion piece in the Deseret (UT) News (3/28, 362K) that the House Republicans' healthcare bill "was a huge tax giveaway to the rich and corporations that" would have threatened "the health insurance of 24 million low and moderate-income Americans." Ruga says, "I was against the plan because I knew my grandmother wouldn't approve," because she taught him "we're all supposed to look out for each other."

David Faris, a political science professor at Roosevelt University, writes in an opinion piece in The Week (3/28, 2.41M) that progressives are now pushing the "Democrats to start fighting for single-payer health care," which they often refer to as "Medicare for all." Faris poses a series of questions that Democrats should ask themselves before pushing such an agenda, and concludes that Democrats may "be better off fighting for the public insurance option that so narrowly eluded them in 2010" for now. Faris mentions that a "Medicare for all" system would require a great expansion of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Steven Brill, the author of "America's Bitter Pill: Money, Politics, Backroom Deals, and the Fight to Fix Our Broken

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Healthcare System," writes in an opinion piece in the Washington Post (3/28, 11.43M) that President Trump could help improve the Affordable Care Act by enforcing Section 1402 of the law, which aims to ease the burden of out-of-pocket expenses. Brill explains that the provision "requires insurance companies to waive some of the deductibles and other co-payments for lower-income families," but says a decision by a US District Court ordered to the Department of Health and Human Services to stop making payments under the section. Brill argues that Trump should continue the Obama Administration's appeal of that decision and if successful he could help make healthcare more affordable for many people.

In the Washington Post (3/28, 11.43M) "Right Turn" blog, contributor Jennifer Rubin writes that it's "increasingly hard to take" House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) "seriously these days." Rubin argues that Ryan's credibility has suffered and instead of continuing with his "excessive cheerleading, inflated expectations and deliberate blindness to fundamental differences," he "should aim low and for now work on just getting a spending bill to avoid a shutdown."

In an opinion piece, the Washington Examiner (3/28, 400K) contributor Quin Hillyer writes that "House Republicans should revive their effort to replace Obamacare by using Charlie Brown's Christmas tree as a model." Hillyer argues that like Charlie Brown, "House Republicans can't agree on exactly what their Obamacare replacement tree should look like, they should just take a tiny, bare-bones tree and send it to the Senate to be gussied up."

In an opinion piece, the Washington Times (3/28, 272K) contributor Lawrence Fedewa writes that one of the reasons the House Republicans' healthcare bill failed to garner enough support was because House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) "was always focused more on process than he was on content." Fedewa argues that Ryan came up with a "very clever" three-part process to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act while avoiding a Senate filibuster, but that Ryan "gambled everything" on selling the process, rather than the substance of the legislation.

Bloomberg View (3/28, 125K) editorializes that it would be "reckless" for President Donald Trump to leave in place his first executive order calling for federal agencies to "waive, defer, grant exemptions from, or delay" parts of the ACA. The editorial argues that enforcing Trump's executive order without repealing the law would "weaken the individual insurance market and Medicaid," which could destabilize the US healthcare system.

Davis Merritt writes in his column in the Wichita (KS) Eagle (3/28, 265K) that President Trump's failure to get the House Republicans' healthcare bill passed "was preordained by his personality." Merritt argues that because Trump "considers himself the center of every universe, an opportunity to step toward greatness was invisible to him."

In the Washington Post (3/28, 11.43M) "Plum Line" blog, contributor Greg Sargent writes that "the failure to pass the GOP repeal-and-replace plan has ensnared Trump and Republicans in a trap." Sargent argues that many conservatives are arguing "that it is untenable to stand pat on the issue – and that lawmakers will face retribution if they do not return to the repeal-and-replace effort," but Sargent argues that such an effort to repeal and replace the law "could end up hurting a lot of Republican and Trump voters."

In an opinion piece in The Week (3/28, 2.41M), senior correspondent Damon Linker writes that the "single, foundational error" underlying the House Republicans' healthcare bill was "House Speaker Paul Ryan's decision to craft and sell the AHCA" as a way to increase consumer choice. Linker argues that "what people want isn't choice in medical care, but security."

In an opinion piece, Vox (3/28, 1.15M) contributor Tara Golshan writes that Republicans have two options to "fix" the Affordable Care Act, and that is to "unify Republicans (a strategy that ultimately resulted in the failure of ACHA) on a repeal-and-replace plan, or try to work on something bipartisan to fix the existing law." Golshan argues that "while Democrats have said they are willing to work with Republicans on health care...[c]onservatives think Obamacare can be replaced with only Republican votes."

The Washington Times (3/28, 272K) editorializes that "instead of repeal and replace, Americans face collapse and replace" of the ACA, and that "the only uncertainty is how soon and how bad it will be." The Times says Trump's overture to bipartisanship on health care is "nice, but naïve" and says Trump "should now be mending fences with House Freedom Caucus conservatives who balked at what they scorned as 'Obamacare-lite.'" The Times argues that eliminating the ACA's essential-benefits packages and the community rating schemes "could expand the legislative sweet spot where a House majority lives."

The Dallas Morning News (3/28, 1.12M) editorializes that Obamacare is not going to fold and President Trump's tweet that Democrats will make a deal on it once it collapses "shows he misunderstands entirely the lessons from last week" that "whatever eventually replaces Obamacare is going to have to build off the guarantees already in place." The editorial urges Republicans to put forth fixes within the framework of the system already in place and Democrats to be honest "about where Obamacare doesn't work as well as it should, and either sign on to the GOP fixes or develop their own" that

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would attract moderate GOP support.

Eric Zorn writes in a column for the Chicago Tribune (3/28, 2.54M) that President Trump's "Plan B" after the failure of House efforts to repeal and replace the ACA is "morally repellent" for "abdicat[inig] responsibility for those who will lose their health coverage if problems with Obamacare ... worsen." Zorn write it is "politically obtuse" to think people and communities will blame the Democrats for the "chaos" of lapsed prescriptions, canceled surgeries, and medical debts. Plan C, Zorn writes, could be for Democrats to "demand that, to fulfill his promise of delivering 'insurance for everybody,' he join the burgeoning fight for single-payer medical insurance as seen in nearly every other civilized country in the world."

Jason Linkins writes for the Huffington Post (3/28, Linkins, 237K) that in the wake of the failure of Republicans' first big legislative initiative, they should "fix Obamacare, declare their promises fulfilled, spike the football and move on." Linkins says Republicans are "constitutionally averse to actually fulfill any promise to improve upon Obamacare's status quo" and are not likely to "come up with anything that gets them any closer to a true Obamacare 'replacement.'" Linkins says the GOP risks political consequences for letting ACA weaknesses persist.

Seth Mandel writes for the New York Post (3/28, 3.82M) that the GOP effort to simply repeal Obamacare is "dead," and sentiment to the contrary "imperil the opportunity the GOP still has to do serious health-care reform." Republicans should "focus on what aspects of the health-care system most need fixing," such as tort reform, and President Trump could use executive orders or regulatory adjustments to lure Democrats to the table on bipartisan legislation. Trump and HHS Secretary Price have "wide latitude to interpret many areas of the law," Mandel writes, suggesting moves that could put Democrats on the defensive and give them reason to negotiate broader changes.

Charles Hurt writes for the Washington Times (3/28, 272K) that the failure of the AHCA means only that "this specific repeal-and-replace bill was not appealing enough to get the necessary votes to pass." That is "probably a good thing for America" as the bill "just replaced a massive and reckless new federal government entitlement program built by Democrats with a massive and reckless new federal government entitlement program built by Republicans." Hurt says many in Washington are "desperate to blame Mr. Trump and Republicans for everything that goes wrong."

Sarah Kliff writes for Vox (3/28, 1.15M) that Republican legislators lack a new health care plan. GOP lawmakers "have not offered up a health care bill that could do better than the American Health Care Act," which was opposed by two blocs saying that the AHCA didn't go far enough or that the bill did too much to take apart the coverage programs. Kliff says bridging the divide is "perhaps impossible," and goes on to note moves in Kansas and Virginia to expand Medicaid coverage.

Political consultant Mark Mellman writes in an op-ed for The Hill (3/28, 1.25M) that Donald Trump is blaming Democrats for last week's AHCA failure. Mellman contrasts Trump's approach with a comparatively bipartisan approach to the ACA. "Trump probably didn't even realize that, although ObamaCare passed without a Republican vote, it did include scores of GOP amendments, allowed to them in an attempt at bipartisan comity." Mellman blames Trump and Republicans who "voted over 50 times to repeal ObamaCare without giving any meaningful thought to how it might actually be replaced."

The Boston Globe (3/28, 1.08M) editorializes that the collapse of the GOP's ACA replacement plan last week "inflicted real damage" on 2.6 million low-income people in 19 states that "refused, for political reasons, to accept the law's Medicaid expansion." States are "no longer proving anything by refusing to take federal money" and now Kansas is moving to join the expansion while Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal, is said to be reconsidering the state's opposition to expanding Medicaid. Maine has "failed to accept the money, even as the state grapples with a raging public health crisis from opioid addiction," but a referendum later this year could provide an estimated 70,000 people with coverage. The Globe also notes that states that spurned Medicaid expansion have funded expansion in the 31 states that accepted it.

Healthcare News:

ADVOCATES PUSHING FOR ALL-HOUR ACCESS TO EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS. The Washington Post (3/28, Larimer, 11.43M) reports some emergency contraception advocates are proposing that "morning-after pills should be available on college campuses at all hours." This year, Maryland state Del. Marice I. Morales proposed HB 1205, which would require 24-7 campus access to over-the-counter emergency contraception at public colleges and universities. While the bill's "chances don't seem great," it did draw "attention from students, colleges and others tracking the issue." According to NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland, about 1,000 students from six Maryland colleges have signed petitions in favor of round-the-clock access to emergency contraception. One suggestion highlighted in the article is "a simple vending machine" to dispense the medication as needed.

TWO ANTIABORTION ACTIVISTS CHARGED WITH 15 FELONIES FOR UNDERCOVER PLANNED PARENTHOOD

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RECORDINGS. The Washington Post (3/29, Schmidt, 11.43M) reports antiabortion activists David Robert Daleiden and Sandra Merritt were charged with 15 felonies "for violating the privacy of health-care providers" by conducting undercover video and audio recordings of several Planned Parenthood employees without their permission. California Attorney General Xavier Becerra said Daleiden and Merritt created false identities and a fictitious bioresearch company to meet Planned Parenthood officials and record private discussions. Daleiden and Merritt operate a nonprofit, the Center for Medical Progress, which issued a statement calling the charges "fake news" and "bogus."

The Los Angeles Times (3/28, Hamilton, 4.52M) reports an affidavit filed in San Francisco Superior Court alleges that Daleiden and Merritt "fabricated [a] medical research company, BioMax Procurement Services, to attend the National Abortion Federation's 2014 conference in San Francisco," and "to set up meetings with women's healthcare providers" that they "surreptitiously recorded." Vicki Saporta of the National Abortion Federation said the videos generated a "flood of hate speech, threats and violence" to abortion providers nationwide. Although Planned Parenthood "said it never has and never would sell fetal tissue, it did apologize for some of the remarks that Daleiden's camera's captured."

The AP (3/28, Dalton) reports that, according to the allegations, Daleiden and Merritt "filmed 14 people without permission between October 2013 and July 2015 in Los Angeles, San Francisco and El Dorado counties." A felony count was filed for each person, and a 15th was added "for criminal conspiracy to invade privacy."

The Washington Times (3/28, Richardson, 272K) reports Daleiden and Merritt have been charged previously "with felonies by Houston prosecutors for tampering with government records," although the charges were dropped last July.

The Hill (3/28, Savransky, 1.25M) reports in its "Blog Briefing Room" that Planned Parenthood Interim Vice President of Communications Mary Alice Carter said in a statement, "The California Attorney General filing criminal charges sends a clear message that you cannot target women and you cannot target health care providers without consequences."

Politico (3/28, 2.46M) also reports.

RYAN: HOUSE WILL USE RECONCILIATION TO DEFUND PLANNED PARENTHOOD. The Washington Times (3/28, Richardson, 272K) reports House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) stated during a press conference Tuesday that the House will use reconciliation to defund Planned Parenthood. The Times quotes Ryan as saying, "We think reconciliation is the tool, because that gets it in law. ... Reconciliation is the way to go." Ryan also "said there is no timetable for the new health care bill."

The Hill (3/28, Lane, 1.25M) also reports.

IOWA LEGISLATURE CONSIDERS BILL BANNING ABORTIONS AFTER HEARTBEAT IS DETECTED. The AP (3/28, Rodriguez, Sanders) reports Iowa Legislature Republicans have supported a bill to "ban abortions once a fetal heartbeat is detected, which would be the strictest ban in the country if enacted." The provision was added to a bill aimed at banning most abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy. A committee that reviewed the measure on Tuesday "adjourned without a decision," although it is expected to be discussed on Wednesday. Democratic Rep. Beth Wessel-Kroeschell called the legislation "an all-out assault on women and a sneak attack from Republicans," but Republican Rep. Shannon Lundgren "said Democrats should not be surprised by the move."

TENNESSEE HOUSE ADVANCES 20-WEEK ABORTION PROHIBITION BILL. The Tennessean (3/28, Lowary, 407K) reports Tennessee legislators advanced a bill on Tuesday to ban 20-week abortions and charge physicians who perform abortions after viability is determined with Class C felonies. The bill's House sponsor Rep. Matthew Hill (R-Jonesborough) "said the legislation takes aim at physicians, not women, by attaching a felony criminal charge to violations of the law." Several Democratic lawmakers argue the measure "is infringing on the rights of women to make their own medical decisions."

PRESIDENT TRUMP PICKS FORMER ANTHEM LOBBYIST TO HEAD DOJ'S ANTITRUST DIVISION. Modern Healthcare (3/28, Livingston, Subscription Publication, 241K) reports President Donald Trump hired Makan Delrahim, a former lobbyist for Anthem, to head the Department of Justice's antitrust division. The article suggests that the selection of Delrahim could "be a boon for the Anthem-Cigna merger, which was blocked by a US District Court judge for threatening to harm competition in the national employer market." The article reports that Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and others have questioned whether Delrahim should serve in the position or called for him to recuse himself in matters involving the proposed merger.

KASICH CALLS FOR MANDATES ON INSURANCE COMPANIES TO COVER MENTAL HEALTHCARE AND DRUG ADDICTION. The Columbus (OH) Dispatch (3/28, Johnson, 529K) reports Ohio Gov. John Kasich spoke at the National Alliance of Mental Illness meeting on Tuesday. Though he is uncertain of the viability of Obamacare as it stands now, he

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"said mental health care and drug addiction treatment should be 'mandates.'"

Human Services News:

OREGON SOCIAL WORKERS ROUTINELY LEAVE CHILDREN IN DANGER, REPORT SAYS. The Oregonian (3/28, Young, 894K) reports, "Oregon's child welfare system leaves children in danger because workers routinely miss or ignore threats to kids' safety, according to an internal state report made public Monday." The state's Department of Human Services analyzed "a random sample of 101 case decisions" and found that "social workers incorrectly determined children were safe in 47 of the cases." In 27 percent of those cases, the workers "didn't look for defined safety threats," and identified incorrect risks in another 20 percent.

GOV. LEPAGE WANTS LEGISLATORS TO MAKES WELFARE CHANGES INTO PERMANENT LAW. The Portland (ME) Press Herald (3/28, Miller, 177K) reports Gov. Paul LePage on Tuesday "unveiled a package of proposed welfare changes...that seek to put into law the executive actions his administration has made to tighten access to assistance programs while beefing up work requirements." The package is expected "to encounter strong opposition, once again, from Democrats and advocates who say LePage's welfare changes during the past six years have only hurt many low-income families and children."

Food & Import Safety:

OK FOOD INC. RECALLS ROUGHLY 1 MILLION POUNDS OF CHICKEN PRODUCTS DUE TO METAL OBJECT CONTAMINATION. In continuing coverage, USA Today (3/28, Bowerman, 5.28M) reports Ok Food Inc. is recalling nearly 1 million pounds of chicken products "after a handful of consumers found metal objects in their food," though no injuries have been reported. According to US Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), "After an internal investigation, the firm identified the affected product and determined that the objects in all the complaints came from metal conveyor belting."

MILDER STRAIN OF BIRD FLU IDENTIFIED IN FLOCK OF UNIDENTIFIED GEORGIA POULTRY COMPANY. The Wall Street Journal (3/28, McWhirter, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports the Georgia Department of Agriculture announced on Monday that a low pathogenic strain of bird flu has been identified in a commercial flock of one Chattooga County-based poultry company. About 18,000 chickens on the farm were destroyed as a precaution. Officials say that strain, which has been spreading throughout the southeast US, poses a very low risk to humans and the food supply. However, it can mutate into a more deadly version if not dealt with.

Medicare:

COMPLIANCE ISSUES MAY CAUSE SOUTH CAROLINA HOSPITAL TO LOSE MEDICARE CONTRACT. The Greenville (SC) News (3/28, Cary, 182K) says "due to compliance issues," CMS gave legal notice that it will terminate the Medicare contract with Greenville Memorial Hospital on April 16. The article says the "broad areas of concern cited by CMS under its conditions of participation include nursing services, patient rights and the governing body. The GMH action plan for the emergency department includes strengthening clinical documentation processes around patient care, increasing staffing and providing more intensive training." The hospital says that it has already initiated most action plans and is "confident Medicare will continue" at their facility.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT JOINS FRAUD LAWSUIT AGAINST UNITEDHEALTH GROUP. Modern Healthcare (3/28, Castellucci, Subscription Publication, 241K) reports the "U.S. Justice Department has joined another whistle-blower lawsuit against UnitedHealth Group that alleges the insurer fraudulently billed the Medicare program by claiming patients were sicker than they were" in a case initially filed in 2009. The lawsuit alleges that the insurance carrier "inflated its plan members' risk scores in order to boost payments under Medicare Advantage's risk-adjustment program." The article states "under the Medicare Advantage program, the government pays private health plans monthly amounts for every member they cover, and those taxpayer-funded payments are adjusted based on how sick someone is." The DOJ joined a similar 2011 case last month and is seeking to merge the two. Kaiser Health News (3/28, Schulte, 2K) further reports that UnitedHealth through a spokesperson said "litigating against Medicare Advantage plans to create new rules through the courts will not fix widely acknowledged government policy shortcomings or help Medicare Advantage members and is wrong." The spokesperson also said the company denies any wrongdoing.

Medicaid & CHIP:

KANSAS LEGISLATURE PASSES EXPANSION OF MEDICAID UNDER ACA; GOVERNOR LIKELY TO VETO. Reuters (3/28, Pierog) reports the Kansas Senate voted 25-14 to expand "eligibility for Medicaid under the federal

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Affordable Care Act (ACA)." However, Gov. Sam Brownback will likely veto the bill and the vote totals indicate that the legislature will not be able to override it. Brownback, through a spokeswoman, called ACA "a failing entitlement program" that is "in a death spiral." If the expansion becomes law in Kansas, it is estimated that 180,000 will be added to Medicaid, adding costs to the state of $31 million in 2018 and $69 million in 2019.

The Lawrence (KS) Journal World (3/28, Hancock, 42K) reports the cost of expansion would be $81 million and would cover 152,000 Kansans. Chairperson Sen. Caryn Tyson (R) of the Senate Tax Committee said that expansion "is not a good investment for Kansas at this time." Meanwhile, Senate Democratic Leader Anthonly Hensley said he favors expansion, because it "means rural hospitals, clinics, mental health centers and other health care providers remain open by reducing the cost of uncompensated care. Further, it creates more than 3,800 new jobs."

The Washington Post (3/28, Delreal, Somashekhar, 11.43M) says the vote passed the Senate with all Democrats voting for it plus "a number of newly elected moderate Republicans who campaigned on a promise to broaden the program." The article states this "vote sent a strong signal that Republicans nationally are facing new pressure to participate in a program that they once saw as one of the law's central evils." Republicans are "sympathetic to the hospitals...but are reluctant to join a program that they think is flawed." Of the 19 states that have rejected Medicaid expansion, 16 are GOP-led. CNBC (3/28, Mangan, 2.17M) cites Maine, Virginia and Georgia as states looking at expanding Medicaid. The article says states may feel it is "'better to have expansion money locked in than being on the outside' in the event an Obamacare replacement bill is passed." Diane Rowland, executive vice president of the Kaiser Family Foundation, believes states may also be more willing to look at expansion now is that the move is less likely to be seen as a victory for President Obama.

CNN Money (3/28, Luhby, 3.59M) reports, "Legislators also faced heavy lobbying from the state hospital association and other expansion supporters, who used the 2015 closing of a rural Kansas hospital to rally residents' support. They point out that the state has forfeited nearly $1.8 billion in federal funds since 2014, much of which would go to bolster hospitals, which have to care for the uninsured."

The Kansas City (MO) Star (3/28, 581K) says that it will require 84 votes in the House and 27 in the Senate to override a veto if that is what in fact Brownback does. The article says, "proponents will need to flip at least two of the 14 conservatives in the Senate to a yes vote to override a veto," as well as three in the House.

The Kansas City (MO) Star (3/28, Marso, Woodall, 581K)reports separately that a "grass-roots push from Kansans who aren't usually involved in the political process" was a factor in bringing the issue to a vote in the state legislature and for the bill passing. The article says last November centrist candidates who "made expansion a centerpiece of their campaigns...defeated staunch expansion opponents."

The Wichita (KS) Business Journal (3/28, Heck, Subscription Publication) and Wichita (KS) Eagle (3/28, Shoreman, 265K) also reported the story.

EDITORIAL: BROWNBACK SHOULD SIGN MEDICAID EXPANSION BILL. The Kansas City (MO) Star (3/28, 581K) editorializes that Gov. Sam Brownback should sign the bill, as it "helps patients, rural hospitals and clinics, and it makes Kansas healthier." The editorial states that the "federal government will eventually pay 90 percent of the cost of Medicaid expansion, compared with the 60 percent federal match for traditional Medicaid. The Kansas bill locks that percentage in: If the federal match dips below 90 percent, the Kansas expansion would end."

EDITORIAL: MEDICAID EXPANSION WILL PRODUCE FINANCIAL WINDFALL IF BROWNBACK DOES NOT VETO. The Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal (3/28, 106K) editorializes that Gov. Sam Brownback "should honor the wishes of the Legislature and a majority of the people in his state by signing the bill." He "has expressed vehement opposition to expansion...and both chambers of the Legislature are just short of the votes needed to override a possible veto." The editorial states that in a 2013 George Washington University study, researchers found that expansion of Medicaid in Kansas would increase employment, improve the economy and gross state product would increase over $300 million. The editorial also points out "Three months ago, the New England Journal of Medicine published a study by researchers from the University of Michigan that outlined the economic impact of expansion. According to the study, Michigan has added roughly 30,000 jobs per year (which generate $150 million in annual tax revenues) and the overall economic benefit in 2017 alone will be $432 million."

EDITORIAL: BROWNBACK SHOULD LISTEN TO LEGISLATURE AND CONSTITUENTS ON MEDICAID EXPANSION. The Wichita (KS) Eagle (3/28, 265K) editorializes that "Brownback should respect the will of the Legislature – and the overwhelming public support for Medicaid expansion – and allow the bill to become law, either with his signature or without." 82% of Kansans support expansion. The article states that not only is expansion good for 150,000 Kansans, but "also is critical to Kansas hospitals." The editorial cites a 2014 study which "estimated expansion could increase

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federal funding by $2.2 billion between 2016 and 2020. That could result in more than 3,700 new jobs by 2020."

AHCA CONCESSIONS TO FREEDOM CAUCUS RUN COUNTER TO TRUMP CAMPAIGN PROMISE, ARTICLE SAYS. Yahoo! News (3/28, Wilson, 8.62M) reports if AHCA had passed with the "manager's amendments" offered to the Freedom Caucus, "the proposed legislation would have run counter" to two of Trump's campaign promise of expanded coverage. According to the CBO, 14 million recipients would lose coverage. The article says cuts to Medicaid without a replacement would inherently reduce coverage.

BCBS NEBRASKA EXPANDS MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLAN NETWORK WITH CHI JOINING NETWORK. The Omaha (NE) World-Herald (3/28, Jordon, 544K) reports Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI) facilities and doctors "will join the health care network for people covered by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska's Medicare Advantage plans." This is Blue Cross Blue Shield's first year offering Medicare Advantage plans and the inclusion of CHI expands the network meaning more options.

EVEN AFTER ACA REPEAL EFFORT FAILED, TENNESSEE GOV. NOT CONSIDERING EXPANDING MEDICAID. The Tennessean (3/28, Ebert, 407K) reports Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam "is not currently considering another legislative special session to expand the state's Medicaid program under the federal Affordable Care Act." Haslam says that he, like most Americans, is not sure in which direction the federal government is going to go. Haslam said, "I think we're waiting to see if Washington just pushes this aside now and [goes] onto other issues, which every indication I've gotten is that's what will happen."

CONTINUATION OF ARKANSAS HYBRID MEDICAID EXPANSION PASSES NEARLY UNANIMOUSLY IN STATE SENATE. The AP (3/28, Demillo) reports the "Arkansas Senate on Tuesday approved keeping the state's hybrid Medicaid expansion another year after Republican efforts to repeal and replace the federal health law that created the program failed in Congress." The State Senate voted in favor of the bill 27-1 but "failed to get the three-fourths majority vote needed on two separate votes Monday." Gov. Asa Hutchinson is seeking "federal approval to move 60,000 people off the program and to impose work requirements."

Health & Medical News:

MCCASKILL TO INVESTIGATE OPIOID MANUFACTURERS' ROLE IN ADDICTION EPIDEMIC. The Washington Post (3/28, Bernstein, Higham, 11.43M) reports that Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO) "demanded information Tuesday from five top opioid manufacturers, saying she would investigate their alleged role" in the opioid epidemic. McCaskill wrote to Purdue Pharma, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Insys Therapeutics, Mylan, and Depomed. The letters sought "sales and marketing materials, any studies the companies might have conducted about the addictive properties of their drugs, information on compliance with legal settlements and figures on donations to advocacy groups."

USA Today (3/28, Shesgreen, 5.28M) reports that McCaskill "is the top Democrat on the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee." It is unclear whether "the committee's Republican majority will support her request for the drug company data." Without GOP support, "if the companies decline to cooperate, the Democrats cannot subpoena any information."

The AP (3/28, Freking) reports that the Republican committee chairman, Sen. Ron Johnson (WI), "did not sign the letter seeking the information from the drug manufacturers, but was sent copies of her letters."

Also covering the story are Bloomberg News (3/28, Greifeld, 2.41M), the Wall Street Journal (3/28, Rockoff, Subscription Publication, 6.37M), CNN (3/28, Kounang, 29.79M), The Hill (3/28, Wilson, 1.25M), CNBC (3/28, Mangan, 2.17M), Reuters (3/28, Banerjee, Subba), the Washington Times (3/28, Howell, 272K), the Kansas City (MO) Star (3/28, Lowry, 581K), the St. Louis Post-Dispatch (3/28, Raasch, 729K), and Vox (3/28, Lopez, 1.15M).

RESEARCHERS UNVEIL WORKING MODEL OF FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM. Nature (3/28, Reardon, 153K) reports on a study published in Nature Communications describing "an artificial female reproductive system" built to provide a model for research. The idea is that such models could help study disease and "test new contraceptives and fertility treatments." One reason for building the model is that "there is no good animal model for the 28-day human reproductive cycle." The system, named Evatar, "contains five 'organs' linked together by a blood-like liquid carrying hormones, cell signalling molecules and drugs." Some of the system is human tissue – Fallopian tubes, uterus, cervix, and liver – while the ovaries are mouse tissue. NPR (3/28, Stein, 1.92M) reports the device may help "lead to new treatments" for problems as diverse as "fibroids and endometriosis...infertility, miscarriages and gynecologic cancers." The organs made of tissue are in "separate plastic chambers...connected through passageways that allows fluid to circulate among them." Altogether it is "about the size of a paperback book." The researchers said they "were able to recapitulate the full menstrual cycle" with the device.

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Popular Science (3/28, Maldarelli, 1.57M) reports the system is part of the work of "decades" to produce "organs" that allow researchers to study activities and reactions as they happen outside of a body. The achievement here is to build a system of organs that may help to "understand the steps involved in this system, as well as what to do when these processes go wrong." The research was funded by the National Institutes of Health. Lead researcher Teresa Woodruff, professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Northwestern's Feinberg School of Medicine, explained that the device allows researchers to "mimic exactly how a human organ or system of organs works in the body" and so to "test the effectiveness and safety of new drugs in the lab organ before they're tested in a living human." The researchers intend to use the system to study the effects of contraceptives. Scientific American (3/28, Maron, 1.88M) calls it a "bioengineering first," building "a miniature laboratory model of the entire female reproductive tract, complete with hormone signaling." BBC News (UK) (3/28, 2.39M) reports that one possible use for such a model would be to build one from an individual's cells "to create a personalised model of their body to test drugs and treatments."

STAT (3/28, Swetlitz) reports the system is part of an NIH plan "to build an entire human body-on-a-chip." It explains that researchers "by feeding the right cocktail of hormones into the ovary block...were able to coax the miniature organ to release an egg, and to produce hormones that flowed into each organ downstream." The connecting system contains "62 pumps that can be turned on and off independently," each of which moves "about a millionth of a liter of fluid at a time." Wired (3/28, Molteni, 3.98M) reports the device "took nearly five years and two dozen collaborators" to build. It is part of an overall effort funded with "over $100 million" from Darpa and the NIH. The researchers had first to grow "organs" individually and then to connect them using "a microfluidics system developed by Charles Stark Draper Laboratory in Cambridge, Massachusetts."

PARALYZED MAN ABLE TO MOVE ARM WITH SYSTEM BYPASSING INJURED SPINAL CORD. The AP (3/28, Cheng) reports on a study published in the Lancet describing how physicians "implanted sensors" in the brain of Bill Kochevar, 56, who had been paralyzed in a bicycling accident in 2006, which were in turn connected through a computer to "electrodes in his arm and hand muscles." As a result, he "was able to feed himself for the first time" since the accident. He began by "practicing with virtual reality," and then could "drink coffee through a straw and eat forkfuls of mashed potatoes and macaroni and cheese on his own." The physicians found that his "shoulder wasn't strong enough to lift his arm" so an auxiliary "robotic arm support" was added to the system. Senior author Bob Kirsch of Case Western Reserve University explained that with the system "we have effectively bridged" the damaged spinal cord to link the brain and muscles. Reuters (3/28, Steenhuysen) reports the project is "the latest from BrainGate, a consortium of researchers testing brain-computer interface technology" that is supported by the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

CNBC (3/28, Ferris, 2.17M) reports the successful effort is the first to allow a paralyzed man "to both reach with the arm and grasp with the hand." To do that required "about four months training the system" so that it could "recognize" the meaning of different "signals" Kochevar gave with his brain. The researchers said a wireless system is being worked on as well as improvements to make movements smoother. TIME (3/28, Kluger, 6.98M) reports Kochevar said, "it feels exactly the same as it did before, except there is a little delay." To determine where to place the sensors, the researchers had to "map his brain" using a functional magnetic resonance imager (fMRI) "while he imagined moving different parts of his body." To move his arm involved two sensors in the brain and "an array of 36 electrodes...implanted in his right upper arm, forearm and hand." Still, the system "is nowhere near ready for practical use." The Telegraph (UK) (3/28, Knapton, 1.04M) reports Kochevar said, "I'm making it move without having to really concentrate hard at it. I just think 'out' and it goes." He is able to "move each joint in his right arm independently just by thinking." HealthDay (3/28, Preidt, 21K) reports the sensors in the brain are "about the size of a baby aspirin."

CNN (3/28, Scutti, 29.79M) calls it "early stage research" in that it "has been tested in a lab with just one patient so far," though lead author Abidemi Bolu Ajiboye, assistant professor at Case Western Reserve University, said that it could "change the lives of many with spinal cord injuries." He said that could happen within five to 10 years, stating, "There are no significant novel discoveries we need to make for the system."

ELEVATED BLOOD-LEAD LEVELS IN CHILDHOOD MAY BE LINKED TO LOWER IQ LATER IN LIFE, STUDY SUGGESTS. The Washington Post (3/28, Dennis, 11.43M) reports that research (3/28, 730K) published in the Journal of the American Medical Association indicated kids "with elevated blood-lead levels at age 11 ended up as adults with lower cognitive function and lower-status occupations than their parents."

TIME (3/28, Sifferlin, 6.98M) reports that for the study, investigators "followed 565 people in New Zealand who were part of a study of people born between 1972 and 1973." Study participants "had their blood lead levels measured when they were 11 years old, and the researchers followed up with blood tests about decades later, when they were 38."

Reuters (3/28, Rapaport) reports that study "participants with childhood blood lead levels above 10 micrograms/dl had

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average adult IQ test scores 4.25 points lower than their peers with lower blood lead levels." The investigators, "after accounting for factors that can influence adult IQ and earnings such as childhood IQ and socioeconomic status as well as mothers' IQ...still found that higher lead levels in childhood were" linked to "downward social mobility."

Kaiser Health News (3/28, Luthra, 2K) points out that "a Reuters investigation published this winter found elevated lead levels in almost 3,000 communities around the" US. The CDC "recently changed its guidelines to suggest that any childhood exposure to the chemical is harmful, and is pushing to get rid of lead poisoning in kids by 2020."

The Science Blog (3/28, 1K) points out that the "research received support from US National Institute on Aging grants." Also covering the story are the NPR (3/28, Bichell, 1.92M) "Shots" blog and AFP (3/28).

MARATHON RUNNING MAY LEAD TO SHORT-TERM ACUTE KIDNEY INJURY, STUDY SUGGESTS. TIME (3/28, Sifferlin, 6.98M) reports that research published in the American Journal of Kidney Diseases suggests "marathon runners can experience short-term kidney injury after the race." Investigators "took blood and urine samples from 22 people who ran" a marathon "and looked for evidence of kidney injury." The investigators found that "based on the markers they observed in the samples, 82% of the runners had evidence of stage 1 acute kidney injury after the race."

CNN (3/28, Howard, 29.79M) reports, however, that "the kidneys repair themselves within about two days, according to the study."

TODAY (3/28, Holohan, 1.85M) reports that the investigators "theorize that physical stress causes the injury" – a combination "of an increase in core temperature, dehydration, and decreased blood flow to the kidneys likely contributes to the short-term harm."

James Hamblin, MD, senior editor at The Atlantic (3/28, 21.27M), points out that the research "was funded by a grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, a part of the National Institutes of Health, the funding of which is slated to be cut substantially under President Trump's budget proposal."

INCREASED EFFORT COULD HELP ELIMINATE HEPATITIS B AND C AS SERIOUS PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEMS IN US, REPORT SAYS. In "Science Now," the Los Angeles Times (3/28, Healy, 4.52M) reports, "Health experts have devised an aggressive plan to stamp out" the "viral disease" hepatitis that "is fueling a sharp rise in liver cancer in the United States and killing 20,000 Americans per year."

According to HealthDay (3/28, 21K), a report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine indicates that "improved prevention, screening and treatment could help eliminate hepatitis B and C as serious public health problems in the" US "and save nearly 90,000 lives by 2030." In a news release, report committee chair Dr. Brian Strom said, "Despite being the seventh leading cause of death in the world – and killing more people every year than HIV, road traffic accidents or diabetes – viral hepatitis accounts for less than 1 percent of the [US] National Institutes of Health research budget."

TWO CHRONIC PAIN SUFFERERS THREATEN MAINE WITH LAWSUIT OVER NEW OPIATE LIMITS. The Bangor (ME) Daily News (3/28, Shepherd, 165K) reports lobster wholesaler Brian Rockett and roofer Eric Wass, who both suffer from chronic pain, told Maine officials Tuesday "that they intend to sue over a new law that limits opiate prescriptions" if the legislation isn't changed. The bill passed the state Legislature last year; parts of the law took effect in January, "but the biggest piece begins in July, when Mainers will be limited to 100 morphine milligram equivalents of opiate medication such as hydrocodone per day, with exceptions for cancer patients, those in palliative and hospice care and other special circumstances." In a letter to the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Rockett and Wass' lawyer, Patrick Mellor, informed the state of their intent to sue and "said the taper has already caused 'significant bodily harm' to both men and will make them unable to work and 'participate in basic life activities.'"

DOCTOR URGES OTHER PHYSICIANS TO BE MORE CAUTIOUS WITH OPIOID PRESCRIPTIONS. Dr. Marc Siegel, a professor of medicine at NYU Langone Medical Center, argues in a Wall Street Journal (3/28, Siegel, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) op-ed that he and other physicians need to exercise greater caution when deciding to prescribe opioids. Siegel also stresses it is important to maintain Medicaid coverage for substance use disorder treatment.

FDA APPROVES DUPILUMAB FOR TREATMENT OF ECZEMA. NBC Nightly News (3/28, story 7, 2:05, Holt, 16.61M) reported, "US regulators have approved the first powerful injected medicine to treat serious cases of eczema."

The New York Times (3/28, Thomas, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that the Food and Drug Administration approved Regeneron Pharmaceuticals and Sanofi's Dupixent (dupilumab) for the treatment of eczema. The drug "will carry a list price of $37,000 a year, a hefty price tag for patients who are increasingly asked to pay a larger share of the

price of the drugs they take." Regeneron and Sanofi "took the unusual step of directly negotiating with insurers over the price and other details ahead of time."

The AP (3/28, Johnson) reports that the drug is indicated to treat "moderate or severe eczema." In the clinical trials supporting the drug's approval, "one-third to two-thirds achieved clear or nearly clear skin after 16 weeks of treatment," with "about 4 in 10" having decreased itching, "bringing better sleep and reducing anxiety and depression."

Reuters (3/28, Berkrot) reports that analysts "forecast annual sales exceeding $4 billion by 2022" for the drug, "according to Thomson Reuters data."

Also covering the story are the Wall Street Journal (3/28, Walker, Subscription Publication, 6.37M), the Boston Globe (3/28, Weisman, 1.08M), the NBC News (3/28, Fox, 2.67M) website, and the Boston Business Journal (3/28, Stendahl, Subscription Publication, 90K).

FDA APPROVES ROCHE HOLDING AG'S MS DRUG. Reuters (3/28, Miller) reports the Food and Drug Administration "approved Roche Holding AG's multiple sclerosis (MS) drug Ocrevus" on Tuesday. Ocrevus is the first drug that treats primary progressive MS, the most severe form of the disease. The New York Times (3/28, Thomas, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports the drug, which works by depleting B cells, "showed the most notable results in patients with relapsing multiple sclerosis, appearing to halt progression of the disease with few serious side effects." The Wall Street Journal (3/28, Burton, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) says treatment will cost $65,000 per year, which may fuel concerns over drug prices. However, NBC News (3/29, Serritella, Ellis, 2.67M) notes that the price is "similar to the cost of Rebif, a 14-year-old drug now widely used to treat MS." STAT (3/28, Winslow) reports the "FDA also cleared the drug for the more common relapse-remitting form of the disease."

US CHARGES CANADIAN FIRM, OFFICER WITH SELLING MISBRANDED DRUGS. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (3/28, Ove, 493K) reports that "a Canadian drug company and its officers have been charged in Pittsburgh with conspiring to distribute misbranded prescription drugs in the US, with three Pittsburgh-area pharmacists as customers." Federal prosecutors said on Tuesday that Quantum Solutions, "based in Barbados and run by Tony Lee, Billy Lee and Tarnjeet Uppal, all of Vancouver, bought drugs manufactured for foreign markets and then sold the drugs wholesale to three area pharmacists." The Post-Gazette notes that "the charges were filed Monday in US District Court. In addition to conspiracy, the three officers are also charged with conspiracy to launder money."

VERTEX TO SEEK APPROVAL OF CYSTIC FIBROSIS COMBINATION THERAPY AFTER SUCCESSFUL LATE-STAGE TRIALS. Reuters (3/28, Berkrot) reports Vertex Pharmaceuticals announced Tuesday that its cystic fibrosis drug Kalydeco "given with an experimental drug demonstrated significant improvements in lung function in a pair of late-stage trials." The company plans "to seek approval of the combination therapy." The Boston Globe (3/28, Weisman, 1.08M) reports the trials both had "statistically significant improvement in two different sets of CF patients, including one group...for which there aren't any medicines."

OPIOID USE DISORDER TREATMENT LEGISLATION CLEARS GEORGIA HOUSE. The AP (3/28, Foody, Kaplan) reports opioid use disorder treatment legislation that cleared the Georgia House on Tuesday would require prospective programs that use "FDA-approved medications like methadone to treat addicted people" to hold community meetings. The legislation would also "restrict how many facilities can open within given regions." The bill now moves to the Senate for a final vote.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION MAY DECREASE OPIOID HOSPITALIZATIONS, STUDY SUGGESTS. The Washington Times (3/28, Blake, 272K) reports "medical marijuana legalization may be responsible for a nearly a quarter fewer hospitalizations related to opioid dependence or abuse," University of California researchers found in a review of "17 years' worth of hospitalization records from 27 states, including nine of the more than two-dozen with medical marijuana laws now in place." In states where the drug was legalized, "hospitalizations related to opioid abuse dropped by 23 percent," and those related to overdoses dropped 13 percent. The findings were published in the Drug and Alcohol Dependence medical journal.

INCREASE IN PREMATURE DEATHS AMONG 25- TO 44-YEAR-OLDS DRIVEN BY DRUG OVERDOSES, REPORT FINDS. USA Today (3/29, O'Donnell, 5.28M) reports "premature deaths among those aged 25-44 were way up in 2015," driven primarily by "a surge of drug overdoses in suburban areas," a report by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation revealed Wednesday. The report also found "a rural and urban divide, along with racial differences."

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION PREPARING EXECUTIVE ORDER TO CREATE OPIOID EPIDEMIC COMMISSION. STAT (3/28, Scott) reports that the Trump Administration is preparing an executive order that "would set an ambitious timetable for new recommendations to address the nation's opioid crisis and appoint top administration officials to oversee the

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effort." The Administration "is expected to unveil a commission focused on the nation's opioid epidemic soon," with the mission of identifying "federal funding streams that could be directed to address the crisis, for everything from medical treatments to long-term support services."

The Hill (3/28, Savransky, 1.25M) reports, "New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie [R] will take on a role in President Trump's White House to combat the country's opioid epidemic, ABC News reported, citing White House officials."

PHYSICIANS WHO SPEND MORE IN TREATING HOSPITALIZED PATIENTS DO NOT GET BETTER RESULTS, STUDY SUGGESTS. The New York Times (3/28, Bakalar, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) "Well" blog reports that research published in JAMA Internal Medicine suggests physicians "who tend to spend more in treating hospitalized patients do not get better results than those who spend less." Investigators came to this conclusion after looking at "spending records of 72,042 physicians." Meanwhile, "the patients were fee-for-service Medicare beneficiaries."

MEDIAN PRICE DIFFERENCE FOR MRIS IN HOSPITALS VERSUS FREESTANDING CENTERS MAY VARY BY THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS, ANALYSIS INDICATES. USA Today (3/28, O'Donnell, Rudavsky, 5.28M) reports an analysis from "health care data company Amino" indicates "the median price difference for MRIs in hospitals versus freestanding imaging centers in the" US "often varies by thousands of dollars." The analysis indicated the "price spread was widest in Alaska, where the median price for hospital MRIs was $3,200 more than in imaging centers." USA Today points out that "Amino...uses claims data from Medicare and up to 80% of insurers."

NOT ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO RECOMMEND PATIENTS WITHOUT SYMPTOMS OF CELIAC DISEASE BE SCREENED FOR THE CONDITION, USPSTF SAYS. The NPR (3/28, Hersher, 1.92M) "Shots" blog reports that the US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) has "announced there is not enough evidence to recommend that patients without symptoms of celiac disease should be screened for the condition." The Recommendation Statement was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Reuters (3/28, Seaman) reports that the task force "says more research on screening people at an increased risk of celiac disease who are not showing symptoms is needed."

VITAMIN D MAY NOT REDUCE CANCER RISK IN OLDER WOMEN, STUDY SUGGESTS. TIME (3/28, Park, 6.98M) reports that research published in the Journal of the American Medical Association looks into whether vitamin D may be able to protect against cancer.

HealthDay (3/28, Norton, 21K) reports that the study included "2,300 older women who were randomly assigned to take either high-dose vitamin D plus calcium, or" a placebo. During "the next four years, about 4 percent of women on the supplements were diagnosed with cancer." Comparatively, "just under 6 percent in the placebo group – a difference that was not statistically significant."

MedPage Today (3/28, Bankhead, 97K) reports that the National Cancer Institute provided support for the study.

EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE TO GRANT CRISPR PATENT RIGHTS TO UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, PARTNERS. STAT (3/28, Begley) reports the European Patent Office plans to grant the University of California, Berkeley, and its partners rights to the CRISPR patent, which allows the CRISPR-Cas9 "to cut and possibly edit DNA in a test tube." A previous dispute over US rights granted the patent to the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard. Rodger Novak, CEO of CRISPR Therapeutics, said the company is "very pleased" with the European Patent Office's decision. Prior to granting CRISPR the rights, the Office considered a number of "third-party observations" filed as objections, which it "found not to be relevant."

WOMEN WITH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR IVF MORE LIKELY TO HAVE A BABY THAN WOMEN WHO PAY ENTIRELY OUT-OF-POCKET FOR FERTILITY TREATMENTS, STUDY INDICATES. Reuters (3/28, Rapaport) reports, "Women who have insurance coverage for in vitro fertilization (IVF) may be more likely to have a baby than women who have to pay entirely out-of-pocket for fertility treatments," researchers found after examining "data on 1,572 women seen at Washington University Physicians' Fertility and Reproductive Medicine Center from 2001 to 2010." The findings were published online in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

MedPage Today (3/28, Monaco, 97K) points out, "The study was supported by the Women's Reproductive Health Research Program of the" National Institutes of Health. The Huffington Post (3/28, Brenoff, 237K) also covers the study.

JUDGE APPROVES $87M SETTLEMENT IN FLINT WATER LAWSUIT. The Detroit Free Press (3/28, Baldas, 1.01M) reports, in continuing coverage, that a federal judge has approved an $87 million settlement in which Michigan will pay the City of Flint "to identify and replace at least 18,000 unsafe water lines by 2020." The deal also requires the state to hold an

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additional $10 million in reserve if needed, requires the state to pay $895,000 for plaintiffs' litigation costs, and reduces door-to-door delivery of bottled water in Flint. Plaintiffs will get a schedule for water line replacements while Michigan gets a schedule for weaning Flint off the community resource stations where bottled water, water filters and replacement cartridges are freely available.

The Christian Science Monitor (3/28, 387K) also reports and includes a video.

Stem Cell News:

JAPANESE MAN RECEIVES FIRST "REPROGRAMMED" STEM CELLS FROM ANOTHER PERSON. Nature (3/28, Cyranoski, 153K) reports a Japanese man "became the first person to receive cells derived from induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells that had been donated by another person" on Tuesday. Doctors took a donor's skin cells, reprogrammed them into retinal cells, and transplanted into the patient's eyes to fight age-related macular degeneration. After the procedure, the doctors noted that it went "well but that success could not be declared without monitoring the" cells.

Global Health:

CHINA BEGINS APPROVING DRUGS AT EXPEDITED PACE THIS YEAR. Bloomberg News (3/28, News, 2.41M) reports China is approving drugs "at an unprecedented pace this year," as the country seeks to get over longstanding criticism that it is "slow to approve life-saving medicines." However, drugmakers still face funding challenges in the country as the government "attempts to drive down drug prices in its public health insurance system," leading industry experts to predict that the change will not "have a big near-term impact, but could have significant impact over five years."

CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT BANS COMPANY FROM BUYING, EXPORTING HUMAN BREAST MILK. The AP (3/28) reports Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen banned Ambrosia Labs Ltd., a US-based company, from buying and exporting human breast milk from Cambodia, which the company markets "as food for babies and as a supplement for adults with special needs, such as bodybuilders, and sells for as much as $4 an ounce." Cambodian Secretary of State Ngor Hongly signed a statement suggesting a reason for the ban, which read, "Even though we are still poor, we are not so poor that we have to sell human breast milk."

Reuters (3/28, Chan Thul) also provides coverage.

HONG KONG LIFTS BAN ON BRAZILIAN MEAT IMPORTS WHILE EU FOOD SAFETY EXPERT CALLS SUSPICIONS "UNACCEPTABLE." Reuters (3/28, Eisenhammer) reports Hong Kong lifted its ban on Brazilian meat imports on Tuesday, while EU commissioner for health and food safety, Vytenis Andriukaitis, called the rumors that Brazilian regulators were bribed to allow companies to breach sanitation rules "unacceptable." While Hong Kong authorities announced the restrictions on meat and poultry imports from Brazil were lifted after reassurances from Brazilian authorities, Andriukaitis said, "I expect Brazilian authorities to implement corrective actions to restore the credibility of their official controls as soon as possible...the question is not over."

PAKISTAN BEGINS POLIO VACCINATION EFFORTS AFTER VIRUS DETECTED IN ISLAMABAD SEWERS. The AP (3/28) reports Pakistani health official Dr. Rana Safdar says Pakistan has begun an anti-polio vaccination drive after the virus was found in the Islamabad sewage system. The three-day campaign began on Monday with police support in place to protect polio workers from the threat of militant groups like the Taliban, which have previously attacked vaccination programs.

BAT'S ACQUISITION OF REYNOLDS AMERICAN LEAVES JAPAN TOBACCO IN A DISTANT THIRD POSITION. Bloomberg News (3/29, Chambers, 2.41M) reports British American Tobacco Plc's $49.4 billion acquisition of "Reynolds American Inc. is set to create a giant rivaling Philip Morris International Inc., leaving Japan Tobacco Inc. a distant third among the major global cigarette makers." The article says Japan Tobacco's domestic market share "is shrinking as hundreds of thousands of smokers switch to Philip Morris's cigarette alternative iQOS." In addition, the "introduction of plain packaging in the U.K. and record cigarette tax hikes in Russia are weighing on growth in two of its biggest overseas markets."

IRELAND TO BEGIN ENFORCING PLAIN PACKAGING, GRAPHIC HEALTH WARNINGS FOR TOBACCO PRODUCTS IN SEPTEMBER. The Irish Independent (3/29, O'Regan, 599K) reports Ireland will begin enforcing "plain packaging and graphic health warnings for cigarettes" and other tobacco products in September. Remaining stocks in traditional packaging on shelves as of September 30 can continue to be sold for up to one year.

NEW ZEALAND ANNOUNCES INTENT TO LEGALIZE E-CIGARETTES. The New Zealand Herald (3/29, Jones, 630K)

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reports the government of New Zealand announced March 29 that it will legalize the sale of nicotine e-cigarettes, with legal sales expected to begin "at some point next year." The article calls the move "a big win for the e-cigarette industry," as "its products won't be in plain packaging, nor will the hefty taxes on normal tobacco be applied."

National News:

TRUMP SIGNS EXECUTIVE ORDER ROLLING BACK OBAMA-ERA CLIMATE REGULATIONS. President Trump signed an executive order on Tuesday in a move that media reporting says fulfills a campaign promise by dealing a major blow to much of the Obama Administration's climate agenda. Reuters (3/28, Volcovici, Gardner) reports the "order's main target" is the Clean Power Plan that requires states to "slash carbon emissions from power plants." The action, Reuters adds, also reverses a ban on coal leasing on federal lands; ends rules aimed at curbing methane emissions from oil and gas production; and reduces the consideration given to climate change and carbon emissions in policy and infrastructure permitting decisions. The Washington Post (3/28, Eilperin, Dennis, 11.43M) calls Trump's "sweeping executive order" the "most significant step yet in obliterating his predecessor's environmental record," and adds that it "sends an unmistakable signal that just as President Barack Obama sought to weave climate considerations into every aspect of the federal government, Trump is hoping to rip that approach out by its roots."

According to USA Today (3/28, Korte, 5.28M), Trump's "sweeping repudiation of Obama-era environmental initiatives" is "substituting a strategy of combating climate change through international cooperation for an America-first energy policy." Meanwhile, the Los Angeles Times (3/28, Halper, 4.52M) – in some of the more negative treatment of the order – calls the move "a retreat from the battle against climate change" and "an about-face for the US on energy" that places the country's ability to meet the Paris climate deal obligations in "jeopardy."

The Washington Times (3/28, Wolfgang, 272K) reports that while speaking at the Environmental Protection Agency, Trump "cast his action as a major step forward for the US economy and as a removal of shackles from the energy sector." The AP (3/28, Daly, Colvin) reports that Trump declared during the speech attended by coal miners that the action is "'the start of a new era' in energy production," and said the order allows workers to "succeed on a level playing field for the first time in a long time." Trump said, "That is what this is all about: bringing back our jobs, bringing back our dreams and making America wealthy again." The CBS Evening News (3/28, story 3, 2:30, Pelley, 11.17M) showed Trump saying his Administration "is putting an end to the war on coal" and ABC World News Tonight (3/28, story 2, 3:10, Muir, 14.63M) showed the President saying "we are going to put our coal miners back to work!"

The Wall Street Journal (3/28, Radnofsky, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) quotes EPA Administrator Pruitt as saying during the ceremony that the President is "rejecting the narrative that this country cannot be pro-energy and pro-environment." Pruitt added, "We're not going to allow regulations here at the EPA to pick winners and losers." Pruitt also addressed the topic on CNBC's Closing Bell (3/28, 142K) when he said, "We also want utility companies making decisions on how to generate electricity based upon an entire portfolio of options. Natural gas, oil, coal, renewables, hydro, across the board. We at the EPA should not advance regulation to force upon utility companies winners and losers. They should make it based upon price and also the stability of electricity." The US, Pruitt said on Fox News' Hannity (3/28, 535K), "is going to be pro-growth and pro-jobs and pro-environment."

The Washington Times (3/28, McLaughlin, 272K) reports Interior Secretary Zinke said on MSNBC that the Administration is using an "all of the above" energy policy and will not pick winners and losers. Zinke said during the program MSNBC's Morning Joe, "Clearly it's in our best interest to move forward on energy. ... Producing energy domestically and reasonable regulation is far better than watching it being produced overseas with no regulation." Zinke added, "If we do have energy here produced, I'll tell you, it makes us a lot stronger overseas and it is a strategic play as well."

Meanwhile, Politico (3/28, Guillén, 2.46M) says that despite the order being the "biggest blow yet" to Obama's climate legacy, "it does not go as far as some conservatives would like to dismantle the EPA's authority to regulate greenhouse gases, nor will it begin to separate" the US from the Paris climate deal, which are "two areas of intense disagreement within the administration." Politico (3/28, Restuccia, Guillén, 2.46M) reports Pruitt "is coming under fire from conservatives amid a simmering behind-the-scenes fight over how far to take" the Administration's effort to reverse Obama's climate change policies. Politico says two sources indicated that Pruitt "successfully argued" during discussions with the White House "against including language revoking the agency's 2009 'endangerment finding.'" The sources said Pruitt – with "the backing of several White House aides" – made the case that "the legal hurdles to overturning the finding were massive, and the administration would be setting itself up for a lengthy court battle." In a Wall Street Journal (3/28, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) op-ed, NYU Stern School executive-in-residence Paul Tice says Trump's executive orders move US energy policy in the right direction, but they do not provide enough clarity to US energy companies for long-term forecasting or short-term investment and planning. The Administration, Tice says, must address the 2009 "endangerment finding" as the rule is the legal foundation for the following carbon regulations.

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Media analyses takes the position that the short-term impact of Trump's order is negligible. According to NBC Nightly News (3/28, lead story, 2:40, Holt, 16.61M), Trump's "actions are sparking celebration in coal country and outrage among environmentalists and raise questions whether some of those jobs can ever come back." NBC's Kristen Welker said "the reality" is that "federal data shows mines have been losing jobs for decades under both parties and right now less than 75,000 coal jobs, compared to more than in 650,000 jobs in renewable energy, which can be less expensive to produce." The Wall Street Journal (3/28, Sweet, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports that companies and energy experts believe the order is unlikely to reverse the utility industry's move toward natural gas, solar, and wind as the top sources of electricity. The Journal says that while the order will possibly prolong the life of some coal-fired plants, large utilities indicate they will move forward with long-term investments to create power from alternative sources. This move, the companies said, is the result of not only regulations, but also economic forces. The New York Times (3/28, Krauss, Cardwell, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) similarly says that while fossil fuel companies are happy about Trump's order, market forces and state initiatives are helping to make other sources of energy more favorable to the industry. The Times adds "economics and technological advances are bound to shape the country's energy landscape despite Mr. Trump's very different blueprint." The New York Times (3/28, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) separately reports that while Trump "advertised the moves as a way to decrease the nation's dependence on imported fuels and revive the flagging coal industry," energy economists indicate "the order falls short of both these goals." This is partly because, according to the Times, the US "already largely relies on domestic sources for the coal and natural gas that fires most of the nation's power plants."

Prior to Trump's announcement, Philip Bump wrote in the Washington Post (3/28, 11.43M) that while the President "can unwind Obama's climate legacy to some extent, the economic and political forces that have spurred those underlying shifts are largely beyond his control." Bump says that while Trump's policies "will likely mean that the United States' greenhouse gas emissions...may tick upward," the President "mostly can't touch that broader global trend." Nathan Bomey says in a USA Today (3/28, 5.28M) analysis that "the biggest factors shaping the American energy industry are market forces" and the President's actions do not change that. Bomey adds that it is unlikely that coal jobs will "suddenly come roaring back"; the price of electricity is unlikely to "go into reverse"; and there may "eventually" be more US energy production.

WPost, NYTimes, And WSJournal Weigh In. The Washington Post (3/28, 11.43M) editorializes that Trump's "move to rip up Mr. Obama's climate policies are beyond reckless." The Post adds that Trump's order sets up "the prospect" of "sharp environmental disruption" and placed the country "on a know-nothing path to an endangered planet. The New York Times (3/28, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) editorializes that Trump order was expected, but the signing event was still "dismaying" and "raises two very real dangers." The Times says "other big countries" could pull out of the Paris climate deal or "decide to seize the initiative on clean energy sources, which would be good for the climate but bad for American industry." In a Washington Post (3/28, 11.43M) op-ed, John Podesta says Trump's "rampage" to reverse Obama's climate legacy "is running smack-dab into the reality that climate change is real and unforgiving." Podesta says Trump's ignorance" is "not only willful but destructive." However, Podesta adds that "there are still plenty of open paths toward a clean-energy future" and it "is up to all of us to blaze those trails on behalf of our children and grandchildren."

However, the Wall Street Journal (3/28, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) editorializes that Trump is securing early wins on energy, after the industry was held back by Obama's climate efforts. The Journal says Trump's order is a return to modest regulation and will have no impact on climate change.

Politico: Spicer "Refused To Say" If Trump Believes Climate Change A Hoax. Politico (3/28, McCaskill, 2.46M) reports White House press secretary Sean Spicer on Tuesday "refused to say" if Trump believes climate change is a hoax. When asked if Trump views climate change in that way, Spicer said, "I think he understands – he does not believe that, as I mentioned at the outset, that there is a binary choice been job creation, economic growth and caring about the environment, and that's what we should be focusing on." Spicer added, "I think at the end of the day where we should be focusing is making sure that all Americans have clean water, clean air and that we do what we can to preserve and protect our environment."

State Legislatures "Ramping Up" Efforts To Combat Climate Change. Bloomberg Politics (3/28, Natter, 201K) reports that while Trump "scales down federal efforts to combat climate change, states are ramping up" their own efforts as state legislatures begin "fill[ing] a void being left by Trump." Bloomberg notes that California's Air Resources Board "broke with Trump" by voting to uphold auto fuel efficiency rules; Illinois "offered a bail out to carbon-free nuclear producers"; Iowa and Michigan have increased incentives for renewable energy; and Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan is set to sign a statewide fracking ban.

The CBS Evening News (3/28, story 4, 2:30, Pelley, 11.17M) reported California Gov. Jerry Brown and New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said following Trump's announced order that "they would continue to impose state laws limiting carbon in the atmosphere." In the segment that featured Lawrence National Laboratory Climate Scientist Ben Santer expressing

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concerns about the direction of US policy on the issue, CBS said 20 percent of Americans live in California and New York.

SCARBOROUGH: IF TRUMP WANTS A HIGHER APPROVAL RATING, HE NEEDS TO FIRE BANNON. Breitbart (3/28, Dulis, 2.02M) reports that MSNBC's Joe Scarborough "sent a subtly coded message Tuesday morning to an audience of one: President Donald Trump, you should fire Steve Bannon." Scarborough "linked a poll showing President Trump's approval at 36 percent to Bannon's role as White House chief strategist." Of Trump, Scarborough said, "If he wants to get his 36 [percent approval rating] to 56, he's gonna have to fire Steve Bannon and anybody else who calls themselves a Leninist who wants to destroy the American republic and government and start working with Republicans and Democrats and doing what 78 percent of Americans told NBC News a week ago. They want their leaders to compromise and work with the other side and make Washington work again."

Menendez Denounces "White Nationalist Dog Whistles Blown By Steve Bannon." NJ News (3/28, Salant, 952K) reports that Sen. Bob Menendez (D) on Tuesday "took aim at" White House chief strategist Steve Bannon "as he criticized anti-Semitism before the annual Washington gathering of the leading pro-Israel lobby." Addressing the American Israel Public Affairs Committee at its annual gathering in Washington, DC, Menendez said, "Whether it is the delegitimization of Israel by the United Nations, the intimidation and isolation promoted by BDS, or the white nationalist dog whistles blown by Steve Bannon from the West Wing, it is up to all of us to stand up, stand together and speak out against anti-Semitism in all its forms." NJ News says that Bannon "had run the Breitbart website that is a favorite of white supremacists before becoming a top White House aide to Trump." Menendez faces reelection in 2018.

WHITE HOUSE STAFF JOINING TRUMP IN SKIPPING CORRESPONDENTS DINNER. The New York Times (3/28, Grynbaum, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that the Trump Administration on Tuesday said "that the entire White House staff would skip next month's White House Correspondents Dinner as a gesture of solidarity with President Trump, a severe critic of the news media who has already said that he will not attend." While Trump's "snub will signify the first time since the 1970s that a president has skipped the" affair, "the absence of the entire White House staff – including the press secretary, Sean M. Spicer, along with cabinet secretaries and powerful advisers – may be unprecedented in the dinner's history." Spicer, in a statement, "said the decision was fueled by the administration's displeasure with how Mr. Trump had been treated by the press. 'The staff is standing in solidarity with the president, who has been treated unfairly,' Mr. Spicer wrote."

The Washington Times (3/28, Morton, 272K) reports that in a statement, White House Correspondents' Association President Jeff Mason said, "WHCA board regrets this decision very much. We have worked hard to build a constructive relationship with the Trump White House and believe strongly that this goal is possible even with the natural tension between the press and administrations that is a hallmark of a healthy republic."

Pitts Says Media "Did A Lousy Job" Of Scrutinizing Trump. In his Miami Herald (3/28, 856K) column, Leonard Pitts Jr. writes that the media "did a lousy job" of covering the 2016 presidential race. Pitts adds, "The culprit, of course, is our handling of the unconventional candidate who became president." Of President Trump, Pitts says the media failed "to take him seriously enough early enough;" relied "too heavily on flawed polling;" and spent "more time covering personality than policy, providing him untold hours of free advertising on certain cable news networks." Pitts adds, "If there is to be a silver lining in the historical dark cloud that is Donald Trump, it's that we might someday look back and say that he forced journalism to re-invent itself or, perhaps more accurately, to re-embrace itself, to remember what it is supposed to stand for."

Farhi: Viewers May Struggle To Tell "Difference Between An Opinion Show And A News Show." Writing for the Washington Post (3/28, 11.43M), Paul Farhi says that Fox News host Sean Hannity, responding to Ted Koppel's "claim that opinionated programs such as Hannity's have deepened political polarization," said, "We have to give some credit to the American people that they are somewhat intelligent and that they know the difference between an opinion show and a news show." However, Farhi says that "the differences between an opinion show and a news show might be difficult for people to discern. The reason: Programs such as Hannity's and others on cable news are often a mix of many things – news, commentary, analysis and pure, unadulterated opinion."

GAO TO REVIEW COSTS, SECURITY MEASURES RELATED TO TRUMP'S USE OF MAR-A-LAGO. The Washington Post (3/28, O'Connell, 11.43M) reports that the Government Accountability Office "has agreed to review the costs and security precautions associated with President Trump's travel and stays at Mar-a-Lago after a request for inquiry from leading Democrats on Capitol Hill." In a letter to GAO chief Gene Dodaro, the Democrats said "they were 'deeply concerned' about the potential costs, as well as reports that Trump had met the Japanese prime minister in plain view of diners at the club." They "also questioned whether the president's company, which he still owns and which owns Mar-a-Lago, was charging the government 'fair and appropriate' rates for use of the property while there at the service of the president."

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TRUMP CLAIMS IMMUNITY FROM DEFAMATION SUIT FILED BY "APPRENTICE" CONTESTANT. USA Today (3/28, Penzenstadler, 5.28M) reports that attorneys for President Trump "asserted in court this week that he should be immune from a defamation lawsuit filed against him because of his presidential duties. Summer Zervos, a former contestant from The Apprentice, sued Trump in New York on Jan. 17." Zervos "came forward in October and accused Trump of kissing and groping her in a Beverly Hills hotel room in 2007. Trump denied the accusation," and called "the sexual misconduct allegations '100% fabricated and made-up charges,' 'totally false' and 'totally made up nonsense.'" Attorneys for Trump "said in this week's court filing that the supremacy clause of the U.S. constitution should bar the lawsuit since it could 'distract a President from his public duties to the detriment of not only the President and his office but also the Nation.'"

The Los Angeles Times (3/28, Savage, 4.52M) reports that Trump's attorneys cited former President Bill Clinton's "famous sexual harassment battle [against Paula Jones] in his effort to block" Zervos' "lawsuit claiming he lied about groping her in the Beverly Hills Hotel in 2007. Problem is, Clinton lost that bid for legal immunity when the Supreme Court ruled unanimously in 1997 that the chief executive is not shielded from responding to a civil suit regarding his private behavior." Jones' "suit alleging sexual harassment was filed in a federal court in Arkansas. The Zervos suit alleging defamation was filed in a New York state court. The legal memo filed Monday cites no other difference and argues that the Constitution protects Trump, even though it did not shield Clinton."

STONE TO TESTIFY ABOUT CLAIMS HE CAST POLITICAL RIVAL AS A CHILD MOLESTER. The New York Post (3/28, Marsh, 3.82M) reports that veteran Donald Trump adviser Roger Stone, "who's entangled in the probe of ties between Russia and the president's campaign," is slated "to testify in Manhattan court this week about claims that he falsely portrayed a political opponent as a child molester." Stone "ran the Manhattan madam Kirstin Davis' failed 2010 gubernatorial campaign. He told an Albany newspaper that he urged a group called 'People for a Safer New York' to send a controversial flier calling Libertarian candidate Warren Redlich a 'predator.'" Redlich is "seeking a multimillion-dollar jury award."

LPGA GOLFERS CAST TRUMP "AS A RESPECTFUL SUPPORTER OF WOMEN." Writing for the New York Times (3/28, Subscription Publication, 13.9M), Karen Crouse says, "As the top golfers on the L.P.G.A. Tour compete in their first major tournament of the year, they will be hard-pressed to ignore the storm clouds gathering in advance of their third, the United States Women's Open, to be held in July at Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster, N.J." Prior to winning the White House, President Trump "was the Daddy Warbucks of women's golf, hosting the top players every year at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Fla., during the L.P.G.A.'s season-ending ADT Championship at Trump International Golf Club." Crouse adds, "The picture that L.P.G.A. golfers paint of Trump as a respectful supporter of women stands in stark contrast to the leering, lewd-talking man caught conversing with Billy Bush during a taping of a 2005 segment for 'Access Hollywood' in a video that surfaced shortly before the election."

TRUMP WON'T THROW CEREMONIAL FIRST PITCH AT NATIONALS' SEASON OPENER. Politico (3/28, Quigley, 2.46M) reported that President Trump "will not throw the ceremonial first pitch at the Washington Nationals opening day Monday, the team told reporters Tuesday." Trump reportedly had been "in talks to throw the first pitch as the Nationals take on the Miami Marlins in Washington. But the White House said Trump has a 'scheduling conflict' that makes him unavailable, the Washington Examiner reported."

"THE DAILY SHOW" TO OPEN "TRUMP PRESIDENTIAL TWITTER LIBRARY" IN NYC IN JUNE. The Washington Times (3/28, Chasmar, 272K) reports that Comedy Central's "The Daily Show with Trevor Noah" on Tuesday announced that it is planning "to open a public 'library' of President Trump's tweets in New York City this summer. The network gave few details about the project, but said the Donald J. Trump Presidential Twitter Library is slated to open for a short period in June." In a press release, Comedy Central said that "The Daily Show Presents: The Donald J. Trump Presidential Twitter Library, the first of its kind, showcasing our Commander in Chief's preferred vessel for communicating with the public, his Twitter feed. This actual library will be located in New York City and will be free and open to the public."

USA Today (3/28, Jensen, 5.28M) reports that Comedy Central said in the release, "The exhibit will feature a fully interactive and hands-on experience for hands of all sizes, giving patrons the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to memorialize and celebrate the many 'unpresidented' moments of President Trump's Twitter history."

POLITICO REPORT: TRUMP AND SCHUMER HAVE "VIRTUALLY NO RELATIONSHIP AT ALL." In an updated story that was initially headlined "Trump Gives Chuck The Silent Treatment," Politico (3/28, Goldmacher, Everett, 2.46M) reports that President Donald Trump on Tuesday "welcomed more than half the Senate to the White House," where "he gave a shout to a recognizable Democratic face in the crowd. 'Chuck? I see Chuck,' Trump said. 'Hello, Chuck.'" The comments marked the first exchange "between the president and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer in more than two months." Politico said the two have "had virtually no relationship at all." They "have yet to meet one-on-one or even speak on the phone in private since Trump" was inaugurated. Politico quotes "a top White House official" as saying of talks with Trump, "Schumer's name has not come up," adding, "He really hasn't mentioned him in a long time. That's

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really telling in and of itself."

TRUMP'S WILKES-BARRE SUPPORTERS SAY IT'S TOO SOON TO JUDGE HIM. Reporting from Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, the Los Angeles Times (3/28, Bierman, 4.52M) says that while President Trump "has yet to deliver jobs or the repeal of" the Affordable Care Act, "here, in an area crucial to his unexpected election victory, many residents are more frustrated with what they see as obstruction and a rush to judgment than they are with Trump. Give him six months to prove himself, said an information technology supervisor. Give him a year, said a service manager. Give him four years, said a retired print shop owner." The Times adds, "Public opinion polls show Trump at historic lows," but in Wilkes-Barre, "most of those who voted for Trump have stuck with him."

IN SAN FRANCISCO SPEECH, CLINTON CRITICIZES TRUMP, SPICER. The AP (3/28) reports that Hillary Clinton, addressing the Professional BusinessWomen of California in San Francisco, "took on the Trump administration Tuesday in one of her first public speeches since she lost the presidential election, criticizing the country's Republican leaders on everything from health care to the shortage of women appointees in top administration positions." The AP says, "Without mentioning President Donald Trump by name, Clinton faulted" his "administration repeatedly, including calling its representation of women in top jobs 'the lowest in a generation.'" Clinton also criticized White House press secretary Sean Spicer, "again not by name, for hours earlier Tuesday chiding a black woman journalist during a news conference for shaking her head. 'Too many women have had a lifetime of practice taking this kind of indignity in stride,' Clinton said."

On its website, TIME (3/28, Steinmetz, 6.98M) reported that while Clinton "did not mention Trump by name, she took issue with the way he characterized the state of America in his inauguration speech. 'Where some see a dark vision of carnage, I see a light shining,' she said, arguing that the country has never been 'better positioned' to take on the work of treating women equally in society and encouraging their full and fair participation in the economy."

The Washington Examiner (3/28, Chaitin, 400K) reports that Clinton "cited and condemned examples of sexism," pointing to "Spicer, who she said earlier on Tuesday 'patronized and cut off' April Ryan, a White House reporter for American Urban Radio Networks. He told her during the press briefing to stop shaking her head while he answered her question. Clinton also referred to a 'racist joke' from Fox News anchor Bill O'Reilly, who sparked controversy for joking on the air about Democratic Rep. Maxine Waters' hair, which he said looked like a 'James Brown wig.'"

On its website, CNN (3/28, Vega, Watkins, 29.79M) reported that Clinton "called Republicans' attempted replacement for the Affordable Care Act 'a disastrous bill,' adding that the Trump administration has been 'met with a wave of resistance' that indicates the protests against Trump's policies are just getting started." Clinton also urged "the audience to 'resist actions that go against our values as Americans,' insist on 'putting people first,' 'persist' like Sen. Elizabeth Warren did when she was prevented from reading a letter written by Coretta Scott King about Sen. Jeff Sessions, and 'enlist' others by running for office or opening a business."

Politico Analysis: Trump Frequently Targets Clintons. Politico (3/28, Nussbaum, Palmeri, 2.46M) writes under the headline "Trump Can't Stop Obsessing About The Clintons" that when President Trump "is backed into a corner," Bill and Hillary Clinton are a favorite "target. ... Whether trying to divert attention from investigations into his campaign's possible Russia ties, attempting to sell a troubled health care overhaul, or simply looking for an easy mark, the beleaguered president has taken to attacking the family that Republicans have maligned for decades." This week, he asked why the House Intelligence Committee is not looking into then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's Russia policies, and last week asked, "What about all of the contact with the Clinton campaign and the Russians?"

LABOR LEADERS ADDRESS DEMOCRATS' "BLUE COLLAR CAUCUS." McClatchy (3/28, Daugherty, 74K) reports that Reps. Brendan Boyle (D-PA) and Marc Veasey (D-TX) "are co-chairs of the Blue Collar Caucus, a newly formed group aimed at winning back the blue-collar voters who left the Democratic Party in droves during the 2016 election and helped flip blue states such as Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin in favor of President Donald Trump." On Tuesday in Washington, the two congressmen "gathered leaders from some of America's biggest unions for a listening session aimed at fully understanding the needs of blue collar workers and how Democrats can fight back against Trump's populist message that proved to be effective at winning votes." McClatchy says "the labor leaders argued that Democrats need to do a better job of talking about job creation and wages in order to win the swing votes."

Cohn: Shift In White Working Class Voters, Not Turnout, Behind Clinton's Loss. Writing in "The Upshot" blog on the website of the New York Times (3/28, Cohn, Subscription Publication, 13.9M), Nate Cohn wrote, "In the aftermath of the 2016 presidential election, many analysts suggested that Hillary Clinton lost to Donald J. Trump because of poor Democratic turnout." However, "it is clear that the turnout was only modestly better for Mr. Trump than expected." Cohn added that "it's clear that large numbers of white, working-class voters shifted from the Democrats to Mr. Trump." Nearly 25% "of President Obama's 2012 white working-class supporters defected from the Democrats in 2016, either supporting Mr. Trump or voting for a third-party candidate."

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DNC ASKS ALL STAFF MEMBERS TO SUBMIT RESIGNATION LETTERS. On its website, NBC News (3/28, Seitz-Wald, 2.67M) reported that DNC chief Tom Perez "has launched a major reorganization of the party's organization that has been stung by recent crisis – and the DNC has requested the resignation letters of all current staffers be submitted by next month." NBC News said that "the mass resignation letters will give Perez a chance to completely remake the DNC's headquarters from scratch after staffing had already reached unusual low following a round of layoffs in December." NBC News added, "A committee advising Perez on his transition is now interviewing staff and others as part of a top-to-bottom review process to help decide not only who will stay and who will go, but how the party should be structured in the future."

The Huffington Post (3/28, Marans, 237K) reported, "The resignations are part of Perez's effort to reform the DNC after a bruising election cycle in which the committee faced allegations of partiality toward candidate Hillary Clinton in the presidential primary race and in which Republican Donald Trump won the election." On its website, CNN (3/28, Bradner, Merica, 29.79M) reported that Leah Daughtry, "an adviser to interim chair Donna Brazile and the chief executive officer of the 2016 Democratic National Convention, sent a letter asking every party staffer to submit letters of resignation dated April 15 immediately after Perez won the DNC chair race a month ago." CNN added, "DNC staffers expected the request."

CLYBURN LIKENS TRUMP TO STROM THURMOND. Politico (3/28, Cheney, 2.46M) reported that Rep. James Clyburn (D-SC), "the highest-ranking African-American member of the House, compared his ability to work with President Donald Trump to his relationship with Strom Thurmond, the longtime segregationist senator from South Carolina." Asked by a reporter "about whether he would be able to work cooperatively with Trump on issues of bipartisan interest," Clyburn pointed to "his history of working with Thurmond. Clyburn described Trump as 'an American' who 'carries certain American values that are anathema to most black people." Asked to elaborate, Clyburn replied, "There are certain values that certain Americans have that are anathema to me as a black person. Strom Thurmond had 'em.'"

THEATERS AROUND THE GLOBE TO SCREEN ORWELL'S "1984" IN PROTEST OF TRUMP. The Los Angeles Times (3/28, Kelley, 4.52M) reports that George Orwell's novel "1984" has seen a surge in popularity since President Trump took office earlier this year, climbing "to the top spot of Amazon's bestseller list in January after Trump advisor Kellyanne Conway defended false claims about the inauguration crowd as merely 'alternative facts.'" The novel "has been made into a film on two occasions," most recently in "1984. The latter version is now heading back into theaters." The Times adds, "On April 4, more than 180 art-house theaters around the country – along with five locations in Canada, one in England and one in Sweden – will screen the film in protest of Trump's administration."

PRICE, ZINKE SPECIALS TO OFFER "FIRST BALLOT TESTS" OF TRUMP PRESIDENCY. On its website, Fox News (3/28, Lucas, 11.07M) reported, "The first ballot tests for the Donald Trump presidency" will come in the form of special elections that "could give an early indication what kind of political fallout the highs and lows of his first months on the job will produce." Fox News said, "The biggest tests for the Trump presidency are likely to come in" the special elections to succeed ex-Rep. Tom Price (R-GA) and former Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT). Fox News added, "Democrats hope to make the contests a referendum on the Trump presidency, and the results could be a harbinger for the 2018 midterms. 'We have both [races] favored for Republicans,' David Wasserman, House editor for the Cook Political Report, told Fox News. 'If Democrats over-perform by, say, 5 points, it won't say much. If they over perform by 10 points, it says a lot about the president.'"

Club For Growth TV Ad Hammers "Big-Spending" Handel In Price Special. In a report on the special election to succeed Price, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (3/28, Bluestein, 1.41M) says that the "conservative" Club for Growth is launching a TV ad attacking ex-Georgia Secretary of State Karen Handel (R) "as a 'big-spending career politician." The Club for Growth, which is backing ex-Johns Creek Councilman Bob Gray (R) in the contest, "had telegraphed the coming attack days ago in a memo" that highlighted "several controversies from" Handel's tenure "as Fulton County Commission chair, including a budget vote to spend nearly $2 million 'planting trees to beautify government properties.'" Recent polls have show ex-congressional aide Jon Ossoff (D) leading the April 18 jungle primary, followed by Handel.

Roll Call (3/28, Gonzales, 63K) reported that the Club's spot, which is slated to begin airing today, is "a $250,000 ad buy on Atlanta cable, according to a Club source, and is scheduled to run through the initial April 18 election. If none of the 18 candidates receives a majority of the vote in the jungle primary, the top two finishers, regardless of party, will move on to a June 20 runoff."

GOP Sen. Perdue Endorses Moody. Meanwhile, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (3/28, Bluestein, 1.41M) reports that Sen. David Perdue (R-GA) on Tuesday endorsed ex-state Sen. Dan Moody (R) in the special election, "and a 30-second ad that features him explaining why" began running on "Atlanta's airwaves." Perdue, "who won his US Senate seat in 2014 running as an outsider," says in the spot that "he was elected to 'fix a broken system with a new president who isn't afraid to shake things up.'" Perdue adds, "Trust me, we don't need another career politician up here. Dan Moody cares more about getting results than getting credit. That's so uncommon and exactly what we need."

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DEMOCRATS NORTHAM, PERRIELLO TIED; GILLESPIE UP BIG IN GOP VIRGINIA PRIMARY. In a report on the 2017 race to succeed term-limited Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D), the Washington Post (3/28, Nirappil, 11.43M) says that a Christopher Newport University survey of 831 Virginia voters, taken March 16-26, shows Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam (D) and ex-Rep. Tom Perriello (D) tied at 26% each in the Democratic primary; 45% were undecided. The Post says, "Support for Perriello has increased 11 percentage points since the organization's last polling of the race in late January, but remained stagnant for Northam." In the GOP race, ex-RNC chief Ed Gillespie (R) leads with 38%, followed by Prince William County Supervisor Corey Stewart (R) at 11%, and state Sen. Frank Wagner (R) at 10%.

The Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (3/28, Moomaw, 324K) reports, "The poll showed supporters of insurgent Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders favored Perriello, while backers of eventual nominee Hillary Clinton were more likely to support Northam. Among Clinton voters, 34 percent support Northam and 25 percent support Perriello. For Sanders supporters, 32 percent back Perriello and 21 percent favor Northam." The reports on the poll didn't offer a breakdown of the number of Democratic and GOP voters were surveyed.

Speaking At Liberty University, Stewart Softens "His Attack Posture." The Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (3/28, Rohr, 324K) reports that "brash" GOP candidate Stewart "toned down his message Monday befitting the evangelical Liberty University crowd he addressed." Stewart, who "has touted himself as 'Trump before Trump was Trump,' referring to President Donald Trump's" ascent, "has spent much of his campaign attacking presumed frontrunner and longtime GOP strategist...Gillespie." At Monday's event, however, Stewart "softened his attack posture," instead highlighting "his strict stance on enforcing immigration laws," saying "he's '100 percent pro-life' without exceptions and that he's the candidate best suited to win Virginia." Afterward, Stewart told the Times-Dispatch, "I didn't think this was the place to attack anybody. I wanted to keep it positive."

Stewart List Of Endorsements Draws Scrutiny. The Newport News (VA) Daily Press (3/28, Fain, Subscription Publication, 182K) reports that the Stewart camp last week issued "a list of 130 endorsements from the faith community" that includes "a reporter who asked repeatedly not to be included, a Christopher Newport student who now has 'second thoughts' and a Newport News man who's not 100 percent decided." Asked "about the list, the campaign declined to provide contact information for people on it, or to share its definition of 'faith leader,' one of the descriptors it gave for people on the list."

RELATIVE OF EMMETT TILL ASKS SESSIONS TO PUSH CIVIL RIGHTS LAW. The AP (3/28, Holland) reports that "family members of Emmett Till pushed" Attorney General Sessions on Tuesday "to enforce a law that that allows prosecutors to reinvestigate old civil rights murder cases." Deborah Watts, Till's cousin and co-founder of the Emmett Till Legacy Foundation, and Alvin Sykes, a member of the Emmett Till Justice Campaign, "met with Sessions before going down to the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture afterward to view Till's casket, which is one of the centerpieces of the museum. 'He's definitely open to looking at cases that should be reviewed and cases where there are no answers for loved ones who have experienced the murder of their loved ones,' Watts said." The AP notes that the Emmett Till Civil Rights Crimes Act would allows prosecutors to investigate crimes committed before 1980.

REUTERS EXCLUSIVE: AS DEMOCRATIC STATE AGS TARGET TRUMP, GOP AGS TARGET THEM. Reuters (3/28, Levine) reports that for years, the national political organizations of Democratic and Republican state attorneys general "observed an agreement not to target the other party's incumbent office-holders in elections," but "that hands-off stance ended this month when Republican AGs voted to abandon the agreement and spend money to help unseat Democrats in other states, according to the Republican Attorneys General Association." Reuters adds that the move "comes as Democratic attorneys general in states across the country have assumed lead roles in opposing some of Republican President Donald Trump's policies." State attorneys general in Washington and Hawaii "successfully sued to block Trump's executive orders restricting travel from some Muslim-majority countries, and California's attorney general has pledged to defend the state's environmental standards."

SCHOCK'S ATTORNEYS: PROSECUTORS HAD FORMER AIDE SECRETLY RECORD HIM. The Chicago Sun-Times (3/28, Sweet, 798K) reports that "in a surprise development," attorneys for former Rep. Aaron Schock "alleged on Tuesday that federal probers improperly turned a 'fairly junior staffer' in Schock's Peoria office into a 'confidential informant' who secretly recorded him and stole documents." Schock "is fighting corruption charges, and his defense lawyers in the Tuesday filings said they were laying the groundwork to ask a judge to dismiss his indictment on, among other grounds, prosecutorial misconduct." Schock's attorneys are asking a federal judge to grant a motion to allow them "to discover more information about the circumstances surrounding the informant passing documents, covert recordings and other information to federal agents while Schock was still a member of Congress, noting no 'smoking gun' was found." Schock was indicted in November "for allegedly using campaign and government funds improperly for cars, mileage reimbursements, interior decorating, a charter plane flight to a Bears game and sports tickets he resold for profit."

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US CHARGES EX-REP. STOCKMAN WITH FRAUD. Politico (3/28, Gerstein, 2.46M) reports that a federal grand jury indicted former Rep. Steve Stockman (R-TX) on Tuesday "on charges that he obtained $1.25 million in donations under false pretenses and used funds intended for charity to finance his political campaigns." Stockman, 60, was arrested at Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston earlier this month as he attempted to board a flight for the Middle East. A federal complaint filed at the time in federal court "accused him of making false statements to the Federal Election Commission and engaging in political contributions illegally routed through so-called conduits." Federal prosecutors "alleged that Stockman used a Nevada-based non-profit, Life Without Limits, to collect donations for charitable purposes, including for renovating a Washington, D.C., house to be used for the charity," and they contend that Stockman "used much of the funds for personal expenses and directed a portion of the money into his campaign coffers through third parties."

FIRMS WORK TO BOOST VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT RETENTION RATES. The Wall Street Journal (3/28, Fuhrmans, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports that while the unemployment rate for veterans dropped from double digits to 4.7 percent in the past six years, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, surveys by the US Chamber of Commerce Foundation and Syracuse University found that the one-year retention rates for veterans entering the civilian work world is just above 50 percent. JP Morgan Chase & Co. recently implemented "Pathfinder," a pilot project to provide newly-hired veterans with a veteran mentor who can guide them through corporate nuances and help set goals. Similarly, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP is launching a program for new veterans that pairs them with a more experienced peer, and the firm also has plans to train human-resource managers on the specific challenges veterans face later this year.

SUPREME COURT: TEXAS USED OUTDATED INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY DEFINITION IN DEATH PENALTY CASES. USA Today (3/28, Wolf, 5.28M) reports the US Supreme Court decided 5-3 Tuesday to tighten the rules on capital punishment in ruling that Texas cannot use a 1992 definition of intellectual disability to determine who can face the death penalty. The decision sends the case of Bobby James Moore, convicted of shooting and killing a grocery store clerk in a robbery in 1980, back to Texas for deliberation.

According to the New York Times (3/28, Liptak, Subscription Publication, 13.9M), Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, joined by Justices Anthony Kennedy, Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor, and Elena Kagan, penned the majority decision, saying that Supreme Court precedent requires proof of three criteria in establishing intellectual disability: "subaverage intellectual functioning," a lack of basic social and practical skills, and the presence of both conditions before a person turns 18. The state of Texas, she argued, "cannot satisfactorily explain why it applies current medical standards for diagnosing intellectual disability in other contexts," yet relies on IQ scores alone in the case of capital punishment. In the dissent, Chief Justice John Roberts said that the two IQ scores that could be used to establish Moore's disability did not fall under the threshold.

AUTHORITIES PRAISE INTERVENTION BY FATHER OF MARYLAND HIGH SCHOOL WOULD-BE ATTACKER. NBC Nightly News (3/28, story 6, 1:55, Holt, 16.61M) reported authorities praised the father of the would-be attacker at a Maryland high school, showing Frederick County Sheriff Charles Jenkins explaining how the father discovered Nichole Cevario's plans in her diary. NBC showed Frederick County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Terry Alban saying, "When ever you hear or see anything that raises concern, you need to trust us and come to us so that we can do the right thing and handle it just like we did in this case." Justice Correspondent Pete Williams said officials indicated that struggles with mental health issues led Cevario to retreat into the attack plan.

VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE BY USA GYMNASTICS DOCTOR TESTIFY BEFORE CONGRESS. In its lead story, the CBS Evening News (3/28, lead story, 2:35, Pelley, 11.17M) reported that female Olympic gymnasts who were victims of sexual abuse testified before Congress Tuesday, as lawmakers consider legislation to protect future victims. CBS's Dr. Jon Lapook said senators found the testimony to be "an act of bravery," but Sen. Richard Blumenthal expressed disappointment that USA Gymnastics did not appear at the hearing. Sen. Dianne Feinstein is co-sponsoring legislation that would mandate immediate reporting to authorities of any suspected sexual abuse and prevent coaches under investigation from working with children.

According to ABC World News Tonight (3/28, story 8, 1:30, Muir, 14.63M), bronze medalist Jamie Dantzcher and former US gymnast Jessica Howard spoke about the alleged abuse they endured as teenagers under Team USA Dr. Larry Nassar's care. Fellow gymnast Dominique Moceanu, who was not sexually abused, said, "Everybody around us knew that abuses were going on but they chose not to act because it became part of the cultural norm."

"INTERNET INCENSED" OVER BILL O'REILLY'S COMMENTS ON REP. WATERS' HAIR. USA Today (3/28, Estepa, 5.28M) reports that when asked about Rep. Maxine Waters' criticism of President Trump on the House floor during Fox & Friends, Fox News host Bill O'Reilly responded, "I didn't hear a word she said. I was looking at the James Brown wig." Two co-hosts agreed with O'Reilly's comments while Ainsley Earnhardt said she had to defend Waters. O'Reilly issued an apology statement Tuesday afternoon, saying, "I respect Congresswoman Maxine Waters for being sincere in her beliefs. ... Unfortunately, I also made a jest about her hair which was dumb."

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According to the Los Angeles Times (3/28, Hill, 4.52M), O'Reilly's comments were inappropriate because he insulted a person's appearance and "overstepped right into a minefield when he targeted the hair of a black woman." O'Reilly's failure to engage with the contents of Waters' criticism constitutes "dismissing the statements of the most senior black woman in the United States Congress...because of what her hair looks like." The Times says it was "no surprise" that the "Internet was incensed over the exchange," posting several tweets.

O'Reilly Questions Waters' Criticism Of Trump. In his "Talking Points Memo" segment on Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor (3/28, 767K), Bill O'Reilly questioned Waters' claim that President Trump is "dangerous" for the country. O'Reilly argued that Trump "has put forth a philosophy that would certainly help the poor including African-Americans in that category. The more jobs that are created, the higher incomes will be on every level. The more Americans hired, the easier it will be to get a job. The more companies expand, the more demand there will be for labor. The more discipline imposed in public schooling, the more the kids will learn and education is the most important anti-poverty program there is. What exactly is Maxine Waters talking about when she says Donald Trump is dangerous for America? I have no idea and I do not think Ms. Waters has any idea either." O'Reilly added, "Patriotism comes in many forms. Questioning the patriotism of others and bashing a new President is not patriotic. It is useless."

TWO BLACK WOMEN SUE FOX NEWS FOR RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. The New York Times (3/28, Chokshi, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports Tichaona Brown and Tabrese Wright filed a lawsuit against comptroller Judith Slater, Fox News, and 21st Century Fox Tuesday night in the State Supreme Court in the Bronx, alleging that superiors failed to address "top-down racial harassment" by Slater. The two African-American payroll employees accused Slater of suggesting that black people wanted to commit violence against white people and saying that black employees mispronounced words, such as "mother," "father," "month," and "ask." The plaintiffs' lawyers said they "are confident" that Fox will be held accountable "for what we believe to be its abhorrent racist conduct, reminiscent of the Jim Crow era." Fox said Tuesday night that it fired Slater on February 28 immediately after learning about the allegations against her.

OBAMA CENTER ARCHITECTS DO NOT REVEAL MUCH-ANTICIPATED DESIGN DETAILS. According to the Chicago Tribune (3/28, Kamin, 2.54M), "the waiting game" for Obama Center plans continues, as architects Billie Tsien and Tod Williams did not provide any details of the design Tuesday at their first public appearance since former President Obama selected them last June. Obama Foundation Vice President of Civic Engagement Michael Strautmanis said, "The president is still exploring ideas," and construction on the Jackson Park complex on the South Side is set to start by the end of 2018. The Tribune says "potentially controversial issues" were not discussed at the event that was billed as a "community meet-and-greet reception."

GALSTON: TRUMP MUST ACCEPT TRUE BIPARTISANSHIP TO BREAK GRIDLOCK. In his column for the Wall Street Journal (3/28, Subscription Publication, 6.37M), William Galston writes that if the White House is serious about harnessing recent GOP calls for a bipartisan approach to drafting and passing legislation as Chief of Staff Reince Priebus told Fox News, then President Trump will have to embrace a process that allows for cross-aisle collaboration from the start. Galston says this approach will stem from building coalitions from the center outward in a way that precludes uncompromising factions, such as the Freedom Caucus, from vetoing potential agreements. Quoting a letter the newly-formed independent Problem Solvers Caucus sent the President in early February, Galston writes, "The most consequential and long-lasting reforms are usually bipartisan."

IGNATIUS: TRUMP SHOULD LEAD AMERICA LIKE THE CEO OF A PUBLIC COMPANY. In his column for the Washington Post (3/28, 11.43M), David Ignatius writes that President Trump should act like the CEO of a publicly owned company with disclosure requirements and fiduciary responsibilities. Ignatius says "it's an obligation" for a chief executive to run a company, whose stockholders are the American people in this case, with "a strong board of directors who can use his best talents but keep him from damaging the enterprise or the public that owns it." While those in Trump's "inner circle" seem to understand the importance of broadly coordinated legislative and executive approaches to national security, foreign policy, and trade policy, "similar coordination is badly needed on tax policy."

WSJOURNAL: YELLEN'S FIX FOR LOW-INCOME UNEMPLOYMENT RELIES ON GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS. In a brief editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/28, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) writes that Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen's talk about the importance of helping low- and middle-income Americans find jobs focused on government programs as solutions. In talking about improving general education and the importance of work for a segment of the population that has faced 13 percent unemployment rates in recent years, Yellen failed to mention charter schools and nonprofits who make significant contributions to helping those in need.

WPOST: GOP'S PETITION AGAINST VIRGINIA AG "DRIPPING WITH HYPOCRISY AND PHONY INDIGNATION." The Washington Post (3/28, 11.43M) editorializes that Virginia Republicans' online petition against state Attorney General Mark Herring's visit to a town hall at Dar Al-Hijrah mosque in Falls Church is "dripping with hypocrisy and phony

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indignation." Both Republican and Democratic US representatives as well as a director of Washington's FBI field office have previously visited mosques without "a peep" from the Virginia GOP. The Post says Republicans think the fact that 2017 is an election year "grants them license to wallow in prejudice," whipping "up anti-Muslim bigotry" in the form of a petition. While the move is unlikely to influence Herring's re-election prospects, it feeds "a wave of hatred washing over the nation."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"President Trump Risks The Planet."*** The New York Times (3/28, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) editorializes that President Trump's executive order Tuesday was expected, but the signing event was still "dismaying" and "raises two very real dangers." The Times says "other big countries" could pull out of the Paris climate deal or "decide to seize the initiative on clean energy sources, which would be good for the climate but bad for American industry."

"Republicans Attack Internet Privacy." The New York Times (3/29, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) editorializes against the Republicans, saying they have "made clear how little they care about protecting the privacy of Americans" in recent votes in the House and Senate to "overturn a broadband privacy regulation" from the Federal Communications Commission, which the Times says, means that companies will be allowed to sell "the internet browsing histories and other personal data of their customers without getting permission." The FCC rule required telecom companies "to obtain consent."

"The Supreme Court Keeps Tinkering With Death." The New York Times (3/29, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) criticizes the Supreme Court, arguing that in "refusing to stop the use of capital punishment" the court is limited to "tinkering with the death machine, trying in vain to make a barbaric, irrational system appear predictable and just." It cites Tuesday's 5-3 decision by the court preventing the execution of Bobby James Moore by the state of Texas, having been "convicted in 1980 for murdering a supermarket clerk during a robbery." The decision, according to the court, depended on whether Moore had sufficient intelligence to be executed for the crime, but the Times says the "real question" is "why a few states still insist on engaging in a practice that the rest of the developed world rejected long ago, and why the Supreme Court refuses to end it for good."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"A Tax Reform Plan Is Waiting On The Shelf. Republicans Just Need To Pick It Up."*** The Washington Post (3/28, Washington (DC), Post, 11.43M) argues in an editorial that reform of the tax code is "overdue" and "the legislative shelf is full of policy options from which to choose." The Post highlights a 2014 plan offered by former House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp, which in addition to reducing the corporate tax rate, would have "replaced the seven marginal rates for individuals with three: 10 percent, 25 percent and 35 percent" and paid for them "by eliminating or reducing certain long-standing tax breaks, such as the mortgage-interest and charitable deductions." The Post adds that "the congressional Joint Committee on Taxation scored Mr. Camp's plan as revenue-neutral," and "even some top Democrats considered it 'a credible effort.'"

"A Virginia Democrat Visits A Mosque, And The State GOP Puffs Up With Phony Indignation." The Washington Post (3/28, 11.43M) editorializes that Virginia Republicans' online petition against state Attorney General Mark Herring's visit to a town hall at Dar Al-Hijrah mosque in Falls Church is "dripping with hypocrisy and phony indignation." Both Republican and Democratic US representatives as well as a director of Washington's FBI field office have previously visited mosques without "a peep" from the Virginia GOP. The Post says Republicans think the fact that 2017 is an election year "grants them license to wallow in prejudice," whipping "up anti-Muslim bigotry" in the form of a petition. While the move is unlikely to influence Herring's re-election prospects, it feeds "a wave of hatred washing over the nation."

"Trump Puts The Planet On A Dangerous Path." The Washington Post (3/28, 11.43M) editorializes that President Trump's "move to rip up Mr. Obama's climate policies are beyond reckless." The Post adds that Trump's order sets up "the prospect" of "sharp environmental disruption" and placed the country "on a know-nothing path to an endangered planet."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Trump's Energy Progress."*** The Wall Street Journal (3/28, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) editorializes that President Trump is securing early wins on energy, after the industry was held back by President Obama's climate efforts. The Journal says Trump's order is a return to modest regulation and will have no impact on climate change.

"Lack Of House Intelligence." The Wall Street Journal (3/28, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) says in an editorial that if House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes steps down, Ranking Member Adam Schiff should do so as well, since Schiff has been increasingly partisan in his actions.

"Yellen's Labor Forces." In a brief editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/28, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) writes that

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Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen's talk about the importance of helping low- and middle-income Americans find jobs, given that that segment of the population face 13 percent unemployment rates in recent years, focused on only government programs as solutions. In talking about improving general education and the importance of work, Yellen failed to mention charter schools and nonprofits who make significant contributions to helping those in need.

The Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Trump Signs Order Rolling Back Obama's Climate Rules
BlackRock Bets On Robots To Improve Its Stock Picking
Swipe By Swipe, Chinese Smartphone Users Flock To Risky Investments
Tesla Gets Backing Of Chinese Internet Giant Tencent

New York Times:
Climate Change Denialists In Charge
Amid White House Tumult, Pence Offers Trump A Steady Hand
Policy Shift Helps Coal, But Other Forces May Limit Effect
An Alabama Prison's Unrelenting Descent Into Violence
US "Probably Had A Role" In Mosul Deaths, Commander Says
At BlackRock, Machines Are Rising Over Managers To Pick Stocks
Engulfed In Battle, Mosul Civilians Run For Their Lives

Washington Post:
New Fear For Iraqi, Syrian Civilians
Officials Sought To Block Yates
In GOP Legislatures, Pressure To Act On Health Care
Beside The Vice President Stands A "Prayer Warrior"
Congress Pulls Plug On Internet Protections

Financial Times:
May Sends Historic Brexit Letter To Brussels
Exxon Urges Trump To Keep US In Paris Climate Accord
Rothschild Years Make Macron Easy Election Target
Ex-Fox News CFO Offered Immunity From Prosecution

Washington Times:
White House Declares "The War On Coal Is Over" As Trump Begins Unraveling Obama's Climate Agenda
Democrats And Trump Aim To Close Interest Tax Loophole
Iraqis Scam Their Way Into US As Refugees With Phony Kidnapping Story
Trump To Sign Bill Rolling Back Internet Privacy Protections
Nunes Firm In Partisan Fire Over Russia Probe
Afghanistan Redeployment Leaves Marines Wary Of Past Mistakes

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Nunes-White House Connection; Trump-Environmental Rollback; Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Australia-Cyclone Landing; Tulsa-Home Break-in; Peru-Airplane On Fire; US Gymnastics-Sexual Abuse; TSA Pat-Down-Complaint; Miami-Officers Ambushed; Kentucky-Shoplifter; Amazon-Drive-Up Grocery Pickup; Child Cancer Survivor.
CBS: US Gymnastics-Sexual Abuse; Nunes-White House Connection; Trump-Environmental Rollback; Climate Change; Auto Industry Jobs In US; Internet Privacy-GOP Plan; Highway Guardrail Safety; TSA Pat-Down-Complaint; Jackie Kennedy-Letters.
NBC: Trump-Environmental Rollback; TSA Pat-Down-Complaint; Nunes-White House Connection; Manafort-Russia Connection; Spicer-Russia Comment; Maryland-Foiled School Attack; Health-Eczema Treatment; Cardless ATM; Severe Weather; Australia-Cyclone Landing; Facebook-New Features; Oldest Yoga Instructor.

Network TV At A Glance:
Trump-Environmental Rollback – 8 minutes, 20 seconds
Nunes-White House Connection – 7 minutes, 30 seconds
TSA Pat-Down-Complaint – 5 minutes, 50 seconds
US Gymnastics-Sexual Abuse – 4 minutes, 5 seconds
Weather – 2 minutes, 45 seconds

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Australia-Cyclone Landing – 35 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Trump-Environmental Rollback; Internet Privacy-GOP Plan; Nunes-White House Connection; Anti-Abortion Activists.
CBS: Trump-Environmental Rollback; Westinghouse Electric Bankruptcy; Internet Privacy-GOP Plan; Wells Fargo-Account Fraud; Trump-Tax Reform; Severe Weather.
FOX: Trump-Environmental Rollback; Trump-Tax Reform; Hillary Clinton Public Appearance.
NPR: Trump-Environmental Rollback; Nunes-White House Connection; Opioid Epidemic; Internet Privacy-GOP Plan.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Stephen Colbert: "Today, [Trump] kept his important campaign promise, the one that he said many times. Today, he repealed the environment."

Stephen Colbert: "Repealing environmental regulations will create all sorts of new jobs: oil refining, fracking, clean water historian, keeper of the last six bees."

Stephen Colbert: [Referring to President Trump's comment on clean coal] "I know clean coal sounds like an oxymoron, but so does 'President Trump.'"

Stephen Colbert: "Yesterday, the White House acknowledged a previously undisclosed meeting between [Jared] Kushner and the chief of Russia's government-owned Vnesheconombank. If you can pronounce it correctly, the FBI would like to talk to you."

James Corden: "Today, coal miners attended a ceremony where President Trump signed an executive order undoing most of Barack Obama's climate change initiatives. The miners said they were really impressed with Trump. They said, in just two months, that he'd dug himself into the biggest hole they've ever seen."

James Corden: "Democrats are calling for Devin Nunes, the head of the intelligence committee, to step down because he took a secret meeting at the White House. Now, Nunes wouldn't reveal who he met with at the White House. But it's safe to say it's not Donald Trump, because Trump's never there. If Nunes took a meeting at a golf course, then I'd be worried."

Trevor Noah: "You know why I think Donald Trump hates the environment? Because he looks up to Mother Nature and he's like, 'You did this to me! You did this to me!'"

Trevor Noah: "What the hell is Donald Trump doing? Just when we've begun to accept that he's going to destroy America, now he's going to destroy the whole planet? ... He must really hate being President if he's willing to speed up the end of the world to get it over with."

Trevor Noah: "Paul Ryan has confidence in Nunes! And if we've learned anything this last week, if Paul Ryan has confidence in something, it will never go anywhere."

Jimmy Fallon: "This week, it came out that [President Trump's] job approval rating is at just 36 percent. Trump was confused. He said, 'How can you disapprove of a job I'm not even doing? Fake poll.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Trump's approval rating is at just 36 percent, which is even lower than Obama's ever was. The only time Obama came close to that was when he had that meeting with Trump."

Jimmy Fallon: "Actually, Trump's approval rating is worst than Obama's lowest, and worse than Bill Clinton's lowest. After hearing this, Trump promised to hunt down Bin Laden and sleep with an intern."

Jimmy Fallon: "When [Trump] heard his son-in-law was having meetings with shady Russians, Trump said, 'You could start calling me Dad.'"

Seth Meyers: "Democrats have called for the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee to recuse himself from the investigation into Russia's election-related hacking over concerns that [Nunes] is too close to President Trump to be impartial. They want Congress to appoint someone less close to Trump like Melania."

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Seth Meyers: "President Trump's son-in-law and adviser Jared Kushner reportedly met with executives from a Russian bank that was under US sanctions during the 2016 presidential election. But I'm sure there's a perfectly 't'reasonable explanation."

Seth Meyers: "The White House said today that President Trump has turned down an offer to throw out the first pitch on opening day for the Washington Nationals. But they said he would be happy to throw out some of the Nationals."

Seth Meyers: "Ford announced today it will create 130 new jobs in Michigan. 'Is one of them President?' asked Hillary."

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Bulletin Intelligence <HHS@BulletinIntelligence.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2017 8:51 AM
To: HHS@BulletinIntelligence.com
Subject: HHS Secretary's News Briefing for Saturday, March 18, 2017

HHS SECRETARY'S NEWS BRIEFING

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2017 9:00 AM EDT

Zika Virus News:

FIVE WOMEN WHO MAY HAVE BEEN INFECTED WITH ZIKA, BUT WERE TOLD BY D.C. THEY WERE HEALTHY, HAVE GIVEN BIRTH

Washington Post (3/17, Aaron C. Davis)

"At least one woman with the Zika virus and four others who may have been infected but were mistakenly told last year they were healthy – because of botched tests at a D.C. government lab – have since given birth, according to health-care providers." However, "there have been no reports of babies born in the District during that time with microcephaly." These births "ensure that it could be years before the full impact of mistakes made at the District's public-health lab can be tallied."

More Coverage. Zika Lawsuit Between Mandarin Oriental Miami, Greystone Dismissed (Miami Herald, 3/17)

Top National Stories:

TRUMP AND HOUSE G.O.P. AGREE TO MAKE WORK A MEDICAID REQUIREMENT

New York Times (3/17, Thomas Kaplan And Robert Pear)

President Trump met with members of the conservative Republican Study Committee on Friday and announced he is in agreement with "conservative lawmakers in the House...to allow states to impose work requirements on able-bodied Medicaid recipients and to accept federal Medicaid funds as one annual lump-sum block grant, two major concessions to balking hard-liners as they try to rally support for legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act." The article describes the newest "concessions" as both "significant, at least symbolically, and...politically risky."

More Coverage: Print and Online. Trumps Says Conservative House Lawmakers Line Up Behind Healthcare Bill (Reuters, 3/17), Trump And Ryan: Health Bill May Test Marriage Of Convenience (New York Times, 3/17, Matt Flegenheimer And Maggie Haberman), Trump Backs Changes To GOP Health Bill As House Leaders Eye Vote Next Week (Washington Post, 3/17, Mike Debonis And Abby Phillip), Trio Of GOP Proposals Would Overhaul Medicaid Dramatically, Including Adding Job Requirement (Washington Post, 3/17, Amy Goldstein And Juliet Eilperin), Republicans Have A Plan To Radically Change How The Poor Get Health Insurance (Washington Post, 3/17, Max Ehrenfreund), Key Bloc Of Conservative Lawmakers Endorse GOP Health Plan (Wall Street Journal, 3/17, Louise Radnofsky, Michelle Hackman And Kristina Peterson), One Beneficiary Of GOP's Tax Bill: President Trump (Wall Street Journal, 3/17, Richard Rubin), Trump OKs Changes In GOP Health Care Bill, Winning Support (Associated Press, 3/17, Alan Fram And Erica Werner), Trump Says He's '100% Behind' Republican Health Care Bill (USA Today, 3/17, David Jackson), Trump Ramps Up Fight For Votes On U.S. Healthcare Overhaul (Reuters, 3/17, Susan Cornwell And David Morgan), House To Vote Thursday On GOP Obamacare Replacement (Politico, 3/17, Rachael Bade), Freedom Caucus Aligns With Bannon In Risky Obamacare Gambit (Politico, 3/17, Rachael Bade, Tara Palmeri And Kyle Cheney), Trump: Conservatives Now Support House Health Care Bill (Politico, 3/17, Madeline Conway), Republicans Move Ahead On Obamacare Repeal Despite Weak Support (Bloomberg Politics, 3/17), Freedom Caucus Leader: Despite Changes, Healthcare Bill Doesn't Have The Votes (The Hill, 3/17, Bob Cusack), RSC Chairman Backs Healthcare Bill After Trump Meeting (The Hill, 3/17, Jessie Hellmann), Freedom Caucus Still Opposes GOP Healthcare Plan (The Hill, 3/17, Mark Hensch), GOP Zeroes In On Changes To ObamaCare Repeal Bill (The Hill, 3/17, Scott Wong, Peter Sullivan And Jessie Hellmann), Trump OKs Changes In GOP Health Care Bill To Win Conservative Support (Chicago Tribune, 3/17, Alan Fram And Erica Werner), Trump Tells Conservative House Republicans He's '1,000% Behind' Obmacare Overhaul, Medicaid Changes (Los Angeles Times, 3/17), Trump On The House's Health Care Plan: 'I Am 100 Percent Behind This' (Politico, 3/17), Key

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Conservatives Come Around On GOP Health Plan (Roll Call, 3/17, John T. Bennett), Trump: 'ObamaCare Is Dead' (The Hill, 3/17, Ben Kamisar)

More Coverage: TV. Trump Endorses Conservative Proposal To Make Work A Medicaid Requirement (ABC World News Tonight, 3/17)

HEALTH SECRETARY PRODS GOP TO 'COLLABORATE' ON HEALTH BILL
Associated Press (3/17, Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar And Alan Fram)

Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price on Friday "prod[ed] divided Republicans to 'get together and collaborate'" on the healthcare reform bill.

More Coverage. The Sleeping Giants Of The Obamacare Debate: Republican Moderates In The House (Washington Post, 3/17, Paul Kane), How Do Insurers Decide What Medicines To Pay For? (Associated Press, 3/17, Tom Murphy), GOP Senator Complicates Trump, Ryan Efforts On Health Care (Associated Press, 3/17, Erica Werner And Kevin Freking), Chaffetz' IPhone Gaffe Lands Him Well-funded Utah Challenger (Associated Press, 3/17, Brady McCombs), Scant Consumer Information In Local TV Coverage Of Obamacare (Reuters, 3/17, Lisa Rapaport), Republican Lawmakers: Health Plan Tax Credit Changes Likely To Help Seniors (Reuters, 3/17), Trump Backs Republican Healthcare Plan: U.S. Health Secretary (Reuters, 3/17, Susan Cornwell), GOP Bill Threatens To Throw Free-Care Burden Back On Hospitals (Bloomberg News, 3/17, Katherine Greifeld), Sasse: House Health Care Bill Will Not Pass In Its Current Form (Politico, 3/17, Brent Griffiths), Scalise: There's A Path To 'Yes' For Those Who Oppose Obamacare Repeal (Politico, 3/17, Louis Nelson), Tom Price Prods GOP To 'collaborate' On Health Care Overhaul (Associated Press, 3/17, Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar And Alan Fram), Almost No One Likes The New GOP Health Care Bill (Huffington Post, 3/17, By Ariel Edwards-Levy), Conservatives Prepare For War On GOP Health Care Bill (Huffington Post, 3/17, By Matt Fuller), Here's What HHS's Tom Price Can Do To Dismantle Obamcare Even If Congress Doesn't Go Along (CNBC, 3/17), Activists Hold 12-hour Stakeout Outside Sen. Flake's Office (Associated Press, 3/17), GOP Whip Won't Commit To New CBO Score Before Vote (The Hill, 3/17, Peter Sullivan), U.S. Probing Insurers Beyond UnitedHealth Over Medicare Charges (Reuters, 3/17, Nate Raymond), Paul Ryan's Make-or-break Moment On Obamacare Will Test His Power, Legacy And Relationship With Trump (Los Angeles Times, 3/17), Could The GOP Health Bill Make It Harder To Buy Insurance? (Politico, 3/17, Danny Vinik), Obamacare Abortion Language Could Hit Procedural Snag, GOP Is Warned (Politico, 3/17, Jennifer Haberkorn), Mayo Clinic Faces Questions After CEO Comments On Insurance (Associated Press, 3/17, Amy Forliti), GOP Rep: 'Not True' Conservatives Back Health Plan (The Hill, 3/17, Mark Hensch)

More Coverage. Price Urges GOP Lawmakers To "Collaborate" To Pass Healthcare Law (Fox News' America's Newsroom, 3/17), Price Discusses Healthcare After Meeting RSC (CNN's Newsroom, 3/17), WSJournal US News Editor Discusses Price Comments On Healthcare Reform (Fox News' Happening Now, 3/17)

FIRED U.S. ATTORNEY PREET BHARARA SAID TO HAVE BEEN INVESTIGATING HHS SECRETARY TOM PRICE
ProPublica (3/17, Robert Faturechi)

Prior to being removed by the Trump Administration, former US Attorney Preet Bharara "was overseeing an investigation into stock trades made by the president's health secretary, according to a person familiar with the office." HHS Secretary Tom Price during his confirmation hearings was questioned about investments made while serving in Congress. The piece says Price "traded hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of shares in health-related companies, even as he voted on and sponsored legislation affecting the industry."

More Coverage. Top Dem Raises New Concerns About Price's Stock Trading After US Attorney's Firing (The Hill, 3/17, Peter Sullivan), NY Attorney Reportedly Probed Price Investments Before His Firing (The Hill, 3/17, Nikita Vladimirov), Fired US Attorney Preet Bharara Said To Have Been Investigating HHS Secretary Tom Price (CNBC, 3/17), Report: Fired U.S. Attorney Was Probing Tom Price's Stock Trades (Kaiser Health News, 3/17)

More Coverage: TV. Bharara Reportedly Investigating HHS Secretary Price Prior To Being Removed (MSNBC's All In, 3/17),

BUDGET REPORTS SHOW VALUES OF PERSON WHO CREATES IT
Newsmax (3/17, Sandy Fitzgerald)

Former Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Matthews Burwell on Friday criticized the budget cuts during an interview on MSNBC's "Morning Joe." Burwell said, "Those kind of cuts really hurt our ability to serve the American people," and added, "Those kinds of cuts are the kinds of things when people can't deliver what is expected by the American people."

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More Coverage. Ex-CDC Chief Opposes Public Health Block Grants In Trump Budget (Reuters, 3/17, Julie Steenhuysen), Researchers Call Trump's Proposed NIH Cuts 'Shocking' (Kaiser Health News, 3/17), Proposed Federal Budget Would Devastate Cancer Research, Advocates Say (Washington Post, 3/17, Laurie McGinley), Trump Plan Eliminates A Global Sentinel Against Disease, Experts Warn (New York Times, 3/17, Donald G. McNeil Jr.), Health Groups: Next Cure May Go Undiscovered With Trump Cuts (Associated Press, 3/17, Lauran Neergaard)

Health Reform & Healthcare:

FOUR REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS VOICE OPPOSITION TO HOUSE GOP HEALTH-CARE LEGISLATION
Wall Street Journal (3/17, Michelle Hackman)

Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, Ohio Gov. John Kasich, Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval, and Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder sent a letter to congressional leaders on Thursday night announcing their opposition to the American Health Care Act. In the letter, they asserted, "Unfortunately, the current version of the House bill…provides almost no new flexibility for states, does not ensure the resources necessary to make sure no one is left out, and shifts significant new costs to states."

More Coverage. Four Republican Governors Come Out Against Obamacare Repeal Plan (USA Today, 3/17, Todd Spangler), Republican Healthcare Bill Would Harm State Finances: Moody's (Reuters, 3/17, Robin Respaut), Four Republican Governors Come Out Against Obamacare Replacement Plan (Bloomberg News, 3/17, Anna Edney And Zachary Tracer), Moody's: House Healthcare Bill Would Hurt States, Hospitals (The Hill, 3/17, Naomi Jagoda), GOP Govs: ObamaCare Repeal Bill Shifts 'Significant' Costs To States (The Hill, 3/17, Jessie Hellmann), GOP Policies Will Hurt Access To Long-term Care In Rural Areas (The Hill, 3/17, Dr. Carrie Henning-Smith, Opinion Contributor), Trump Budget Would Strip $1 Billion From Mass., Markey Says (Boston Globe, 3/17, Tyler Pager), APNewsbreak: Analysis: 380,000 Arizonans May Lose Medicaid (Washington Times, 3/17, Bob Christie), Analysis: Virginia To See Big Medicaid Cuts Under GOP Plan (Washington Times, 3/17, Sarah Rankin)

SHAHEEN CRITICIZES TRUMP, GOP HEALTH PLAN IN WEEKLY ADDRESS
Associated Press (3/17)

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen in the Democrats' weekly address on Friday sought to contrast President Trump's "campaign-trail promises to improve health care coverage, lower costs and fight the opioid epidemic," with the GOP plan to repeal the Affordable Care Act, which she asserted "would hurt millions of people."

More Coverage. Noonan: Trump Should Ally With Dems On Healthcare (The Hill, 3/17, Mark Hensch)

GOP, DEM LAWMAKERS DECRY TRUMP'S CUT TO MEALS ON WHEELS
Associated Press (3/17, Matthew Daly)

Republican and Democratic lawmakers are criticizing President Trump's proposed budget for seeking to impose "a sharp funding cut" to Meals on Wheels, "the popular service that provides food to the elderly." Reps. Gus Bilirakis, Linda Sanchez, and John Conyers are among the lawmakers who have expressed support for the program.

More Coverage: Print and Online. President Trump Won Big In These Places. Now He Wants To Eliminate 3 Agencies Dedicated To Helping Them. (Washington Post, 3/17, Jeff Guo), For The Record: White House Budget Director Did Not Say Meals On Wheels Did Not Show Results (Washington Post, 3/17, Glenn Kessler), The Cost Can Be Debated, But Meals On Wheels Gets Results (New York Times, 3/17, Aaron E. Carroll), Trump Seeks To Ax Appalachia Economic Programs, Causing Worry In Coal Country (Reuters, 3/17, Valerie Volcovici), Trump's Budget Would Be Devastating To Poor Victims Of Domestic Abuse (Huffington Post, 3/17, Melissa Jeltsen), Meals On Wheels Sees 500 Percent Surge In Volunteers Since Budget Cuts Proposed (Huffington Post, 3/17, Hayley Miller), Trump Budget Cuts Put Struggling Americans On Edge (New York Times, 3/17, Sabrina Tavernise And Trip Gabriel)

More Coverage: TV. Lawmakers, Beneficiaries Condemn Proposed Cuts To Meals On Wheels (The CBS Evening News, 3/17)

U.S. INVESTIGATES FOUR INSURERS OVER MEDICARE PAYMENTS
Reuters (3/17, Nate Raymond)

The Justice Department is investigating four health insurance companies following a lawsuit alleging the companies "defraud[ed] Medicare by claiming patients were treated for conditions they did not have or received no treatment for." These include Health Net Inc, Aetna Inc, Cigna Corp's Bravo Health Inc, and Humana Inc. The article said revelations

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about the probes into these companies came out during a whistleblower suit against UnitedHealth Group Inc, brought by former executive Benjamin Poehling.

EPA AWARDS $100 MILLION TO UPGRADE FLINT WATER SYSTEM
Reuters (3/17, Valerie Volcovici)

The Environmental Protection Agency announced Friday it has awarded $100 million to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality "to upgrade Flint, Michigan's drinking water infrastructure to address a crisis that exposed thousands of children to lead poisoning." The money was disbursed under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, which was passed by Congress last year and signed into law by former President Obama.

More Coverage. Feds Provide $100M For Flint Water Improvements (The Hill, 3/17, Devin Henry)

FOUR FORMER FDA COMMISSIONERS DENOUNCE DRUG IMPORTATION, CITING DANGERS TO CONSUMERS
Washington Post (3/17, Laurie McGinley)

Former Food and Drug Administration Commissioners Robert Califf, Margaret Hamburg, Andrew von Eschenbach, and Mark McClellan have signed an open letter posted Friday by the Margolis Center for Health Policy at Duke University "warning Congress that legalizing the importation of drugs from other countries – an idea that has drawn support from both Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump – is a risky approach that would endanger consumers by exposing them to fake, substandard and contaminated drugs." They concede the proposal would likely help Americans access less-expensive medicines, according to the article, but also warn it would likely "harm patients and consumers and compromise the carefully constructed system that guards the safety of our nation's medical products." The piece notes FDA Commissioner-designate Scott Gottlieb, MD, has said that he "agrees with his predecessors."

More Coverage. Indian Drugmakers Face Squeeze In U.S. Healthcare Market (Reuters, 3/17, Zeba Siddiqui)

THE GENERAL WHO WENT TO WAR ON SUICIDE
Politico Magazine (3/17, Ben Hattem)

The more than 5,500-word "Friday Cover" story profiles Fort Bliss commander Major General Dana Pittard, who, faced with a growing number of suicides among his soldiers, made it a top priority to focus on fighting the problem and to find "the roots and causes" to prevent more suicides. A solution he came up with, the article says, was to "aggressively expand mental health services at the base." This included increasing mental health staff, "creat[ing] new social spaces and nighttime services, [and] treatment for substance abuse and post traumatic stress disorder." The services were made available to all, regardless of "whether or not there was any reason to believe they were at risk of killing themselves – because he believed everyone was vulnerable to suicide."

VIETNAM BLUE WATER VETERANS STILL FIGHT FOR AGENT ORANGE BENEFITS
McClatchy (3/17, Anna Douglas)

Military veteran Sam Genco was last year diagnosed with ischemic heart disease, which the Federal government has noted to be a common condition resulting from exposure to Agent Orange. The article says he was 19-years-old when he "narrowly survived one of the United States' worst military aircraft carrier fires" and that he attributes his illness to the ship's drinking water. However, he is not eligible for military disability benefits tied to Agent Orange. The reason, the piece notes, is that he is "caught in a bureaucratic maze and a struggle involving widespread disagreement among experts about why he's sick." He is one of an estimated 90,000 affected by "blue water," in which sailors were "exposed to Agent Orange via their ships' drinking water or from winds blowing the chemical out to sea." The VA, however, "wants more evidence before it will award the sailors benefits."

DEATH OF OHIO COUPLE IN OVERDOSE "RAISING QUESTIONS" ABOUT PILOT SCREENINGS
NBC Nightly News (3/17)

The segment reported on the accidental overdose of a husband and wife in Dayton, Ohio. Coverage indicated the couple were found by their children after waking up to get ready for school. The correspondent said, "Two more lives lost to America's opioid addiction. Courtney Halye and her husband Brian, a captain with Spirit Airlines." He noted that Spirit Airlines said in an interview, "'Captain Halye served at the airline for just over nine years. His final Spirit flight was last Friday, March 10," which the correspondent said is "raising questions about how pilots are screened for drug abuse."

"SODA TAX" STAKES ESCALATE IN PIVOTAL PHILADELPHIA FIGHT
Associated Press (3/17, Candice Choi And Kristen De Groot)

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The fight over Philadelphia's soda tax has "escalated" just three months into the law's implementation. As soda makers claim the tax will force them to cut jobs, supermarkets opposing the tax are "printing out the added cost on receipts and store shelves." City officials say "the law does not require distributors and retailers to pass on the cost of the tax."

INDIGENOUS BOLIVIANS HAVE SOME OF THE HEALTHIEST HEARTS
Associated Press (3/17, Maria Cheng)

Research indicates "the Tsimane, a society of hunter-gatherers" who live in the Bolivian Amazon, "have the lowest-ever recorded levels of clogged arteries among any population studied."

More Coverage: Print and Online. These People Eat Monkeys And Piranhas. They Also Have The Lowest Rates Of Heart Disease Ever Measured. (Washington Post, 3/17, Peter Whoriskey), Tsimane People Have Very Low Risk Of Heart Disease (TIME, 3/17, Alexandra Sifferlin)

CHOLESTEROL-SLASHING DRUG CAN PROTECT HIGH-RISK HEART PATIENTS, STUDY FINDS
New York Times (3/17, Gina Kolata)

"The first rigorous test of an expensive new drug that radically lowers cholesterol levels found that it significantly reduced the chance that a high-risk patient would have a heart attack or stroke," the article reports, citing a new study involving 27,564 men and women using Amgen's Repatha that was published Friday in The New England Journal of Medicine and presented at the annual meeting of the American College of Cardiology.

More Coverage: Print and Online. Cholesterol Drug Cuts Heart Risks, Spurs New Debate On Cost (Associated Press, 3/17, Marilynn Marchione), Amgen Cholesterol Drug Cuts Heart Attack, Stroke Risk But Shares Fall (Reuters, 3/17, Bill Berkrot), CVS Health Says Amgen Data May Increase Eligible Patients By Millions (Reuters, 3/17), Powerful Heart Drug Sharply Cuts Risks For Cardiac Patients On Statins (Washington Post, 3/17, Lenny Bernstein)

More Coverage: TV. Repatha Study Amounts To "A Big Medical Breakthrough" (NBC Nightly News, 3/17), Cholesterol Drug Shows "Dramatic" Results In New Study (ABC World News Tonight, 3/17)

LESS-INVASIVE TREATMENT YIELDED SIMILAR OUTCOME AS OPEN-HEART SURGERY, STUDY FINDS
Wall Street Journal (3/17, Jeanne Whalen)

Research indicated that for certain patients with aortic stenosis, transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) and open-heart surgery led to similar outcomes.

More Coverage. Medtronic Heart Valve Replacement Succeeds In Intermediate-Risk Patients: Study (Reuters, 3/17, Bill Berkrot)

MEDICINES CO DRUG SHOWS LONG-TERM CHOLESTEROL LOWERING IN STUDY
Reuters (3/17, Bill Berkrot)

Research indicated inclisiran "cut levels of...LDL cholesterol in half in high-risk heart patients with no serious safety issues, according to" research presented at the American College of Cardiology meeting.

SLEEP APNEA IN CHILDREN TIED TO CHANGES IN BRAIN
Reuters (3/17, Andrew M. Seaman)

Research suggests that in kids with obstructive sleep apnea (OSA), "areas of the brain involved with thinking and problem-solving appear to be smaller than in children who sleep normally." Investigators "used magnetic resonance imaging to analyze the volume of children's gray matter." The scans of 16 kids with OSA and 200 kids who did not have the condition were compared. The researchers found that "overall, children with OSA had decreases in gray matter volume in areas of the brain important for controlling cognition and mood, compared to the other" kids. The findings were published online in Scientific Reports.

Blogs:

A RESPONSE TO A CRITIQUE OF THE URBAN INSTITUTE MODEL OF FINANCING LONG-TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS
Health Affairs (3/17, Melissa Favreault, Howard Gleckman, and Richard Johnson)

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A senior fellow in the Income and Benefits Policy Center at the Urban Institute, a senior fellow in the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center at the Urban Institute, and a senior fellow in the Income and Benefits Policy Center and director of the Program on Retirement Policy at the Urban Institute "take issue with most aspects of" Mark Warshawsky's "critique" of their DYNASIM model "for projecting LTSS spending and evaluating alternative financing options," as they say Warshawsky's arguments are "based largely on misleading comparisons and a selective reading of the literature."

HOW SHOULD WE MEASURE THE DISTRIBUTION OF HEALTH IN A POPULATION?
Health Affairs (3/17, Sabine Vuik, MSc, Sue Siegel, and Ara Darzi, OM, KBE, PC, FRS, FMedSci, HonFREng)
A policy fellow at Imperial College's Institute of Global Health Innovation, the CEO of GE Ventures, and the Director of the Institute of Global Health Innovation at Imperial College London discuss population health and outline the "matrix of indicators to gain a full picture of health and how it is changing." They conclude "it is important to note that measuring the distribution of health is only one of the many steps we can and should take to create healthier populations."

WHAT'S BEHIND 2.5 MILLION NEW HEALTH JOBS?
Health Affairs (3/17, Charles Roehrig, PhD, Ani Turner, and Katherine Hempstead)

A Vice President, Institute Fellow, and founding director of Altarum's Center for Sustainable Health Spending (CSHS), the Deputy Director of Altarum Institute's Center for Sustainable Health Spending, and the director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's work on health insurance coverage, examine the Bureau of Labor Statistics monthly Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey in an attempt to understand "how the health care sector added 2.5 million new jobs over the decade following the recession."

Opinion:

WHY MANDATORY VACCINATIONS ARE CRITICAL, VISUALIZED
Washington Post (3/17, Philip Bump)

The correspondent argues Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price's "less-than-rousing endorsement of mandatory immunization" this week at a CNN town hall "threatens his organization's mission." He provides an interactive chart in the article that highlights the importance of "herd immunity." He adds Price likely did not promote the importance of immunization "in part because of the position of his boss, President Trump," who "has repeatedly questioned the safety of vaccines, parroting the even-then discredited link to autism."

TRUMPCARE'S LONELY, AND SEEDY, SUPPORTER
New York Times (3/17, David Leonhardt)

The columnist contends Anthem CEO Joseph Swedish's "carefully worded" support for the Republican healthcare reform bill is just "another tale of the Trump administration's conflicts of interest." He notes Anthem tried to acquire Cigna but could not win support from the Justice Department under former President Obama, which is why "Anthem's best remaining hope for the deal is probably to persuade the Trump administration to take a different view of the merger and unblock it." According to the columnist, "The episode is important because it shows both how big companies play political hardball and how unconcerned the Trump administration is with basic government ethics."

PROGRAM THAT KEEPS FAMILIES FROM FREEZING IS ONLY "LOWER-IMPACT" IF YOU IGNORE ALL THE FAMILIES WHO DIDN'T FREEZE
Washington Post (3/17, Christopher Ingraham)

The columnist criticizes President Trump's budget for calling on the Department of Health and Human Services to eliminate the Low Income Home Energy Assistance program (LIHEAP), which is an "initiative that provides close to 6 million low-income households with help for their heating and cooling bills." He says the program "appears to be working" in terms of "reducing overall energy insecurity" and it has "kept millions of families warm, hundreds of thousands cool, and helped 1.7 million avoid termination of their utilities. That's a pretty big footprint." He acknowledges LIHEAP is not perfect and contends "the biggest problem with LIHEAP appears to be that it's chronically underfunded: It's typically only able to serve 20 percent of eligible homes each year before funding runs out."

TRUMP WANTS THE FORGOTTEN MEN AND WOMEN TO STAY FORGOTTEN
Washington Post (3/17, Ruth Marcus)

The columnist argues that based on the President's budget and healthcare reform effort, the "forgotten men and women" he campaigned on behalf of, "would have been better off forgotten." She contends, "Trump's proposals would hurt the

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

voters whose interests he pledged to protect: cuts to job training, college aid, housing assistance, heating costs, rural development, meals for shut-ins and after-school programs for low-income students."

National Front Page News:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Justice Department Fires Salvo At Consumer Watchdog
Key Conservatives Endorse House GOP Health-Care Plan
'In Cold Blood' Killer's Never-Published Memoir Raises Questions About His Motive
New Breed Of Airline Upends World Travel

New York Times:
Trump Offers No Apology For Claim On British Spying
Betsy DeVos's Hiring Of For-Profit College Official Raises Impartiality Issues
All Eyes On China As US Signals New Tack On North Korea
Trump Budget Cuts Put Struggling Americans On Edge
Derek Walcott, Poet And Nobel Laureate Of The Caribbean, Dies At 87
Man Charged With Murder In Death Of Emergency Worker In The Bronx

Washington Post:
Rulings Hint At Gorsuch's Leanings
Claims Differ On US Strikes
US Pushes China On N. Korea
Trump Drags Allies Into Wiretap Controversy
In Virtual Age, Home Buyers Still Like Their Real Realtors
White House Fence-Jumper In Secure Zone For 17 Minutes

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Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2017 12:37 PM
To: HHS@BulletinIntelligence.com
Subject: HHS Secretary's News Briefing for Sunday, March 26, 2017

HHS SECRETARY'S NEWS BRIEFING

SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2017 12:30 PM EDT

Top National Stories:

TRUMP TWEETS: WE'LL PUT TOGETHER A GREAT PLAN AFTER OBAMACARE EXPLODES

The Hill (3/25, Elliot Smilowitz)

President Trump "took to Twitter" on Saturday "to address the failure of the ObamaCare repeal bill," and he reiterated his Administration will not give up on their promise to repeal and replace Affordable Care Act, even if healthcare reform would wait until the law "explodes."

More Coverage: Print and Online. Trump's Path Forward Only Gets Tougher After Health-care Fiasco (Washington Post, 3/25, John Wagner, Damian Paletta And Sean Sullivan), With His Presidency Off Course, Trump Confronts The Lessons Of The Health-care Debacle (Washington Post, 3/25, Dan Balz), Why Republicans Were In Such A Hurry On Health Care (Washington Post, 3/25, Matt O'Brien), Pence Says Trump Will Keep Promise Of Overhauling Affordable Care Act (Washington Post, 3/25, John Wagner), A New Dynamic May Be Emerging In The House: A Right And Left Flank Within The GOP Willing To Buck Leadership (Washington Post, 3/25, Paul Kane), Trump Becomes Ensnared In Fiery G.O.P. Civil War (New York Times, 3/25, Glenn Thrush And Maggie Haberman), Paul Ryan Emerges From Health Care Defeat Badly Damaged (New York Times, 3/25, Matt Flegenheimer And Thomas Kaplan), Trump's Biggest Obstacle To Policy Goals? His Own Missteps (New York Times, 3/25, Michael D. Shear), Health Bill's Failure Leaves Supporters In A Political Jam Back Home (New York Times, 3/25, Alexander Burns), Trump's Healthcare Flop Lowers Blood Pressure For Those Who Feared The Worst (Los Angeles Times, 3/25, Steve Lopez), Iowa Congressman Faces Pressure From Donors, Backlash From GOP For Not Backing Health Bill (Wall Street Journal, 3/25, Reid J. Epstein), Health-Care Bill Failure Spotlights Republican Leadership Challenges (Christian Science Monitor, 3/25, Andrew Taylor), Obamacare Repeal Fails: Will Mnuchin Tax Reforms Fare Better? (Christian Science Monitor, 3/25, Ellen Powell), Many Governors Welcome Demise Of GOP Health Care Bill (Associated Press, 3/25, Geoff Mulvihill), Failure On Health Bill Also Hurts Prospects For Tax Overhaul (Associated Press, 3/25, Stephen Ohlemacher), Analysis: The Outsider Dealmaker Faltering In White House (Associated Press, 3/25, Jonathan Lemire), Self-Inflicted Collapse Chokes GOP Effort To Undo Obamacare (Associated Press, 3/25, Alan Fram And Erica Werner), Ellison Says Democrats Must Fight Republicans At All Levels (Associated Press, 3/25, Kathleen Ronayne), Now What? Options For Consumers As Health Law Drama Fades (Associated Press, 3/25, Tom Murphy), Trump Meets Freedom Caucus And Result Is Legislative Disaster (Bloomberg Politics, 3/25, Shannon Pettypiece, Jennifer Jacobs, And Billy House), Steve Bannon Thought He Could Bully Republicans On Health Care. He Couldn't. (Huffington Post, 3/25, Sebastian Murdock), Pence: Democrats' Victory On Health Care 'Won't Last Long' (Washington Times, 3/25, Dave Boyer), REPORT: Pence Pushed To Label Paul Ryan's Failed Health Bill 'Ryancare' Not 'Trumpcare' (Breitbart, 3/25, Michelle Moons), Trump: After Obamacare Explodes, We'll Put Together 'A Great Healthcare Plan For The People' (Breitbart, 3/25, Katherine Rodriguez), Trump: 'Obamacare Will Explode' ... 'Do Not Worry' (Politico, 3/25, Rebecca Morin), A Gut Check For Republicans After Failure Of Health Law (Politico, 3/25, Edward-Isaac Dovere), Ryan Wounded By Health Care Fiasco (Politico, 3/25, John Bresnahan And Rachael Bade), Republicans Wonder Whether Trump Was Invested In Success Of Health Law (Politico, 3/25, Annie Karni), Angry Over U.S. Healthcare Fail, Trump Voters Spare Him Blame (Reuters, 3/25, Letitia Stein), Trump, GOP Look To Tax Bill For Lifeline (The Hill, 3/25, Naomi Jagoda), Pence: Trump 'Won't Rest' Until ObamaCare Repealed (The Hill, 3/25, Max Greenwood), Pence: 'Congress Wasn't Ready' To Repeal Obamacare (CNN, 3/25, Elizabeth Landers), Pence Visits WV, Says Fight To Repeal ACA Will Continue (Charleston (WV) Gazette-Mail, 3/25, Max Garland), Pence Jokes GOP Health Care Bill Needed Help From WWE. (USA Today, 3/25, Maureen Groppe), Dan Rather: Failure To Repeal ObamaCare Most 'Staggering Loss' So Early In A Term (The Hill, 3/25, Brooke Seipel), Priebus, Price Facing Blame After Healthcare Failure: Report (The Hill, 3/25, Nikita Vladimirov), Dem Senator: GOP Controls All Of Gov't, So Success Or Failure Is On Them (The Hill, 3/25, Nikita Vladimirov), Report: Bannon Told Conservatives 'This Is Not A Debate,' You Have To Back Bill (The Hill, 3/25, Mallory Shelbourne), ObamaCare Defeat Caps Difficult Week For Trump (The Hill, 3/25,

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Jordan Fabian), GOP Senator: I'm Ready To Work With Trump, Dems On Healthcare (The Hill, 3/25, Mallory Shelbourne), GOP Group Ran Ads Thanking Lawmakers For Repealing ObamaCare After Vote Was Canceled (The Hill, 3/25, Brooke Seipel), Report: Trump Didn't Want To Talk Details In Freedom Caucus Meeting (The Hill, 3/25, Mallory Shelbourne), Hannity: Healthcare Bill 'Not President Trump's Failure' (The Hill, 3/25, Max Greenwood), Obamacare Lives But The Health-Care Bull Is Mortal (Wall Street Journal, 3/25, Charley Grant), 'You Know How Putin Feels About Failure': Bill Maher Blasts Trump's Health-care Flop (Washington Post, 3/25, Cleve R. Wootson Jr.), Who Is To Blame For The Failure Of The Health-care Overhaul? The Finger-pointing Begins. (Washington Post, 3/25, Sean Sullivan, Mike Debonis, John Wagner And David Weigel), Trump Asks His Supporters To Watch Fox News Host Who Calls On Ryan To Step Down (Washington Post, 3/25, John Wagner), GOP Lawmaker: Time To Work With Dems On Healthcare (The Hill, 3/25, Max Greenwood), Report: Bannon Wanted To Use Healthcare Vote To Make 'Enemies List' (The Hill, 3/25, Nikita Vladimirov), Dem To Trump: 'You Truly Are An Evil Man' (The Hill, 3/25, Brooke Seipel), In Healthcare Defeat, President Trump Learns A Costly Lesson That Could Imperil His Agenda (Los Angeles Times, 3/26, Noah Bierman), How A Secret Freedom Caucus Pact Brought Down Obamacare Repeal (Politico, 3/26, Rachael Bade, Josh Dawsey And Jennifer Haberkorn)

More Coverage: TV. Trump Claims Of Obamacare "Explosion" Are "Far From Guaranteed" (The CBS Weekend News, 3/25), Ryan Says Tax Reform Harder Without Healthcare Bill (The CBS Weekend News, 3/25), Administration Seeks To "Shake Off Defeat And Move On" From Healthcare. (NBC Nightly News, 3/25), Failure Of Healthcare Bill To Complicate Tax Reform Effort (NBC Nightly News, 3/25), Ruhle: Administration Should "Play Ball With Insurance Companies" (NBC Nightly News, 3/25), Slavitt: Administration Has "Power" To Determine Success Or Failure Of ACA (ABC World News Tonight, 3/25)

PRIEBUS URGES BIPARTISAN SOLUTION FOR HEALTHCARE
Fox News Sunday (3/26, Wallace)

White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus said, "Look, Obamacare as we know is imploding and it is exploding, and every other adjective you can provide. It's going south. It would be nice to get the Democrats on board. But you are right, at the end of the day, I believe that it's time for the party to start governing. I think that's important. I think that Democrats can come to the table as well and if you look at what the President said in the oval just after that comment, he said perhaps it's time for us to start talking to some moderate Democrats as well and come up with a bipartisan solution."

MULVANEY: "PLENTY OF BLAME TO GO AROUND" ON HEALTHCARE BILL FAILURE
NBC's Meet the Press (3/26, Todd)

Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney was asked to explain Friday's defeat of Republican healthcare legislation. He said, "I think there's plenty of blame to go around as we try to figure out what happened. What happened is Washington won. I think the one thing we learned this week is Washington was more broken than President Trump thought that it was. What you have is the status quo wins and unfortunately, the folks back home lost. You can blame it on the Freedom Caucus if you want to and Charlie Dent, and it was the powers that be in Washington that won."

SCHUMER: DEMOCRATS WILL WORK WITH REPUBLICANS ON HEALTHCARE AS LONG AS REPEAL "OFF THE TABLE"
ABC's This Week (3/26, Stephanopolous)

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) said that despite Friday's healthcare bill defeat, Democrats are willing to work with Republicans on healthcare. He said, "As long as they say, 'No more repeal.' That's a loser. Seventeen percent of Americans liked Trumpcare. That's it. They didn't want it. And stop undermining ACA, and we'll work with them. We have ideas. They have requests to try to improve Obamacare. We never said it was perfect. We always said we would work with them to improve it, we just said repeal was off the table."

HOUSE FREEDOM CAUCUS CHAIR: CONSERVATIVES, MODERATES MUST COOPERATE ON HEALTHCARE
ABC's This Week (3/26, Stephanopolous)

House Freedom Caucus Chair Mark Meadows (R-NC) commented on Friday's defeat of the Republican healthcare measure. He said of Trump Administration comments that the President will now turn to tax reform and other agenda items, "Well, I know that he's – he's moving on. As he looks at that, it's incumbent upon us. We had discussions with some of the more moderate members of our conference who were prepared to vote no. And, so, really, it's incumbent upon those two groups, the conservatives and moderates to come together hopefully in the coming days to find consensus, present something to the President that certainly not only gets him 216 votes, but hopefully 235 votes."

SANDERS CHEERS HEALTHCARE BILL DEFEAT, PLEDGES SINGLE-PAYER MEDICARE MEASURE

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CNN's State of the Union (3/26, Bash)

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) praised Friday's defeat of the Republican healthcare bill, saying, "The bill that was defeated should have been defeated. It was a disastrous piece of legislation primarily designed to provide $300 billion in tax breaks to the top two percent throwing 24 million people off of health insurance, raising premiums for older workers in a very, very significant way. It was defeated. The American people wanted it defeated and I'm glad that we were able to accomplish that. Now, as you indicated, of course, Obamacare has serious problems. Deductibles are too high and premiums are too high and the cost of health care is going up at a much faster rate than it should. Ideally where we should be going is to join the rest of the industrialized the world and guarantee health care to all people as a right and that's why I'm going to introduce a Medicare for all single-payer program."

FREEDOM CAUCUS MEMBER URGES CONGRESS TO "GET BACK TO WORK" ON HEALTHCARE
Fox News Sunday (3/26, Wallace)

Freedom Caucus founding member Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) was asked if he and the other Freedom Caucus members were to blame for Friday's healthcare bill defeat. He said, "Let's get back to work and do what we told the voters we would do. Remember this bill? Seventeen percent of the country approved this bill. Maybe the fact that we opposed it, we did the country a favor because this bill didn't repeal Obamacare. This bill didn't do what we told the American people we would do. Let's be responsible, get back to work and do what we told the American people what we were going to accomplish, which is repeal Obamacare and replace it with a patient-centered health care program."

COTTON: FAILURE OF HEALTHCARE BILL NOT DUE TO ANY SINGLE FACTION
CBS' Face the Nation (3/26, Dickerson)

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR) responded to questions of who is at fault for Friday's defeat of the healthcare bill. He said, "The President is right that the Democrats gave us Obamacare and the failure of the bill this week doesn't solve the problems of obamacare, it is continuing to get worse and our healthcare system is groaning under the weight of Obamacare so we have to revisit it and now have the time to do it in a more deliberate and careful fashion but ultimately I don't think you can lay the defeat of this bill last week on any single faction in the House of Representatives some conservatives opposed it, some moderates opposed it, even chairmen of powerful committees opposed it, the problem is the bill and process."

KASICH CRITICIZES LACK OF BIPARTISAN EFFORT ON HEALTHCARE
CNN's State of the Union (3/26, Bash)

Gov. John Kasich (R-Ohio) commented on Friday's defeat of healthcare legislation. He said, "Well, what I would tell you, Dana, is our party is trying to take on too much as just the party. You cannot have major changes in major programs affecting things like health care without including Democrats from the very beginning and asking them to be constructive. Earlier in your report you talked about Democrats sort of gloating. There's no reason to gloat here. This program needs reform. There are parts of it that are in very serious trouble."

Health Reform & Healthcare:

UTAH'S GOVERNOR SIGNS ABORTION-REVERSAL LEGISLATION
Associated Press (3/25, Hallie Golden)

The governor of Utah on Saturday signed legislation "that would require doctors to inform women that medication-induced abortions can be halted after taking just one of two pills, despite doctors' groups saying there is little evidence to back up that idea."

More Coverage. Oklahoma Lawmaker Defends Pregnancy From Rape And Incest As 'Beauty From Ashes' (Washington Post, 3/25, Kristine Phillips)

HOWARD UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL SHOWS SYMPTOMS OF A SEVERE CRISIS
Washington Post (3/25, Cheryl W. Thompson)

The front-page piece says an examination "of more than 675 medical malpractice and wrongful-death lawsuits filed since 2006 involving six D.C. hospitals: Howard University, George Washington University, MedStar Georgetown University, Providence and Sibley Memorial hospitals and MedStar Washington Hospital Center" found Howard "has faced layoffs, accreditation issues, and sexual harassment and discrimination lawsuits, and it has paid out at least $27 million in malpractice or wrongful-death settlements since 2007." The article says that the problems afflicting Howard, which include that it "had the highest rate of death lawsuits per bed" of the hospitals reviewed, amounts to a "severe crisis" for an

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institution that once "stood out for the medical care it offered freed slaves and became an incubator for some of the country's brightest African American physicians."

DIRECT PRIMARY CARE INCREASINGLY "GAINING TRACTION"
ABC World News Tonight (3/25)

The broadcast highlighted the growing trend of direct primary care, which appears to be "gaining traction" across the country. In order to participate, "families pay that monthly fee, instead of high premiums and deductibles, for the same services. There's no insurance involved at all," though to avoid a government penalty, catastrophic insurance coverage is required.

BOSTON HEALTHCARE PROGRAM AIMS TO HELP THE HOMELESS
The CBS Weekend News (3/25)

Many of the almost 600,000 homeless Americans "have health problems and no access to care," which a "nationally renowned team of street doctors" in Boston is seeking to address. Jim O'Connell, MD, "is Boston's only doctor left still making house calls to the homeless." O'Connell "was a 30-year-old medical student at Harvard when he passed up an oncology fellowship for a one-year position heading up a new nonprofit called Boston Health Care for the Homeless. ... Thirty-two years later, the program he started is now the country's largest of its kind."

GOING UNDER THE KNIFE, WITH EYES AND EARS WIDE OPEN
New York Times (3/25, Jan Hoffman)

The front-page article examines how as more "surgical patients are electing to keep their eyes wide open, doctor-patient protocol has not kept pace with the new practice." The Times says a study was recently published in the American Journal of Surgery that senior author Alexander Langerman, MD, a head and neck surgeon on the faculty of Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, "said...reflects a growing suspicion, generally, of authority figures." He acknowledged there is also "a curiosity and desire to have control over your experience."

COLORADO WEIGHS STRATEGY FOR GUARDING AGAINST POT CRACKDOWN
Associated Press (3/25, Kristen Wyatt)

A bill currently pending in the Colorado legislature is aimed at protecting the state's "nascent marijuana industry from a potential federal crackdown," which the piece says includes an "unusual strategy" that could threaten the collection of "hundreds of millions of dollars in tax" revenue. The legislation "would allow pot growers and retailers to reclassify their recreational pot as medical pot if a change in federal law or enforcement occurs." According to the article, "it's the boldest attempt yet by a U.S. marijuana state to avoid federal intervention in its weed market."

Opinion:

AMERICANS ARE DYING 'DEATHS OF DESPAIR.' WILL TRUMP HELP?
Washington Post (3/25)

The editorial discusses a new report by Nobel Prize-winning economist Angus Deaton of Princeton University and his colleague Anne Case on Thursday that finds the "rising mortality among non-college-educated white Americans" is caused by "drug overdoses, suicides and alcohol-related liver disease, or, as Mr. Deaton and Ms. Case aptly call them, 'deaths of despair.'" The editorial says much of the "white working class" voted for President Trump, but "it is clear that Mr. Trump's policy agenda won't do much for the people who gave him their votes, and might hurt them." The piece concludes, "if he does nothing else," the President "must at least continue the more rational policy on opioid prescribing that began, belatedly, under his predecessor."

IN TRUMP'S BUDGET: THE UNWISEST CUT
Washington Post (3/25, Andrew Hamilton)

In an op-ed, the New York University President, a professor of chemistry and a Fellow of the Royal Society, criticizes President Trump's budget as "a blueprint for disaster" when it comes to science due to its "astonishing set of cuts in America's science enterprise, perhaps most notably in the National Institutes of Health." He concludes "the loss in scientific stature and talent and discoveries will haunt this nation's future for a generation or more."

DONALD, THIS I WILL TELL YOU
New York Times (3/25, Maureen Dowd)

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The columnist calls the President “a sucker who is a tool of the D.C. establishment.” She asserts the President knew Ryan’s “vaunted reputation as a policy wonk was fake news” but nonetheless still “sold the D.O.A. bill the Irish undertaker gave you as though it were a luxury condo, ignoring the fact that it was a cruel flimflam, a huge tax cut for the rich disguised as a health care bill.” She also criticizes Trump for taking the “motley skeleton crew” from his campaign into the White House to “create a feuding, leaking, belligerent, conspiratorial, sycophantic atmosphere” defined by the “Manichaean anarchist in Steve Bannon.”

IT WAS A GOOD WEEK FOR THE GOP. BUT IT COULD HAVE BEEN GREAT.
Washington Post (3/25, Hugh Hewitt)

The columnist admits “the pulling of the GOP health-care bill this week was a big loss, and perhaps significant beyond its own costs,” but he argues this week was still “very good...for the conservative cause generally and President Trump specifically,” given the performance of Supreme Court nominee Judge Neil Gorsuch at his confirmation hearing that showed he will be “a great originalist justice.” He shares recommendations on tax reform and argues “better to go for infrastructure, including the border wall, and best of all, the fulfillment of the promise of a 350-ship Navy and the general defense buildup that needs to surround that Trump goal.” He argues that while the week “could have been great,” Hewitt says, “I’d take a likely SCOTUS confirmation over a one-house-of-Congress win any day.”

National Front Page News:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

New York Times:
Canadians Adopted Refugee Families For A Year. Then Came ‘Month 13.’
Trump Becomes Ensnared In Fiery GOP Civil War
Health Bill’s Failure Leaves Supporters In A Political Jam Back Home
Paul Ryan Emerges From Health Care Defeat Badly Damaged
North Korea’s Rising Ambition Seen In Bid To Breach Global Banks
Going Under The Knife, With Eyes And Ears Wide Open
One Nation, Under Fox: 18 Hours With A Network That Shapes America

Washington Post:
Howard: A Hospital’s Turmoil
Health Failure Hurts Agenda
US Military Confirms Airstrike In Mosul
A Danger Lies In Dismissing Kim Jong Un As Irrational
GOP Blame Game Starts, With Plenty To Share

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

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To: HHS@BulletinIntelligence.com
Subject: HHS Secretary's News Briefing for Thursday, March 30, 2017

HHS SECRETARY'S NEWS BRIEFING

THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2017 6:00 AM EDT

Zika Virus News:

FIRST SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHILD BORN WITH DEFECT CAUSED BY ZIKA VIRUS
Los Angeles Times (3/29, Paul Sisson)
The Los Angeles Times reports in "LA Now" that a baby recently born in San Diego County "is the first in the region to suffer birth defects after the infant's mother contracted the Zika virus while traveling abroad." Public health officials said the case is a reminder that Zika remains a risk while traveling in other countries.

More Coverage. Singapore Confirms Two New Cases Of Zika Virus (Reuters, 3/29)

Top National Stories:

HHS CHIEF TOM PRICE, WITHOUT SPECIFICS, SAYS HE WILL UPHOLD HEALTH LAW
Wall Street Journal (3/29, Stephanie Armour and Thomas M. Burton)
The Wall Street Journal reports that on Wednesday, during testimony before the House Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, HHS Secretary Tom Price said it is his responsibility to uphold the Affordable Care Act as long as it is the law of the land. Price stated, "So long as the law is on the books, we at the department are obligated to uphold the law."

More Coverage. Health Secretary Pledges To Uphold Obamacare, But Promote It, Not So Much (CNBC, 3/29), HHS Secretary Grilled On Plans For ObamaCare, Research Cuts (The Hill, 3/29, Peter Sullivan), Trump's Health Secretary Won't Say If Administration Still Supports Obamacare Repeal (Bloomberg News, 3/29, Anna Edney and Zachary Tracer), Democrats Ask HHS Chief: Do You Plan To Sabotage Obamacare? (NBC News, 3/29), Tom Price: We Will Enforce Obamacare (Washington Examiner, 3/29), Tom Price Defends Proposed Cuts At NIH, Citing 'Indirect' Expenses (STAT, 3/29), Trump's Top Health Official Gets Bipartisan Grilling (Associated Press, 3/29, Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar), Tom Price Pledges To Uphold Obamacare, Including Mandate (Washington Times, 3/29, Tom Howell Jr.), Rosa DeLauro: Obamacare's Fate Lies With Trump (Washington Examiner, 3/29), Democrats Ask For Federal Investigation Of HHS Secretary Price Over Stock Deals (Modern Healthcare, 3/29), Health & Human Services Head Gets Heat For Proposed Research Cuts (New York Daily News, 3/29), Lawmakers Warn Trump's HHS Budget Cut Puts Lives At Risk (Modern Healthcare, 3/29), Trump Administration Still Plans To Undo Parts Of The ACA, Tom Price Testifies (Washington Post, 3/29, Juliet Eilperin and Mike Debonis), Senators Demand Answers About Possible Probe Of HHS Secretary Price (Kaiser Health News, 3/29)

Health Reform & Healthcare:

SENATE DEMOCRATS OFFER TO WORK WITH TRUMP ON HEALTH CARE – BUT ONLY IF HE ENDS ATTACK ON OBAMACARE
Washington Post (3/29, Sean Sullivan)
The Washington Post reports 44 Senate Democrats wrote to President Trump indicating "they are open to working with him on health care – but not before he end his effort to attack the Affordable Care Act." They stated, "Members of the Democratic caucus remain ready and willing to work with you on policies that would improve the stability of the individual insurance market. ... We ask that you begin the work of improving health care for millions of Americans by rescinding your January 20th executive order."

More Coverage. Senate Dems To Trump: Work With Us On ObamaCare (The Hill, 3/29, Jordain Carney), Democrats

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Fear Obamacare Attacks, Not Outreach, From White House (USA Today, 3/29, Heidi M Przybyla), Democrats Pen Letter To Trump On Working Together For Health Care Reform. What Can They Achieve? (Christian Science Monitor, 3/29)

IS PRESIDENT TRUMP REALLY TRYING AGAIN ON HEALTH CARE?

TIME (3/28)

TIME reports the Trump Administration is attempting "to restart talks with the House of Representatives on the defeated health care bill, with senior aides reaching out to Capitol Hill in recent days." So far, "those talks don't appear to be bearing any fruit...and the prospect of a breakthrough after last week's legislative debacle appears to be slim." The article says during "a meeting with a bipartisan group of Senators Tuesday evening, Trump expressed a desire to continue negotiating on the subject, but those comments are being brushed off by both sides of the aisle as empty talk for the news cameras."

TRUMP STILL WANTS A DEAL ON OBAMACARE REPLACEMENT, BUT IT HAS TO BE 'A GOOD DEAL'

CNBC (3/29)

On its website, CNBC reports that President Trump still wants the Affordable Care Act to be replaced, yet, "it's got to be done with 'a good deal,' not 'a bad deal,'" he said. White House spokesman Sean Spicer was "asked how realistic it is to expect an Obamacare replacement effort to be successfully 'resurrected' by Trump." Spicer said, "I think he'd like to get it done."

More Coverage. Trump Slowly Wades Back Into Choppy Health Care Waters (Roll Call, 3/29, John T. Bennett), Trump Won't Strike Healthcare Deal 'For Sake Of Creating A Deal' (Washington Examiner, 3/29)

AP SPIN METER: WAS TRUMP JOKING ON HEALTH CARE?

Associated Press (3/29, Calvin Woodward)

The AP reports since the AHCA was defeated last week, President Trump "has sent conflicting signals about trying again and left people guessing about whether his words on the subject are meant to be taken literally." He told the bipartisan group of senators on Tuesday, "I know that we're all going to make a deal on health care. That's such an easy one." The article adds that White House spokesman Sean Spicer "said Wednesday that Trump was only making a lighthearted crack at the reception." The New York Post also covers the story.

More Coverage. Spicer: Trump Joking When He Said ObamaCare Fix Would Be 'Easy' (New York Post, 3/29), Trump Says Coming Up With A Bipartisan Health-care Bill Will Be 'so Easy.' It Won't Be. (Washington Post, 3/29, Peter W. Stevenson)

SEN. LAMAR ALEXANDER PROPOSES TEMPORARY FIX FOR OBAMACARE

USA Today (3/29, Michael Collins)

USA Today reports that on Wednesday, Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) said "he intends to file legislation that would provide temporary relief for millions of people who live in areas where there are no insurers selling policies on the federal health insurance marketplace." The measure would allow "people who get government subsidies to buy insurance use that money to purchase any state-approved plan on the private market if there is no insurer selling policies on the federal exchange, or marketplace, in their area." At present, the subsidies can only be used to purchase plans through the exchanges.

More Coverage. Senate Bill Helps Obamacare Customers With No Options (Washington Examiner, 3/29)

TRUMP HEALTHCARE: OBAMACARE COULD STILL DIE

Fortune (3/29)

Fortune reports that Republicans and President Trump failed to pass the AHCA last week, but that does not mean they will not attempt to "wreck" the Affordable Care Act "indirectly." The article says one method "is for Republicans to choke off subsidies given to insurance companies in exchange for limiting the costs of deductibles and copays for low-income recipients." Should that occur, "many providers would likely withdraw from the marketplace."

More Coverage. 6 Changes The Trump Administration Can Still Make To Obamacare Without Congress : Shots (NPR, 3/29)

LIBERALS SEE FRESH OPPORTUNITY IN HEALTH CARE AFTER GOP MELTDOWN

Washington Post (3/29, Paige Winfield Cunningham)

The Washington Post reports liberals are putting forward their own healthcare proposals, hoping "to gain new ground after last week's Republican meltdown over an Obamacare replacement." The article says the "Progressive Change Campaign Committee, a political action committee that aims to represent the 'Elizabeth Warren wing of the Democratic Party,'" started "circulating a petition Wednesday calling for every person to have access to a Medicare-type plan – an idea

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supported by the party's left wing but viewed with some skepticism by moderates."

DEMS WAIT FOR GOP OLIVE BRANCH AFTER OBAMACARE DEBACLE
The Hill (3/29, Rachel Roubein)
The Hill reports that House GOP lawmakers, "including those who helped" to defeat the AHCA, "are calling for bipartisanship." However, "Democrats feel burned in the process and before lending a helping hand, say they need to first see clear signals Republicans are committed to working across the aisle." For instance, Republicans "would have to drop their ObamaCare repeal rhetoric," according to some lawmakers and liberal experts.

MODERATE GOP REP: REPUBLICANS CAN'T PASS HEALTHCARE REFORM WITHOUT DEMOCRATS
The Hill (3/29, Jessie Hellmann)
The Hill reports that on Wednesday, Rep. Charlie Dent (R-PA) said GOP lawmakers "should stop shutting out Democrats if they want to pass healthcare reform." Dent, a moderate Republican, said attempting "to pass any type of reform with only one party on board won't work, pointing to the failure of" the AHCA last week. Dent stated, "I think we should engage in healthcare conversations, but it should be from the center out. Republicans and Democrats coming together in areas where there are problems, and then put that legislation out on the floor."

POLL: AMERICANS DISLIKE GOP'S, TRUMP'S PLAN ON HEALTH CARE
Associated Press (3/29, Alan Fram and Emily Swanson)
The AP reports 62 percent of Americans disapprove of President Trump's "handling of health care during the initial weeks of his" tenure, according to an Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll. Data show respondents had "more negative than positive reviews" of the six healthcare changes the poll addressed. For instance, 80 percent of them "opposed the Republican proposal to let insurers boost premiums on older people," while 70 percent "disapproved of premium surcharges for people whose coverage lapses."

EXCLUSIVE: REPUBLICANS MOSTLY BLAME CONGRESS FOR HEALTHCARE REFORM FAILURE – REUTERS/IPSOS POLL
Reuters (3/29, Chris Kahn)
Reuters reports that for the most part, Americans are blaming Congress instead of President Trump or GOP leaders for the defeat of the AHCA, according to a new Reuters/Ipsos opinion poll. Data show about 26 percent of respondents "said House Democrats were most responsible and 23 percent blamed House Republicans." An additional "13 percent blamed Trump and 10 percent blamed Ryan," while "8 percent blamed the media."

More Coverage. Poll: Republicans Blame Congress, Not Trump Or Ryan, For ObamaCare Failure (The Hill, 3/29, Max Greenwood)

OBAMACARE'S POPULARITY ON THE RISE: POLL
Washington Times (3/29, Seth McLaughlin)
The Washington Times reports a new Politico/Morning Consult poll indicates the Affordable Care Act's popularity is increasing, "following the failure of President Trump and House GOP leaders to pass a bill that overhauls the nation's health care system." Data show 50 percent of voters now approve of the ACA, while "37 percent of voters support the GOP's continued push to repeal and replace the law." The article points out that the figures represent "a 4 percent spike in approval from a week ago."

DIANA DEGETTE: BIPARTISAN PUSH ON HEALTH CARE IS WITHIN REACH
Washington Times (3/29, Tom Howell Jr.)
The Washington Times reports Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO) "said if she could negotiate a landmark medical cures bill with Republicans in the middle of a bitter campaign last year, then compromise is still within reach despite longstanding partisanship around the Affordable Care Act of 2010." According to DeGette, some "unnamed Republicans have approached her about forging a bipartisan way forward."

AFTER DEFEAT ON OBAMACARE, TRUMP ADVISERS WANT HIM TO DELAY ANOTHER CAMPAIGN PLEDGE
Washington Post (3/29, Danielle Paquette)
The Washington Post reports that Steven Moore of the Heritage Foundation, an economic adviser to President Trump, wants "the administration to delay efforts to make child care more affordable." Moore "said the White House can nab an early win with tax reform – by perhaps opting for a politically safer package." Moore stated, "Trump needs a victory. Individual tax reform is really hard to do. It's politically risky, even though it's the right thing to do." He argued that Trump should "focus instead on corporate tax reform this year...and tackle the individual system in 2018. Such an approach could more quickly slash business expenses nationwide, but working parents would have to wait longer for tax-deductible day care."

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THOSE INDECIPHERABLE MEDICAL BILLS? THEY'RE ONE REASON HEALTH CARE COSTS SO MUCH.
New York Times (3/29, Elisabeth Rosenthal)
In an over 4,400-word article to appear in its Sunday Magazine, the New York Times reports that "our current medical-billing system" is partly "responsible for the high prices patients are charged." The article outlines the history of healthcare coding, and reports that healthcare professionals and insurers often battle over the correct or appropriate codes for the medical services or procedures rendered before sending the resulting bills to patients. The article mentions that the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Inspector General has investigated Medicare coding practices before and found many instances of abuse.

CHRIS CHRISTIE TO LEAD WHITE HOUSE SEARCH FOR OPIOID SOLUTIONS
USA Today (3/29, Herb Jackson)
USA Today reports New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R) will "chair" President Trump's new commission on opioid abuse. In an interview, "Christie said that addiction in New Jersey kills four times as many people as murder and three times as many as car accidents."

More Coverage: Print and Online. After Pledging To Solve Opioid Crisis, Trump's Strategy Underwhelms (Politico, 3/29, Dan Diamond and Sarah Karlin-Smith), Chris Christie To Lead Trump White House Drug Commission (Washington Post, 3/29, Philip Rucker), Christie To Lead New Opioid Commission Under Trump Administration (Washington Examiner, 3/29, Gabby Morrongiello), Christie Will Advise Trump Panel On Opioid Addiction (CNN, 3/29, Jen Christensen), To Address Opioid Crisis, Trump To Give Chris Christie The Helm (Christian Science Monitor, 3/29, Weston Williams), Trump Is Launching A Commission To Deal With The Deadliest Drug Crisis In US History (Vox, 3/29, German Lopez), This Should Be Christie's #1 Priority For Trump On Opioids (NJ News, 3/29), Trump Vows To Step Up Efforts To Combat The Nation's Drug Addiction, Opioid Problems (Washington Times, 3/29, Dave Boyer), Trump, Christie Pledge To Combat Nation's Opioid Addiction (Associated Press, 3/29, Jill Colvin), Chris Christie Will Lead Donald Trump's Effort To Combat Opioid Crisis (Huffington Post, 3/29, Marina Fang), Reunited? Gov. Christie And President Trump To Work Together On Curbing Opioid Abuse (NBC News, 3/29, Ali Vitali)

FDA NOMINEE TO RECUSE HIMSELF FROM DECISIONS ON MORE THAN 20 HEALTH-CARE COMPANIES
Washington Post (3/29, Laurie McGinley)
The Washington Post reports that Food and Drug Administration Commissioner nominee Scott Gottlieb "plans to recuse himself for a year from agency decisions involving more than 20 companies that he has worked for, invested in or had some other kind of financial relationship with, according to federal ethics filings." Gottlieb is "selling off financial interests in several firms and resigning from some positions he has held, the document shows."

More Coverage. FDA Nominee To Recuse Himself From Decisions On At Least 20 Companies (Bloomberg News, 3/29, Robert Langreth), Trump's FDA Pick Pledges To Untangle His Ties To Industry (STAT, 3/29), FDA Nominee Moves To Untangle Potential Conflicts Of Interest (Reuters, 3/29), F.D.A. Nominee Details Drug Industry Ties (New York Times, 3/29, Katie Thomas), FDA Nominee Details Millions In Payments From Drug Firms (San Francisco Chronicle, 3/29)

HEROIN USE, ADDICTION UP SHARPLY AMONG U.S. WHITES: STUDY
Reuters (3/29, Patricia Reaney)
Reuters reports that "heroin use in the United States has risen five-fold" over the past 10 years, while heroin addiction "has more than tripled, with the biggest jumps among whites and men with low incomes and little education," researchers say. They found "no differences in heroin use or addiction among the major regions of the country." Their findings were published online in JAMA Psychiatry.

More Coverage. Greatest Rise In Heroin Use Was Among White People, Study Says (CNN, 3/29, Nadia Kounang), US Heroin Use Has Increased Almost Fivefold In A Decade, Study Shows (The Guardian (UK), 3/29, Nicola Davis), Heroin Use Is Spiking Among White Americans (TIME, 3/29, Alexandra Sifferlin), Heroin Use Spikes Fivefold In U.S. (NBC News, 3/29, Maggie Fox)

Blogs:

OBAMACARE REPEAL FAILURE SETS OFF KANSAS MEDICAID EXPANSION PUSH
Business Insider (3/29)
Harrison Jacobs writes in a Business Insider piece that GOP lawmakers' "failure to bring their healthcare bill to the House floor for a vote last week has set off a renewed push to expand one of the Affordable Care Act's most popular provisions – an expansion of Medicaid, the government-run health program that provides insurance primarily to pregnant women, single parents, people with disabilities, and seniors with low incomes." He adds that 32 states expanded Medicaid under the ACA, "leading to more than 11 million people nationwide gaining coverage."

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A PROGRESSIVE CONGRESSMAN WHO LOST HIS SEAT BECAUSE OF OBAMACARE EXPLAINS WHY IT WAS WORTH IT

Mother Jones (3/29)

Sabrina Toppa writes in a Mother Jones piece that former Democratic congressman Tom Perriello wrote in a Los Angeles Times op-ed that "voting in favor of the Affordable Care Act was the right thing to do, despite the fact that it cost him his seat in Congress." He added, "In voting to pass the ACA, I made a long-term bet that it would save lives well worth the short-term political costs."

HOUSE GOP MAY REVIVE AHCA, TRUMPCARE, OBAMACARE REPLACEMENT BILL

Business Insider (3/29)

In a blog entry for the Business Insider, Bob Bryan writes, "House GOP leaders could bring back the American Health Care Act as early as next week for a vote on the House floor." According to Bryan, "Citing two Republican lawmakers, Bloomberg reported a deal is being ironed out between the hardline conservatives in the House Freedom Caucus and more moderate GOP members to make the AHCA more palatable for both sides."

More Coverage. Mitch McConnell: Obamacare 'Status Quo' Will Remain, Democrats 'Ought To Be Pretty Happy' (Mediaite, 3/29)

ACA RISK ADJUSTMENT AND REINSURANCE WERE WELL TARGETED IN FIRST TWO YEARS

Health Affairs (3/29)

In the Health Affairs "Blog," Lucy Larner writes, "A new study...examined results from the 2014 and 2015 risk adjustment and reinsurance programs for ACA-compliant individual market plans, to evaluate how risk adjustment and reinsurance transfers varied across insurers and to assess how these program payments compared across insurers given their level of per enrollee claims costs." The study revealed that "for the 30 percent of insurers with the highest claims in 2014 and 2015, before risk adjustment, claims – excluding administrative expenses – exceeded premium revenues by $90–$397 per enrollee per month." But, "after revenues from risk adjustment and reinsurance were incorporated, this effect was reversed, with revenues exceeding claims by as much as $49 per enrollee per month."

HHS WEBSITE PROMOTES TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S OBAMACARE DISMANTLING

Business Insider (3/29)

In a blog entry for the Business Insider, Bob Bryan writes, "A new web page from the Department of Health and Human Services touts the Trump administration's efforts to undermine the" Affordable Care Act. The page, "titled 'Providing Relief Right Now for Patients,' goes through various regulatory changes being implemented at HHS to the ACA and its programs."

DONALD TRUMP'S EMBRACE OF CONSERVATIVE CRUELTY

New Republic (3/29)

In a blog entry for the New Republic, Jeet Heer observes that President Trump's "apparent intention to sabotage Obamacare shows that his campaign's empathetic populism was always a sham – or, more generously, that he lacks the power to rule his party." In any case, "it's clear the president is succumbing to the central policy of conservative Republicans: cruelty to the needy."

A NEW STUDY JUST DEBUNKED ONE OF TOM PRICE'S FAVORITE OBAMACARE TALKING POINTS.

Slate (3/29)

In the Slate "Moneybox" blog, Jordan Weissmann writes that a new study based "on an analysis of data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, a large annual health survey conducted by states and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention," reveals the Affordable Care Act "increased both coverage and access to care," thereby casting into doubt HHS Secretary Tom Price's criticism that the ACA does not "provide people much in the way of care."

Opinion:

IS OBAMACARE A LIFESAVER?

New York Times (3/29, Ross Douthat)

Ross Douthat writes in his column in the New York Times that "maybe Obamacare is a huge lifesaver, but so far the evidence is conspicuously missing." Douthat says that many supporters of the Affordable Care Act have argued the law has saved many lives, but Douthat argues that "the link between health insurance and actual health has always been a lot murkier than most champions of universal coverage admit."

NO, THE OBAMACARE REPEAL ISN'T COMING BACK ANY TIME SOON

U.S. News & World Report (3/29, Robert Schlesinger)

In U.S. News & World Report, managing editor for opinion Robert Schlesinger writes that Republicans will continue talking

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about repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act, but without committing to a timeline it is unlikely they will push for actual legislation to repeal and replace the law. Schlesinger argues that "Republicans recognize their base won't simply take their word for it that repeal is impossible, so they have to make noises about continuing to work on it."

HERE'S THE 'WORST CASE SCENARIO' FOR OBAMACARE NOW
CNBC (3/29)
Jennifer Fitzgerald, the CEO of PolicyGenius, writes in an opinion piece on CNBC that President Trump "can take steps to weaken" the Affordable Care Act, but "he'll be unable to destroy it the way he and other Republicans would like." Fitzgerald argues that Trump could take various actions to undermine the ACA exchanges, but even if the exchanges do not perform well, other aspects of the law will remain in place.

I LOST MY SEAT IN CONGRESS BECAUSE I VOTED FOR OBAMACARE. I DON'T REGRET THAT DECISION AT ALL
Los Angeles Times (3/29, Tom Perriello)
Tom Perriello, a former US Representative from Virginia, writes in an opinion piece in the Los Angeles Times that he lost his seat in Congress because he voted for the Affordable Care Act, but he doesn't regret voting for the law. Perriello says that since he lost his seat, "hundreds of Americans have reached out to tell me how the ACA has helped them personally."

REPUBLICANS CAN PRETEND ALL THEY WANT. HEALTH-CARE REFORM IS STILL DEAD.
Washington Post (3/29, Jennifer Rubin)
In the Washington Post "Right Turn" blog, contributor Jennifer Rubin writes that healthcare reform "is dead." Rubin argues that House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) tried to ignore "the divide between moderates and conservatives" within the Republican Party, but because that strategy failed, "there seems to be no appetite to repeat the health-care fiasco."

REPUBLICANS COULDN'T KILL OBAMACARE. THAT'S THE GENIUS OF ITS DESIGN.
Washington Post (3/29, Harold Pollack)
Harold Pollack, a professor at the University of Chicago, writes in the Washington Post "PostEverything" blog that the Affordable Care Act "has quietly embedded itself within the fabric of American life" by insuring "20 million people who would otherwise have gone uncovered," which makes it "very difficult for politicians to kill." Pollack argues that the Republicans' failure to repeal the law "is an object lesson in what makes a politically resilient program."

DEMOCRATS WON BIG ON HEALTH CARE. BUT REPUBLICANS ARE STILL DOING TERRIBLE THINGS.
Washington Post (3/29, Paul Waldman)
In the Washington Post "Plum Line" blog, contributor Paul Waldman writes that "Republicans in Congress may have suffered a huge defeat on ACA repeal, but they're still going to be working like busy little bees, and we can't take our eyes off them for a moment." Waldman says Republicans are now working to allow ISPs to sell their customers' information without their consent.

EXORCISE THE REPEAL AND REPLACE DEMON
The Hill (3/29, David Bowen)
David Bowen, PhD, the Executive Vice President and Global Practice Director for Healthcare at Hill+Knowlton Strategies, writes in an opinion piece in The Hill "Congress Blog" that "there is no more appetite among the bulk of the Republican caucus to revisit repealing and replacing the ACA." Bowen argues that Congressional Republicans now must decide whether to "bind themselves to the vindictive wish for destruction expressed by President Trump" or to "ignore eruptions from the White House and get on with the unspectacular business of governing."

HEALTH CARE REFORM FOR DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS
TIME (3/29)
Farzad Mostashari, the former National Coordinator for Health Information Technology at the Department of Health and Human Services, writes in an opinion piece in TIME that "the true lesson of" the failure of the American Health Care Act "is that policy matters, perhaps even more than politics." Mostashari points out that Congress passed MACRA two years ago with widespread bipartisan support, and argues that "under the right set of circumstances, we might again see an opening for carefully crafted policy that addresses the real and serious healthcare challenges facing Americans."

TRUMP REMEMBERS THE LADIES
New York Times (3/30, Gail Collins)
Gail Collins writes in a New York Times op-ed that "the White House was promoting its women's history celebrations as being all about empowerment. It was, Spicer claimed, a longstanding presidential obsession – Trump had 'made women's empowerment a priority throughout the campaign.'" The piece pointed out, however, that Trump reportedly "paid men on his campaign staff one-third more than women." It also mentions that CMS Administrator Seema Verma participated in a special Women's Empowerment Panel.

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National Front Page News:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Trump's Rapid Rapprochement Plans With Russia Fade
Britain Sets Historic Brexit Process In Motion
Toshiba's Westinghouse Electric Files For Bankruptcy Protection
Whatever Happened To Free Trade?

New York Times:
US War Footprint Grows In Middle East, With No Endgame In Sight
China Poised To Take Lead On Climate After Trump's Move To Undo Policies
Rex Tillerson To Lift Human Rights Conditions On Arms Sale To Bahrain
Senate Intelligence Committee Leaders Vow Thorough Russian Investigation
Pillars Of The West Shaken By "Brexit," But They're Not Crumbling Yet
2 Christie Allies Are Sentenced In George Washington Bridge Scandal

Washington Post:
Britain Triggers Brexit Escape
McConnell Bearing The Burden Of His Party
Hispanic Firms Bidding On Wall Face Moral Crisis
Insider Or Opportunist? A Wild Card In Russia Story.
In Trump's View, Omarosa More Than Apprentice

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Bulletin Intelligence <HHS@BulletinIntelligence.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 6:03 AM
To: HHS@BulletinIntelligence.com
Subject: HHS Secretary's News Briefing for Wednesday, March 22, 2017

HHS SECRETARY'S NEWS BRIEFING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2017 6:00 AM EDT

Top National Stories:

TRUMP ON HEALTH CARE BILL: 'WE HAVE A REAL WINNER'
Washington Post (3/21, Robert Costa, Kelsey Snell And David Weigel)
The Washington Post reports on President Trump's appearance before the House Republicans Tuesday morning to urge them to support the American Health Care Act on Thursday. The Post says the bill was "crafted by" Speaker Ryan, and "would represent a big win for both the president and the speaker if it is approved by the House." The vote is "expected to be narrow." After the meeting, Trump said to reporters, "We're gonna have a real winner," adding, "There are going to be adjustments but I think we'll get the vote on Thursday." An amended version of the bill was released Monday night in order to meet "numerous GOP concerns" including more aid for Americans 50 to 65 to buy insurance, and more options for states in administering Medicaid.

More Coverage: Print and Online. Trump Warns Republican Lawmakers To Get Behind Healthcare Bill (Reuters, 3/21, Susan Cornwell And Yasmeen Abutaleb), GOP Leaders Tweak Health Bill As Conservatives Repeat Opposition (Bloomberg Politics, 3/21, Anna Edney, Anna Edgerton, Zachary Tracer), Trump In Push For ObamaCare Replacement Support In Visit To Capitol Hill (Fox News, 3/21), Schumer: GOP ObamaCare Plan's 'Third Prong' Won't Pass Senate (The Hill, 3/21, Jordain Carney), Trump Warns Republicans Ahead Of Healthcare Vote (The Hill, 3/21, Scott Wong), Obamacare Repeal: Donald Trump Aims To 'Close The Deal' (TIME, 3/21, Sam Frizell), President Donald Trump Warns House Republicans: Many Will Lose Seats If They Vote Against GOP Obamacare Repeal And Replace Bill (CNBC, 3/21, Dan Mangan), Trump Makes Last-Minute Plea To Hesitant House Members On Obamacare Repeal Bill (Daily Caller, 3/21, Juliegrace Brufke), Trump Warns GOP: Vote For Obamacare Repeal Or Lose Your Seat (Los Angeles Times, 3/21, Michael A. Memoli And Lisa Mascaro), Trump Warns GOP Of Political Costs Of Rejecting Health Bill (Associated Press, 3/21, Alan Fram And Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar), Trump Warns House Republicans: Repeal Health Law Or Lose Your Seats (New York Times, 3/21, Thomas Kaplan And Robert Pear), Trump Warns GOPers To Repeal Obamacare Or He'll 'Come After You' (New York Daily News, 3/21, Cameron Joseph), Top House Dem: Backers Of GOP's Health Plan Putting Their Seats At Risk (The Hill, 3/21, Mike Lillis), Trump Warns GOP Members Of Political, Policy Pitfalls Of Killing Health Bill (Roll Call, 3/21, Lindsey McPherson), Trump Warns GOP: 'You Will Lose Your Seats' If You Vote Down The Health Bill (Washington Examiner, 3/21, Susan Ferrechio), Spicer: Lawmakers Who Vote Against AHCA Could 'Pay A Price' At Home (Washington Examiner, 3/21, Sarah Westwood), White House Feeling 'Very Good' Ahead Of Thursday Healthcare Vote (Washington Examiner, 3/21, Gabby Morrongiello), Steny Hoyer: Trump 'Bullies' His GOP Opponents On Healthcare (Washington Examiner, 3/21, Al Weaver), Donald Trump Pressures Republicans To Support Health Care Bill (U.S. News & World Report, 3/21, Kimberly Leonard), How Trump And Ryan Are Working With GOP Moderates On Health Care (CNN, 3/21, Deirdre Walsh And Phil Mattingly), Trump Tells Freedom Caucus Chair 'I'm Coming After You' In Health Care Meeting (NPR, 3/21), Donald Trump Presses GOP House Members On Health Care Bill (Newsday (NY), 3/21, Tom Brune), Trump Warns House GOP To Support Health-Care Bill Or Risk Losing Votes In 2018 (Wall Street Journal, 3/21, Siobhan Hughes And Kristina Peterson), Trump's Penchant For Vengeance Casts Shadow On Health Care Vote (Politico, 3/21, Shane Goldmacher), Trump Tells Republicans To Support GOP Health Bill To Repeal Obamacare (McClatchy, 3/21, Tony Pugh And Anna Douglas), Trump Warns GOP On Health Care: 'We Won't Have These Crowds If We Don't Get This Done' (CNN, 3/21, Mj Lee, Phil Mattingly, Lauren Fox And Deirdre Walsh)

More Coverage: TV. Healthcare (ABC, 3/21), Republicans (ABC, 3/21), Healthcare (CBS, 3/21), Healthcare (NBC, 3/21)

Health Reform & Healthcare:

PAUL RYAN CALLS OBAMACARE VOTE 'RENDEZVOUS WITH DESTINY' FOR CONSERVATIVES
Washington Times (3/21, Stephen Dinan, Tom Howell Jr.)

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The Washington Times reports on Tuesday, Speaker Ryan said that the House had "struck the sweet spot of getting a conservative Obamacare repeal bill that can actually get through the Senate, and predicted passage." Ryan said, "This is our chance and this is our moment," and said Republicans have "a rendezvous with destiny." Ryan said that conservatives are "getting 85 percent of what they want in the bill" and called it "the most pro-life legislation we've had since partial-birth abortion." Rep. Greg Walden (R-OH) said that he believes the changes announced in the bill Monday night "pulled a lot of people our way" and that Trump "made his case very strongly for support." But Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH) said after the meeting with Trump, "The president's great. The bill's still bad." And Freedom Caucus Chairman Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC) said, "They do not have the votes right now." Meadows said House leaders must make changes to reduce insurance premiums.

More Coverage. Failure To Repeal Obamacare Would Endanger Tax-Cut Goals, Some In GOP Warn (Bloomberg Politics, 3/21, Sahil Kapur), House Speaker Ryan Agrees Republican Majority At Risk If Obamacare Replacement Bill Fails This Week (CNBC, 3/21), Ryan's Leadership Is Tested By GOP's Civil War On Health Bill (Wall Street Journal, 3/21, Kristina Peterson), Rules Committee To Choreograph House Vote To Kill Obamacare (USA Today, 3/22, Maureen Groppe)

TOM PRICE ON OBAMACARE REPEAL: TRUMP ADMINISTRATION IS 'GOING TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN'

Politico (3/21, Kelsey Sutton)

Politico reports Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price said Tuesday on Hugh Hewitt's radio show that he is "confident" the healthcare bill will pass, but also said there is little time to make any further changes before the vote. Price said the Administration will "make this happen." Still, he said in the Senate "we'll continue to perfect it." Price said, "it's just an exciting time to be able to move our health care system in the direction that actually thinks about patients and those providing the care, as opposed to the government." Price also said that he and the Department of Health and Human Services would be working on changes that could be made there, saying, "We've done some things here at the department that I think are really important, and we'll be addressing more of them this week and as the weeks roll by." Asked whether the bill would pass, Price said, "I think so."

AP INTERVIEW: MCCONNELL WARNS REPUBLICANS ON HEALTH BILL

Associated Press (3/21, Erica Werner)

The AP reports Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell echoed President Trump's theme before the House Republicans on Tuesday, saying, "I would hate to be a Republican whose vote prevented us from keeping the commitment we've made to the American people for almost 10 years now." He added, "I think the American people would be deeply disappointed that we were prevented from keeping our commitment by Republicans who in the end, in effect, voted for the status quo." McConnell "sounded confident," but also said that he expects Trump to "weigh in with our folks as well." Given the opposition of Sens. Rand Paul (R-KY) and Mike Lee (R-UT), He "does not presently have enough votes" to pass the bill. The Hill in its "Floor Action" blog also reports McConnell's comments, adding that on the Senate floor, he has said, "The law is failing right in front of us. It'll continue to get worse unless we act, so we have to act." He also promised to take up the House bill if it passes, then "We'll have an amendment process here in the Senate, and at the end of that process, we'll send a bill to the one person who can sign it into law, and that's the president of the United States." Roll Call also reports on McConnell's statements, and the Washington Examiner reports McConnell said about the healthcare bill, "We are not slowing down. ... We are going forward."

More Coverage. McConnell: 'I Would Hate To Be A Republican' Who Blocks ObamaCare Repeal (The Hill, 3/21, Jordain Carney), McConnell Warns Republicans Against Voting Against GOP Health Care Bill (Roll Call, 3/21, Eric Garcia), McConnell: 'We Are Not Slowing Down' On Repealing Obamacare (Washington Examiner, 3/21, Susan Ferrechio), John Cornyn: Senate Will Pass Healthcare Reform If House Does (Washington Examiner, 3/21, Kyle Feldscher), Senate GOP Holdouts Split Into Rival Camps On Obamacare Overhaul (Bloomberg Politics, 3/21, Steven T. Dennis)

FREEDOM CAUCUS HEAD: TRUMP, GOP STILL CAN'T PASS OBAMACARE REPEAL

Politico (3/21, Kyle Cheney And Rachael Bade)

Politico reports after Trump's appearance, Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC), chairman of the House Freedom Caucus, said, "There are still not the votes to pass this bill." About Trump's talk, he said, "I don't know that it hardened any positions or softened any positions." Rep. Dave Schweikert (R-AZ) supports the bill, but calls himself an "outlier" in the Freedom Caucus. The Hill in its "Floor Action" blog also reports Meadows is "not worried about losing his seat" saying, "It's a temporary job, and I've known that from day one." Still, he said, "I'm still a no, because the bill we're currently considering does not lower premiums for the vast majority of Americans." The Hill reports Meadows said there are still 21 or more members of the Freedom Caucus opposed to the bill. Meadows said that he is representing his constituents "in opposing this bill because it won't lower premiums, and until it does I'm going to be a no even if it sends me home." CNBC reports the Freedom Caucus "is threatening to issue a formal statement of opposition to" the AHCA, "potentially crippling its chances." CNBC cites an unnamed source saying the caucus has 25 "hard" votes in opposition. Such an action would be "a slap in the face" to President Trump and House Republican leaders.

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More Coverage. Charlie Dent Remains On Fence On Obamacare Repeal Bill (Allentown (PA) Morning Call, 3/21), Conservative Group Will Key-vote Against ObamaCare Repeal Bill (The Hill, 3/21, Jessie Hellmann), Freedom Caucus Chairman Shrugs Off Trump Warning On 2018 (The Hill, 3/21, Jessie Hellmann), Lou Barletta Opposes GOP Obamacare Repeal Bill (Allentown (PA) Morning Call, 3/21), Amash: GOP Leaders Are Miscalculating Support For Obamacare Replacement Bill (Daily Caller, 3/21, Rachel Stoltzfoos), Key Conservative: GOP Doesn't Have Votes On Healthcare Repeal (The Hill, 3/21, Cristina Marcos), North Carolina Lawmaker Comes Out Against AHCA After Trump Meeting (Washington Examiner, 3/21), Sen. Tom Cotton Opposed To House Healthcare Bill Despite Changes (Washington Examiner, 3/21), A House Republican Explains Why Ryan Should Throw Away His Bill And Try Again (Vox, 3/21), Freedom Caucus Threatens Formal Opposition To Obamacare Replacement Bill Barring Dramatic Changes By Wednesday Night (CNBC, 3/21, Dan Mangan)

THE GOP'S NEW OBAMACARE REPEAL BILL IS A BIG DEFEAT FOR CONSERVATIVES

Washington Post (3/21, Max Ehrenfreund)

The Washington Post reports on the changes to the American Health Care Act announced on Monday night, saying that while there are "symbolic nods" to conservatives, "the most significant changes" are "aimed at wooing the party's most moderate members." The Post says conservatives have criticized the bill for spending "too much" while the "centrist" members were "concerned" by estimates that it would "force millions of Americans to go uninsured." For conservatives, the bill offers states "modestly more authority" over Medicaid, and "more rapid relief" from the ACA taxes, but "real concessions went to moderate lawmakers" who were given "some $150 billion in new federal spending to help make sure that Americans can buy insurance." Freedom Caucus Chairman Mark Meadows (R-NC) appears to share that view, saying, "I've now reached a conclusion that our leadership is going to put forth a bill that does not address any of the concerns in a meaningful way and will dare us to vote against it." But . News & World ReportU.S says the announced changes "are intended to win over both moderate and conservative party members."

More Coverage. While Nobody's Watching, Paul Ryan Is Taking A Sledgehammer To Medicaid's Promise To Seniors (Huffington Post, 3/21, By Ryan Grim), Changes To GOP Health Proposal Affect Older Adults, Medicaid (Associated Press, 3/21, Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar And Alan Fram), Medicaid Work Requirement Wouldn't Shrink Spending Much : Shots (NPR, 3/21), Fewer Americans Would Be Insured With G.O.P. Plan Than With Simple Repeal (New York Times, 3/21, Margot Sanger-Katz), GOP Scraps Individual Mandate But Sets Up New Penalty For Those Skipping Coverage (Kaiser Health News, 3/21, Anna Gorman And Jordan Rau), GOP Makes Changes To Health Care Bill Among Inter-Party Disputes (U.S. News & World Report, 3/21, Kimberly Leonard), Could Changes To GOP Health Plan Help Older Georgians, Trump Voters? (Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 3/21, Misty Williams), Republicans Tweak Obamacare Bill As Trump Moves To Promote Overhaul (Reuters, 3/21, Susan Cornwell And David Morgan)

MEDICAID FIGHT LANDS IN NEW YORK, CROSSING PARTY LINES

New York Times (3/21, Jesse McKinley)

The New York Times reports on an amendment to the American Health Care Act "seemingly singling out New York's state government for new financial responsibilities under Medicaid" that "would shift county Medicaid costs to the state government," a bill that might reach $2.3 billion a year. So Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo called the measure "a targeted war" on New York, and Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-NY) accused Republicans of a plan to "steal billions from New York to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy." The New York Post reports that "to sweeten the deal for upstate New York moderates, who could help save their counties property tax dollars, an amendment was added Monday night by GOP Reps. Chris Collins and John Faso that could shift $2.3 billion a year in Medicaid costs from the budgets of New York counties to the state."

More Coverage. Pelosi: GOP Buys Votes From Upstate NY Reps With 'Spiteful' Medicaid Change (Syracuse (NY) Post-Standard, 3/21), Controversial Measure Added To Republican Health Care Bill To Lure New York Votes (USA Today, 3/21, Nicole Gaudiano), Health Care Bill's 'Buffalo Bribe' Detonates Across New York (Politico, 3/21, Jimmy Vielkind), Trump Warns Republicans Could Lose Jobs If They Don't Back New Health Care Bill (New York Post, 3/21, Marisa Schultz), U.S. Health-Care Proposal Sparks Discord Among Lawmakers In Albany (Wall Street Journal, 3/21, Mike Vilensky), GOP Obamacare Repeal Saves Rural New Yorkers Cash At City Expense (New York Daily News, 3/21)

STATE THINK TANKS ISSUE STARK WARNINGS ABOUT GOP HEALTHCARE BILL

The Hill (3/21, Reid Wilson)

The Hill reports several "state-based public policy think tanks" are warning that the American Health Care Act could decrease federal funding for states' Medicaid programs and increase the number of residents without health insurance. The article summarizes the analyses offered by the think tanks, including the Colorado Health Institute and Policy Matters Ohio.

More Coverage. Think Tank: Health Bill Would Lead To 476K Fewer Covered (Washington Times, 3/21), "If It Wasn't For Insurance, I Wouldn't Be Here": How Obamacare's End Would Worsen The Opioid Crisis (Vox, 3/21), 'Trumpcare'

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Subsidies Would Be Higher In Atlanta (Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 3/21), Older Trump Voters Say They Oppose Key Elements Of GOP Obamacare Replacement (Huffington Post, 3/21, By Daniel Marans), 2017's Cities Most Affected By Trumpcare (WalletHub, 3/20)

RYAN-ALIGNED GROUP USES TRUMP TO PRESSURE HARD-RIGHT HOUSE REPUBLICANS TO SUPPORT HEALTH-CARE OVERHAUL

Washington Post (3/21, Sean Sullivan)

The Washington Post "PowerPost" blog reports the American Action Network, which is "aligned with" House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI), "is launching a radio advertising campaign Tuesday designed to apply a closing round of pressure on House conservatives to vote for his overhaul of the Affordable Care Act by underscoring President Trump's support for the measure." The organization said it will mainly campaign in districts with Representatives in the House Freedom Caucus.

More Coverage. With Conservatives In Revolt On Health Care, Moderates Might Be Trump's New Best Friends (USA Today, 3/21, Erin Kelly), RNC Drops Six-figure Ad Buy For Supreme Court, Healthcare Fight (The Hill, 3/21, Ben Kamisar), Ads Try To Pressure Miami Republicans Ahead Of Healthcare Vote (Miami Herald, 3/21, Patricia Mazzei)

FDA OKS NEW DRUG AS ADD-ON TREATMENT FOR PARKINSON'S

Associated Press (3/21)

The AP reports the Food and Drug Administration has approved Xadago as an add-on treatment for Parkinson's disease, to be used "when a patient's regular medicines aren't working well." The approval comes following "two six-month studies including a total of about 1,200 patients taking a standard treatment, levodopa." TodayMedPage reports Xadago has been approved despite past "regulatory hurdles," including failure in a 2010 phase III trial and a previous rejection from the FDA.

More Coverage. Troubled MAOI For PD 'Off' Episodes Nabs FDA Approval (MedPage Today, 3/21), FDA Approves Newron's Drug As Add-on Therapy For Parkinson's (Reuters, 3/21), Medscape Log In (Medscape, 3/21)

DRUG SHORTAGE IN 2011 TIED TO INCREASED DEATHS

Reuters (3/21, Andrew M. Seaman)

Reuters reports the 2011 norepinephrine shortage "was tied to an increase in deaths among patients" in septic shock, according to a new study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association. Researchers found that the risk of death for septic shock patients was about 40 percent during the shortage, compared to about 36 percent when hospitals had an adequate supply. The researchers believe "the 4 percentage point difference likely represents hundreds of excess deaths among septic shock patients."

More Coverage. Norepinephrine Shortage And Mortality Among Patients With Septic Shock (Journal of the American Medical Association, 3/21)

'LOW T' TELEVISION ADS LINKED TO SURGE IN TESTOSTERONE USE

Reuters (3/21, Lisa Rapaport)

Reuters reports a new study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association suggests that "men who see more ads for low testosterone...on local television channels may be more likely to seek tests or treatments to boost their levels of the hormone." While the researchers note that some men suffering from hypogonadism do require testosterone therapy, they believe many men seek unnecessary treatment due to ads "promoting 'low T' as a health problem associated with issues like reduced libido or fatigue."

More Coverage. Direct-to-Consumer Advertising And Testosterone Testing And Initiation (Journal of the American Medical Association, 3/21)

9 DEATHS ARE LINKED TO RARE CANCER FROM BREAST IMPLANTS

New York Times (3/21, Denise Grady)

The New York Times reports the Food and Drug Administration said Tuesday that anaplastic large-cell lymphoma, "a rare malignancy in the immune system" that has been linked to breast implants, has now been associated with nine deaths. As of Feb. 1, the FDA had received 359 reports of BIA-ALCL.

More Coverage. FDA Affirms Lymphoma Link To Breast Implants (MedPage Today, 3/21), Medscape Log In (Medscape, 3/21), Breast Implants Can Cause Rare Form Of Cancer, FDA Says (NBC News, 3/21)

Blogs:

THE 7 BIGGEST CONS IN THE GOP'S OBAMACARE REPEAL PITCH

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Talking Points Memo (3/21)
In a blog entry for the Talking Points Memo, Tierney Sneed lists "the seven biggest cons Republicans are peddling in their pitch to sell Obamacare repeal."

THE STATE BLOCK GRANT OPTION
Health Affairs (3/21)
In the Health Affairs "Blog," Sara Rosenbaum, JD, "the Harold and Jane Hirsh Professor and founding Chair of the Department of Health Policy, George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services," write about the "Flexible Block Grant Option for States," an amendment that "adds a coda of sorts to the" American Health Care Act's "new Medicaid per capita cap payment system." According to Rosenbaum, "Under the amendment, states would have an option to receive a certain portion of their federal Medicaid funding in the form of a block grant."

More Coverage. Courting Trumpcare Votes, GOP Leaders Agree To Slam Medicaid Even Harder (Think Progress, 3/21), What's In The Manager's Amendment To AHCA? (Health Affairs, 3/21), Trumpcare 2.0 Still Isn't Cruel Enough To Satisfy Conservatives (Mother Jones, 3/21)

CONSERVATIVES ARE USING THE AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT TO RESTRICT PRIVATE INSURANCE FROM COVERING ABORTION
Health Affairs (3/21)
In the Health Affairs "Blog," Adam Sonfield, executive editor of the Guttmacher Policy Review, writes, "The American Health Care Act, as introduced, included no less than four abortion coverage restrictions that, combined, would effectively end abortion coverage in the individual health insurance market and would undermine abortion coverage in employer-sponsored insurance plans."

REDESIGNING NEW JERSEY'S MEDICAID PROGRAM: PHILANTHROPY STEPS UP
Health Affairs (3/21)
In the Health Affairs "Blog," Joan Randell, Chief Operating Officer of The Nicholson Foundation, and Rachel Cahill, Senior Healthcare Program Officer at The Nicholson Foundation, write, "When the dust settles from efforts to 'repeal and replace' the Affordable Care Act, many states will need to make important changes in how they deliver Medicaid services" In those "states where government does not initiate a comprehensive reform process, foundations can step in, as The Nicholson Foundation has in New Jersey." According to Randell and Cahill, "This bottom-up rather than top-down approach is not only viable, but also may in fact be preferable."

VOTE YES ON O'CARE REPEAL OR LOSE YOUR SEAT
Talking Points Memo (3/21)
In a blog entry for the Talking Points Memo, Alice Ollstein writes, "With a House vote on the GOP bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act just over the horizon, President Donald Trump on Tuesday morning huddled in the basement of the Capitol to pressure a divided Republican caucus to" vote for the measure. Legislators "exiting the meeting told reporters that Trump bluntly told them their seats would be in jeopardy in 2018 if they did not vote 'yes' Thursday on the American Health Care Act." Also covering aspects of the story is another Talking Points Memo blog entry called "Spicer: Republicans Will 'Pay A Price' If They Don't Support GOP Health Bill,".

More Coverage. Even After Trump Threatened The Freedom Caucus, Trumpcare Still Doesn't Have The Votes. (Slate, 3/21), Republicans Will 'Pay A Price' If They Don't Support GOP Health Bill (Talking Points Memo, 3/21)

GOP MASSACHUSETTS GOV. WRITES LETTER CRITICAL OF REPUBLICAN HEALTH PLAN
Talking Points Memo (3/21)
In a blog entry for the Talking Points Memo, Matt Shuham writes that Gov. Charlie Baker (R-MA) "has written a letter to the commonwealth's all-Democratic congressional delegation critical of the Republican plan to replace Obamacare, and urging them to 'ensure the people of Massachusetts continue to have access to quality health care.'" In the letter, Baker said, "Overall, our analysis indicates that the AHCA would increasingly strain the fiscal resources necessary to support the Commonwealth's continued commitment to universal health care coverage."

TRUMP WANTS DRUG PRICING ADDED TO AHCA
Business Insider (3/21)
In a blog entry for the Business Insider, Lydia Ramsey writes, "President Donald Trump wants to slip drug pricing" into the American Health Care Act. Currently, the bill "does not bring up the issue of prescription drug prices." Trump said, "The cost of medicine in this country is outrageous – many times higher than in some countries in Europe and elsewhere." He asked, "Why?"

GOP OBAMACARE REPLACEMENT BILL, AHCA, TRUMPCARE UNPOPULAR POLLS

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Business Insider (3/21)
In a blog entry for the Business Insider, Bob Bryan writes, "The American Health Care Act, the GOP's bill to repeal and replace Obamacare, does not seem to be winning over the American public." Recent polls indicate that "a plurality of Americans are against the AHCA in its current form." Meanwhile, Rep. Justin Amash (R-MI), "a critic of the AHCA since its introduction, tweeted Monday that the bill was the most 'universally detested piece of legislation' he has seen as a lawmaker."

CONSERVATIVE GROUP HERITAGE ACTION STILL AGAINST REPUBLICAN HEALTH CARE BILL
Talking Points Memo (3/21)
In a blog entry for the Talking Points Memo, Matt Shuham writes that Michael Needham, "the CEO of Heritage Action for America, a conservative think tank, announced Tuesday that the group would continue to oppose the White House's preferred plan to replace Obamacare." He was joined shortly thereafter by "the Koch-funded Americans for Prosperity."

Opinion:

A DEFINING HEALTH VOTE
Wall Street Journal (3/21)
The Wall Street Journal in an editorial says the House bill is getting stronger with recent amendments and that Republicans must support it if they hope to retain the support of their voters and keep their agenda moving forward. It rejects the Freedom Caucus view of the bill and urges them to back it.

THE GOP IS OUT OF EXCUSES ON HEALTH CARE
Wall Street Journal (3/21, William A. Galston)
William A. Galston in his column in the Wall Street Journal writes that if Republicans fail to support the bill, their credibility with constituents would be undermined, leading to election losses. Galston further argues that even if the House approves the bill, the Senate will not. He suggests that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell find a way to restart the conversation on healthcare legislation.

WHY TRUMP'S N.I.H. CUTS SHOULD WORRY US
New York Times (3/22, Harold Varmus)
Former director of the National Cancer Institute Harold Varmus writes in the New York Times on President Trump's budget proposal to "cut the budget for the National Institutes of Health by 18.3 percent, about $5.8 billion." He says the cut, if adopted, would be "devastating," and points out that the cuts will directly affect research because over 80 percent of the NIH budget is research. He urges the Congress to oppose the measure and work to protect the NIH budget.

WHY THIS HEALTH CARE REFORM PLAN IS THE WAY TO GO
USA Today (3/21, Blake Farenthold)
Rep. Blake Farenthold (R-TX) writes in USA Today in favor of the American Health Care Act even though he favors changes to "end programs sooner, spend less money, open the insurance market to more competition and actually legislatively repeal the 8,000-plus pages of Obamacare regulations." He says the existing bill "is far from perfect, but I believe it's doable." He argues that it is just the first step in a series, but is "the only hope to replacing Obamacare."

GOP SHOULD SLOW DOWN AND RETHINK HEALTH BILL: ANDY SLAVITT
USA Today (3/22, Andy Slavitt)
Former acting administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Andy Slavitt writes in USA Today in favor of the Affordable Care Act, writing that it "set us on a course of record progress in cost, quality and access to care." He argues that the American Health Care Act "drives up the cost of individual insurance" and cuts Medicaid funds, and so would "effectively ration care for millions of low- and moderate-income Americans." He urges Republicans to "slow down, abandon an ill-conceived bill, and reach across the aisle for a bipartisan solution."

WHO GETS BLAMED IF THE HOUSE DOESN'T PASS THE AHCA
Washington Post (3/21, Jennifer Rubin)
Washington Post "Right Turn" blog contributor Jennifer Rubin writes that House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) is flattering President Donald Trump as a "closer" in order to persuade him to promote the House Republicans' healthcare bill as a way to demonstrate his negotiating skills. Rubin argues that the fact President Trump went to Capitol Hill on Tuesday "suggests the Republicans don't already have the votes," and that if the bill fails to pass the House on Thursday, it will be seen as "a defeat for Ryan and Trump."

THE REPUBLICAN RECKONING ON HEALTH CARE: JILL LAWRENCE
USA Today (3/21, Jill Lawrence)
In an opinion piece, USA Today commentary editor Jill Lawrence writes that the US "government should make sure

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people have health coverage." Lawrence argues that "there's no need more universal or fundamental."

DOES THE U.S. OVERPAY FOR HEALTH CARE? NOT REALLY
Bloomberg View (3/21)
Megan McArdle writes in her column in Bloomberg View that many claim switching to a single-payer healthcare system could lower healthcare costs because other countries spend less on healthcare than the US does. McArdle argues that although part of America's higher healthcare costs may "be attributable to the fragmented nature of our health-care system," most of the disparity in healthcare costs between the US and other countries is not attributable to our healthcare system.

SAVE SMALL BUSINESS FROM OBAMACARE
Wall Street Journal (3/21, Sam Johnson And Tim Walberg)
Writing in the Wall Street Journal, Reps. Sam Johnson And Tim Walberg highlight what they say is the ACA's negative impact on small businesses and argue for its repeal. In addition, they make a case for their "Small Business Health Fairness Act," which would enable small businesses to group together through association health plans to provide insurance for their employees and their families.

OBAMACARE REFORM BILL GETS EVEN WORSE FOR NEW YORK STATE
Newsday (NY) (3/21)
Newsday (NY) editorializes, "President Donald Trump's signature act increasingly looks like it would devastate his home state. The American Health Care Act would hollow out care, cost jobs and risk the health of vulnerable Americans. But it's a last-minute amendment introduced by two upstate New York Republicans, Chris Collins and John Faso, that would do the most damage." The amendment, "would let New York counties, which pay 13 percent of Medicaid costs, off the hook. But it wouldn't provide a penny more to the state."

TRUMP'S PERFECTLY NORMAL APPROACH TO THE HEALTH-CARE FIGHT
New York Post (3/21)
John Podhoretz writes in a column for the New York Post that, "President Trump may be the most unconventional White House resident of our time, and perhaps of all time, but when it comes to this bill, he's behaving the way anyone in his position would behave." Podhoretz explains, "Whatever the bill's failings, and they're huge, Trump clearly recognizes that his credibility as a political leader is resting on the outcome of its journey." Podhoretz concludes, "In the end, a win is a win and a loss is a loss. This basic statement is gospel for Trump, who has nothing but contempt for people he thinks are losers."

National Front Page News:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

New York Times:
Trump Warns House Republicans: Repeal Health Law Or Lose Your Seats
Gorsuch Says He'd Rule Against Trump If Law Required It
Trump Lays Plans To Reverse Obama's Climate Change Legacy
Becoming Duterte: The Making Of A Philippine Strongman
Devices Banned On Flights From 10 Countries Over ISIS Fears
School Choice Fight In Iowa May Preview The One Facing Trump

Wall Street Journal:
Supreme Court Nominee Gorsuch Fends Off Tough Questions From Democrats
Trump Warns House GOP To Support Health-Care Bill Or Risk Losing Seats
Avon Freshens Up In A Bid To Win Back Middle America
Google Acts To Keep Ads Away From Controversial Content

Washington Post:
Trump Leans On GOP To Back Health-Care Bill
US, Britain Bar Electronic Devices On Some Flights
Gorsuch Asserts His Independence From President
Labor Pick Cut Deal With Billionaire In Abuse Case
New Anguish For Iraq's Yazidis

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES Office of the Secretary

Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20201

Request No. 2018-00042-C-OS
***Equity Forward v. HHS*, Civil No. 18-0241 (D.D.C.)**

October 31, 2018

Mary Alice Carter
Equity Forward

Dear Ms. Carter:

This letter is a third interim response to your December 11, 2017, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request submitted to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Administration for Children and Families.

Specifically, you requested access to and copies of certain correspondence involving the following officials and employees within the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families:

- Scott Lloyd
- Maggie Wynne
- Jonathan White
- Curi Kim
- Judith Haron
- Anna Marie Bena
- Scott Logan
- Tricia Swartz (Associate Deputy, ORR)
- Jallyn Sualog (Director of Children Services)
- James De La Cruz (Houston Field Supervisor)
- Dr. David Teuscher (Region 6 Director)

Specifically, we request access to and copies of all correspondence sent by, sent to, or carbon-copying ("CC") any of these individuals during the months of March, May, September or October 2017, which includes any of the following keywords or phrases:

- "pregnancy"
- "pregnant"
- "ORR director"
- "abortion"
- "ru-486"
- "CPC"
- "ultrasound"
- "rape"
- "nonconsensual"
- "Gestational"
- "judicial bypass"
- "life affirming"
- "unborn child"

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• "spiritual counseling"
• "options counseling"
• "WTF"
• "Terminating"
• "terminate"
• "termination"
• "Pregnancy notification"
• "Pregnancy notivations"
• "Scott is"
• "Scott said"
• "from Scott"

Your request was forwarded to this office to conduct a search for records from custodians Maggie Wynne, Judith Haron and Dr. David Teuscher.

For this third interim response, the HHS Office of the Secretary has processed 854 pages of potentially responsive records captured in the agency's search of Maggie Wynne's records. After a careful review of these pages, I have determined to release 328 pages to you in their entirety, and I am further releasing 59 pages in part, with portions redacted, pursuant to Exemptions (b)(5), (b)(6) of the FOIA (5 U.S.C. §§ 552). I have also determined to withhold 19 pages in their entirety, pursuant to Exemption (b)(5) of the FOIA (5 U.S.C. § 552). Additionally, I determined that five (5) pages were non-responsive to your request and that 364 pages were duplicative of pages referenced above. Finally, I have determined that 21 pages should be sent for consultation to other government agencies to review their equities and return to this office for final response to you.

Lastly, I have determined to refer six (6) pages to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, four (4) pages to the Indian Health Service and 48 pages to the Administration for Children and Families for those offices to respond directly to you. Contact information for those offices is provided below:

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
Freedom of Information Officer
North Building, Room N2-20-06
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21244
Phone: 410-786-5353
FOIA_Request@cms.hhs.gov

Indian Health Service (IHS)
Freedom of Information Officer
HHS-Indian Health Service/OMS
Division of Regulatory Affairs (DRA)
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 9E 30
Rockville, MD 20857
Phone: 301-443-1116
IHSFOIAMailbox@ihs.gov

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Administration for Children and Families
FOIA Office
330 C Street, SW, 4th Floor
Washington, DC 20201
Phone Number: 1-888-747-1861
Email Address: FOIA@acf.hhs.gov

FOIA exemption (b)(5) protects inter-agency or intra-agency memoranda or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency. This exemption protects documents that would be covered by any privilege an agency could assert in a civil proceeding. These privileges include, among others, the deliberative process privilege, the attorney-client privilege, and the attorney work-product privilege.

FOIA exemption (b)(6) permits a Federal agency to withhold information and records about individuals in "personnel and medical files and similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." The definition of "similar files" has historically been broadly interpreted to include a wide variety of files, and the United States Supreme Court has held that Congress intended the term "similar files" to be interpreted broadly, rather than narrowly. I have analyzed these records and find they meet the threshold requirement of this exemption. Additionally, I have reviewed and weighed the public interest in disclosure of this information against the privacy interest in nondisclosure, and found that the privacy interest outweighs the public's interest in disclosure.

We will continue to review the remaining records as efficiently and expeditiously as possible, consistent with our available resources and the Order of the Court. Should you have questions or concerns regarding the Department's response and\or the processing of your request, any such issues should be communicated to your legal counsel and Department of Justice Attorney representing the Department in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

For Michael S. Marquis
Director
Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts Division

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

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of the Freedom of Information Act

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Page 003 of 405

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL)
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2017 9:56 AM
To: Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Palmer, Ashley (OS/ASFR); Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: RE: Pine Ridge Service Unit
Attachments: Weahkee Invitation.pdf

For everyone's awareness, Admiral Weahkee has been invited to testify on Nov. 8th at Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. This is a legislative hearing on Senator Rounds' legislation requiring an independent audit of IHS. We planned on accepting and IHS has been working on testimony. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Happy to chat more but wanted to put on the radar.

From: Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2017 6:50 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Palmer, Ashley (OS/ASFR); Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: Re: Pine Ridge Service Unit

(b)(5)

On: 29 October 2017 15:57, "Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)" <Margaret.Wynne@hhs.gov> wrote:
Kris and Lance,

(b)(5)

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

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(b)(5)

Deliberative and pre-decisional communication

From: Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2017 10:00 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Palmer, Ashley (OS/ASFR); Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: Re: Pine Ridge Service Unit

Maggie, thanks. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Kris

On: 29 October 2017 07:59, "Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)" <Margaret.Wynne@hhs.gov> wrote:

Pre-decisional and deliberative

(b)(5)

-Maggie

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Saturday, October 28, 2017 11:01 PM
To: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin

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(HHS/IOS)
Cc: Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Palmer, Ashley (OS/ASFR)
Subject: RE: Pine Ridge Service Unit

All,

(b)(5)

Maggie

Deliberative and pre-decisional communication

From: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR)
Sent: Saturday, October 28, 2017 6:28 PM
To: Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Palmer, Ashley (OS/ASFR)
Subject: Re: Pine Ridge Service Unit

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Thanks Sarah. Adding Ashley for Hill notifications.

Confidential and pre-decisional communication

On: 28 October 2017 13:04, "Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)" <Sarah-Lloyd.Stevenson@hhs.gov> wrote:

(b)(5)

DRAFT IDEAS FOR RESPONSIVE ACTION

(b)(5)

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On: 27 October 2017 18:11, "Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)" <Sarah-Lloyd.Stevenson@hhs.gov> wrote:
Maggie, Lance, Kris—

(b)(5)

Thanks, guys—happy to get any more information that is needed and welcome any ideas.

SL

Deliberative and pre-decisional communication

Sarah-Lloyd Stevenson
Policy Advisor
Immediate Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(b)(6)
(202) 260-6255
Sarah-Lloyd.Stevenson@hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2017 7:46 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Brooks, John (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: Pine Ridge Service Unit

(b)(5)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2017 11:08 PM
To: Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Brooks, John (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: Pine Ridge Service Unit

Lance,

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

Maggie

From: Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2017 6:50 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Palmer, Ashley (OS/ASFR); Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: Re: Pine Ridge Service Unit

(b)(5)

On: 29 October 2017 15:57, "Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)" <Margaret.Wynne@hhs.gov> wrote:
Kris and Lance,

(b)(5)

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of the Freedom of Information Act

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(b)(5)

Deliberative and pre-decisional communication

From: Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2017 10:00 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Palmer, Ashley (OS/ASFR); Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: Re: Pine Ridge Service Unit

Maggie, thanks (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Kris

On: 29 October 2017 07:59, "Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)" <Margaret.Wynne@hhs.gov> wrote:
Pre-decisional and deliberative

(b)(5)

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(b)(5)

-Maggie

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Saturday, October 28, 2017 11:01 PM
To: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Palmer, Ashley (OS/ASFR)
Subject: RE: Pine Ridge Service Unit

All,

(b)(5)

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(b)(5)

Maggie

Deliberative and pre-decisional communication

From: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR)
Sent: Saturday, October 28, 2017 6:28 PM
To: Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Palmer, Ashley (OS/ASFR)
Subject: Re: Pine Ridge Service Unit

Thanks Sarah. Adding Ashley for Hill notifications.

Confidential and pre-decisional communication

On: 28 October 2017 13:04, "Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)" <Sarah-Lloyd.Stevenson@hhs.gov> wrote:

(b)(5)

DRAFT IDEAS FOR RESPONSIVE ACTION

(b)(5)

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(b)(5)

On: 27 October 2017 18:11, "Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)" <Sarah-Lloyd.Stevenson@hhs.gov> wrote:
Maggie, Lance, Kris—

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Thanks, guys—happy to get any more information that is needed and welcome any ideas.

SL

Deliberative and pre-decisional communication

Sarah-Lloyd Stevenson
Policy Advisor
Immediate Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(b)(6)
(202) 260-6255
Sarah-Lloyd.Stevenson@hhs.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL)
Sent: Friday, September 01, 2017 5:06 PM
To: (b)(6) (OS/IOS)
Cc: Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: Rosebud-Congratulations!

Sir,

We are set to notify the hill this afternoon with three IHS updates.

- The Systems Improvement Agreement completion for Rosebud
- The announcement that the Pine Ridge plan of correction was approved by CMS
- The establishment of the standards for patient wait times

The notification will reiterate the importance of our partnership with the hill to pursue reforms that achieve sustainable improvements, enhance accountability of IHS staff and providers, and expand access to quality care for patients across IHS facilities. We will be notifying appropriators, the SD congressional delegation, Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Committee, Natural Resources Committee and the House IHS taskforce.

We have kept the hill up to date on these activities and this will be a good news email going into the long weekend!

Hope you all have a good weekend!
Courtney

From: Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, September 01, 2017 8:49 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); (b)(6) (OS/IOS)
Cc: Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL)
Subject: RE: Rosebud-Congratulations!

Courtney, please work with Maggie to send Dr. Price a summary of the Hill roll out for this. Thanks.

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2017 8:32 PM
To: (b)(6) (OS/IOS)
Cc: Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL)
Subject: RE: Rosebud-Congratulations!

Sir,

I will work on that with Scheduling once I get the name and phone number for the CEO of that facility from IHS.

The rollouts to the Rosebud Tribe and the Hill are likely taking place tomorrow afternoon, but I'm confirming that with Chris Buchanan.

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From: (b)(6) (OS/IOS)
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2017 6:21 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS)
Subject: Re: Rosebud-Congratulations!

Please set up a call for me for tomorrow afternoon with whoever heads up that facility. I want to congratulate them.

Also, who is reaching out to Senate/House folks? This is very big.

On: 31 August 2017 17:33, "Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)" <Margaret.Wynne@hhs.gov> wrote:
Sir,

David Wright at CMS sent the note below to Admiral Weahkee and other IHS leaders today.

The good news will be shared with the Tribes and the Hill as part of a rollout that is being prepared.

Subject: Rosebud-Congratulations!

I'm pleased to notify you that on Friday at 4PM EST, Rosebud Hospital will receive the results of their August survey. While there are a few standard-level citations, the hospital has been found to be in substantial compliance with all of the Medicare Conditions of Participation. Therefore, this finding closes out both the pending termination action and the Systems Improvement Agreement.

I know you and your staff have put in tremendous effort to achieve these results.

Please let me know if you have any questions, and thank you…
David

David R. Wright
Director, Survey and Certification Group
Center for Clinical Standards and Quality
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Daniels, Carla (HHS/ASPA)
Sent: Friday, September 01, 2017 3:53 PM
To: Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Aramanda, Alec (OS/ASL); Hunt, Gregorio (HHS/IEA); Mason, James (HHS/IEA); Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL); Donley, Katherine (HHS/ASFR); Ecoffey, Stacey (HHS/IEA); Carr, Elizabeth (OS/IEA); Weahkee, Michael (IHS/HQ); Buchanan, Chris (IHS/HQ); Newman, Emily S.(CMS/OHI); Dooley, Sean M (IHS/HQ); Crites, Allison J (IHS/HQ); Buschick, Jennifer (IHS/HQ); Levchuk, Leonda (IHS/HQ); Barnett, Joshua (IHS/HQ); Tracy, June (IHS/HQ); Church, Ann M. (IHS/HQ); Merrell, Jonathan D (IHS/POR)
Cc: Weber, Mark (HHS/ASPA); ASPA Strategic Planning
Subject: ROLLOUT GO: Pine Ridge plan of correction; Rosebud SIA completion and Patient Wait Times
Attachments: IHS Rollout for Pine Ridge - Rosebud - Patient Wait Times - DRAFT 090120....docx

Importance: High

Please see the rollout plan attached and proceed according to the tick tock. Thanks

Rollout Plan: Pine Ridge plan of correction; Rosebud SIA completion and Patient Wait Times

Target Rollout Date: **September 1, 2017**

Topic: Announcement that the Pine Ridge plan of correction approved by CMS; Systems Improvement Agreement completion for Rosebud and the establishment of standards for patient wait times.

Background:
Indian Health Service has three announcements regarding the Pine Ridge hospital resurvey; the results of Rosebud's recent survey and the status of the Systems Improvement Agreement for both hospitals. Additionally, IHS will announce the release of the IHS patient wait times standard.

Pine Ridge
IHS and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services entered into Systems Improvement Agreements (SIAs) for the IHS Pine Ridge Hospital on April 30, 2016. The initial agreement was for 12 months. The Pine Ridge SIA has been extended until Aug. 11, 2017 to allow time for further improvement. CMS surveyors were on site at Pine Ridge IHS Hospital to conduct an Immediate Jeopardy resurvey and evaluate an EMTALA complaint. The CMS notified IHS that on Friday, September 1, 2017 at 4 p.m. EST, the plan of correction was reviewed and approved.

Rosebud Hospital
IHS has previously notified the Hill, tribal organizations and tribal leaders that the Center for Medicare and Medicaid surveyors were on site CMS notified IHS that on Friday, September 1, 2017, at 4PM EST, Rosebud Hospital will receive the results of its August survey. While there are a few standard-level citations, the hospital has been found to be in substantial compliance with all of the Medicare Conditions of Participation. Therefore, this finding closes out both the pending termination action and the Systems Improvement Agreement. IHS will continue to work to improve the quality of care and maintain the improvements made at Rosebud IHS Hospital.

Patient Wait Times

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Today, IHS is announcing its newly established wait time standards. The mean wait time for a primary care appointment will be 28 days or less and 48 hours or less for urgent care appointments. Additionally, the IPC program, in collaboration with the IHS Office of Information Technology, is developing a reporting system to support monitoring and evaluation of patient wait time measures at direct care sites. The recently announced mean appointment wait times are the core measures that will be collected in all primary and urgent care settings. IHS federally-operated facilities currently collect patient wait time data at the Service Unit level.

IHS is targeting the full implementation of Agency-wide standards for wait times by December 31, 2017, including monitoring of the outcome data. However, some Service Units may already have the capability to measure and report progress. Other Service Units may need assistance. Therefore, it is understood and expected that the standards may not be met immediately at some of our sites. The IPC program will provide resources, tools and technical assistance to service units to support the implementation of the wait time standard as part of its overall objective to promote the implementation of the Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) model of care within IHS ambulatory care facilities.

Materials:

- Hill and Tribal Organization notification message
- Notification to Rosebud Sioux Tribe
- Notification to Oglala Sioux Tribe
- Reactive media statement
- Q&A

Tick Tock

September 1, 2017

(b)(5)

Social Media Checklist

- **Twitter:** No
- **Graphics:** No
- **Facebook:** No
- **External Outlets**: No

Primary Points of Contact

HHS/ASL – Barbara Clark
HHS/ASPA –Mark Weber, Carla Daniels
HHS/ASFR – Katie Donley

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HHS/IEA – Stacy Ecoffey, Liz Carr
IHS/IOD – Michael D. Weahkee, Chris Buchanan, Emily Newman
IHS/IGA – Ben Smith
IHS/OGC – Sean Dooley, Allison Crites
IHS/Comms – Jennifer Buschick, Leonda Levchuk, Josh Barnett
IHS/Leg - June Tracy
IHS/OFA – Ann Church
IHS/Quality – Jonathan Merrell

Hill and Tribal Organization Notification Message

We would like to make you aware of three important IHS announcements.

First the Rosebud IHS Hospital was recently surveyed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). This inspection was to determine implementation of the plan of correction approved by CMS following a previous survey in June 2017.

Today, IHS received notification from CMS that Rosebud IHS Hospital is in substantial compliance with the Medicare Conditions of Participation. These survey findings also indicate successful completion of the Systems Improvement Agreement for Rosebud IHS Hospital. IHS will continue to work to improve the quality of care and maintain the improvements made at Rosebud IHS Hospital.

CMS also recently surveyed the Pine Ridge IHS Hospital to assess corrective actions taken following a previous survey in April. On August 16, 2017, CMS notified IHS that Pine Ridge IHS Hospital remains out of compliance with one Medicare Condition of Participation related to emergency services. Today, CMS accepted the plan of correction submitted by Pine Ridge IHS Hospital. The Systems Improvement Agreement for Pine Ridge IHS Hospital has been extended until October 29, 2017. CMS will conduct another survey before that date to determine if the deficiency has been corrected.

Finally, IHS recently posted a circular that stablishes the new standards for the Indian Health Service for wait times for outpatient visits in direct care IHS facilities. The new standard for mean appointment wait times is 28 days or less for primary care appointments and 48 hours or less for urgent care appointments. This new initiative directs that wait time measurements at all primary care and urgent care facilities be taken at each appointment. IHS will evaluate data to track the patient care experience as part of the Improving Patient Care program. The data collected across IHS' direct service sites will be used to continually improve patient wait times. IHS is targeting the full implementation of Agency-wide standards for wait times by December 31, 2017, including monitoring of the outcome data.

IHS is committed to delivering quality care that prioritizes patient safety. The agency will continue partnering closely with you to pursue reforms that achieve sustainable improvements, enhance accountability of IHS staff and providers, and expand access to quality care for patients across IHS facilities.

Notification to Oglala Sioux Tribal Leaders
Subject: Update on the Pine Ridge Hospital

Dear [Tribal Leader Name],

We are writing to you to make you aware of two important IHS announcements.

First, the Pine Ridge IHS Hospital was recently surveyed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). This inspection was to determine implementation of the plan of correction approved by CMS following a survey in April 2017.

On August 16, 2017, CMS notified IHS that Pine Ridge IHS Hospital remains out of compliance with one Medicare Condition of Participation related to emergency services. Today, CMS accepted the plan of correction submitted by Pine

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Ridge IHS Hospital. The Systems Improvement Agreement for Pine Ridge IHS Hospital has been extended until October 29, 2017. CMS will conduct another survey before that date to determine if the deficiency has been corrected.

IHS is committed to delivering quality care that prioritizes patient safety. The agency will continue partnering closely with you to pursue reforms that achieve sustainable improvements, enhance accountability of IHS staff and providers, and expand access to quality care for patients at the Pine Ridge IHS Hospital.

Notification to Rosebud Sioux Tribal Leaders
Subject: Update on the Rosebud Hospital

Dear [Tribal Leader Name],

We are writing you to inform you of two important announcements. Today, IHS received notification from CMS that Rosebud IHS Hospital is in substantial compliance with the Medicare Conditions of Participation. These survey findings indicate successful completion of the Systems Improvement Agreement for Rosebud IHS Hospital.

The survey did indicate some minor deficiencies, and IHS will continue to work to improve the quality of care and maintain the improvements made at Rosebud IHS Hospital.

IHS is committed to delivering quality care that prioritizes patient safety. The agency will continue partnering closely with you to pursue reforms that achieve sustainable improvements, enhance accountability of IHS staff and providers, and expand access to quality care for patients at the Rosebud IHS Hospital.

Reactive Media Statement

For Rosebud:

IHS received notification from CMS that Rosebud IHS Hospital is in substantial compliance with the Medicare Conditions of Participation. These survey findings indicate successful completion of the Systems Improvement Agreement for Rosebud IHS Hospital.

The survey did indicate some minor deficiencies, and IHS will continue to work to improve the quality of care and maintain the improvements made at Rosebud IHS Hospital.

IHS is committed to delivering quality care that prioritizes patient safety. The agency will continue partnering closely with the Rosebud Sioux Tribe to pursue reforms that achieve sustainable improvements, enhance accountability of IHS staff and providers, and expand access to quality care for patients at the Rosebud IHS Hospital.

For Pine Ridge:

The Pine Ridge IHS Hospital was recently surveyed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). This inspection was to determine implementation of the plan of correction approved by CMS following a survey in April 2017.

On August 16, 2017, CMS notified IHS that Pine Ridge IHS Hospital remains out of compliance with one Medicare Condition of Participation related to emergency services. Today, CMS accepted the plan of correction submitted by Pine Ridge IHS Hospital. The Systems Improvement Agreement for Pine Ridge IHS Hospital has been extended until October 29, 2017. CMS will conduct another survey before that date to determine if the deficiency has been corrected.

IHS is committed to delivering quality care that prioritizes patient safety. The agency will continue partnering closely with the Oglala Sioux Tribe to pursue reforms that achieve sustainable improvements, enhance accountability of IHS staff and providers, and expand access to quality care for patients at the Pine Ridge IHS Hospital.

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For Patient Wait Times:

The recently posted circular establishes the new standards for the Indian Health Service for wait times for outpatient visits in direct care IHS facilities. The new mean appointment wait times are 28 days or less for primary care appointments and 48 hours or less for urgent care appointments. This new initiative directs that wait time measurements at all primary care and urgent care facilities be taken at each appointment. IHS will evaluate data to track the patient care experience as part of the Improving Patient Care program. The data collected across IHS' direct service sites will be used to continually improve patient wait times. IHS is targeting the full implementation of Agency-wide standards for wait times by December 31, 2017, including monitoring of the outcome data.

Q & A – FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

(b)(5)

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HHS-OS EF Lit 18-0241-001394
EXT-18-241-G-000027

(b)(5)

Carla L. Daniels
Public Affairs Specialist
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
OS/ASPA
Office: 202-690-4595
Cell: (b)(6)
www.hhs.gov/news

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR)
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 8:03 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Conrad, Patricia (HHS/IOS); Harrison, Jessica (OS/IOS); Twomey, John K. (OS/IOS)
Subject: Re: Call with Secretary Price

Great, thanks. Susan will get back to us this morning with more.

On: 16 May 2017 22:05, "Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)" <Margaret.Wynne@hhs.gov> wrote:
Yes, that is okay with me.

From: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR)
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 9:36 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Conrad, Patricia (HHS/IOS); Harrison, Jessica (OS/IOS); Twomey, John K. (OS/IOS)
Subject: Re: Call with Secretary Price

(b)(5)

On: 16 May 2017 20:38, "Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)" <Margaret.Wynne@hhs.gov> wrote:

(b)(5)

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(b)(5)

Maggie

From: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR)
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 7:28 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Conrad, Patricia (HHS/IOS); Harrison, Jessica (OS/IOS); Twomey, John K. (OS/IOS)
Subject: FW: Call with Secretary Price

(b)(5)

Thanks

Non-Responsive Record

From: Harrison, Jessica (OS/IOS) [mailto:Jessica.Harrison@hhs.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 10:28 AM
To: Parker, Sabrina

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Cc: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Conrad, Patricia (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: Call with Secretary Price

Hi Sabrina-

I apologize for my delayed response, I have been out of the office. I am not sure we are going to be able to make this work this week because Secretary Price is going to be out on travel. With that being said, we will certainly try. I am putting you in touch with Jen Moughalian from HHS. Please work with her on the topic and she will circle back with us in scheduling to try and get this on the books.

Thank you,

--
Jessica Harrison

Non-Responsive Record

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Swenson-O'Brien, Alicia (HHS/OS)
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2017 10:49 AM
To: Newman, Emily (IHS/HQ); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)
Subject: FW: IHS briefing on Pine Ridge Service Unit
Attachments: Pine Ridge December 2016 to Present.docx; 06.26.2017 FINAL PineRidgeSeniorLeadershipSiteVisitReport.docx

These are the materials that went to TEP in June, would you like me to include in briefing book for this afternoon?

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Cc: Brooks, John (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: Pine Ridge Service Unit

Lance,

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

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From: Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2017 6:50 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Palmer, Ashley (OS/ASFR); Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: Re: Pine Ridge Service Unit

(b)(5)

On: 29 October 2017 15:57, "Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)" <Margaret.Wynne@hhs.gov> wrote:
Kris and Lance,

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Deliberative and pre-decisional communication

From: Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2017 10:00 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Palmer, Ashley (OS/ASFR); Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: Re: Pine Ridge Service Unit

Maggie, thanks. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Kris

On: 29 October 2017 07:59, "Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)" <Margaret.Wynne@hhs.gov> wrote:

Pre-decisional and deliberative

(b)(5)

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-Maggie

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Saturday, October 28, 2017 11:01 PM
To: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Palmer, Ashley (OS/ASFR)
Subject: RE: Pine Ridge Service Unit

All,

(b)(5)

Maggie

Deliberative and pre-decisional communication

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR)
Sent: Saturday, October 28, 2017 6:28 PM
To: Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Palmer, Ashley (OS/ASFR)
Subject: Re: Pine Ridge Service Unit

Thanks Sarah. Adding Ashley for Hill notifications.

Confidential and pre-decisional communication

On: 28 October 2017 13:04, "Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)" <Sarah-Lloyd.Stevenson@hhs.gov> wrote:

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DRAFT IDEAS FOR RESPONSIVE ACTION

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On: 27 October 2017 18:11, "Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)" <Sarah-Lloyd.Stevenson@hhs.gov> wrote:

Maggie, Lance, Kris—

(b)(5)

Thanks, guys—happy to get any more information that is needed and welcome any ideas.

SL

Deliberative and pre-decisional communication

Sarah-Lloyd Stevenson
Policy Advisor
Immediate Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
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(202) 260-6255
Sarah-Lloyd.Stevenson@hhs.gov

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: HHS Office of Public Affairs <hhsopa@hhs.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2017 5:12 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: Readout of Acting HHS Secretary Hargan's Opioids Listening Session in Lexington, Kentucky

News Release

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

202-690-6343
media@hhs.gov
www.hhs.gov/news
Twitter @HHSMedia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, October 30, 2017

Readout of Acting HHS Secretary Hargan's Opioids Listening Session in Lexington, Kentucky

On Friday, Acting Health and Human Services Secretary Eric Hargan and senior HHS officials traveled to Lexington, Kentucky, to visit the Polk-Dalton Clinic and the PATHways Program, which serves pregnant women recovering from addiction and their babies. Acting Secretary Hargan toured the facility and held a roundtable discussion with medical experts, local non-profit leaders, individuals receiving treatment and in recovery, and others impacted by the opioid epidemic.

Acting Secretary Hargan opened the roundtable discussion by thanking the group for their willingness to share their stories and for their work to address the crisis in the community. He highlighted HHS's and the Trump Administration's continued commitment to address the opioid epidemic and the significance of Thursday's action of declaring a nationwide public health emergency on the opioid crisis.

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During the meeting, individuals in recovery shared their personal stories, many of which began with addiction in early teen years. One woman shared how the unique approach of the PATHways program has allowed her to stay sober, become a more present mother, and even become a peer support specialist to other women joining the PATHways program. A mother shared the personal story of losing her son to the epidemic and her commitment to educate others about the crisis. Community expert and leaders discussed opportunities and challenges they experience in providing services in Kentucky. The individuals participating in the roundtable shared their personal views that addiction must be addressed as a chronic condition requiring a multi-layered approach to include community connection, innovative treatment and ongoing support.

The following individuals participated in the Kentucky event:

- Acting Health and Human Services Secretary Eric Hargan
- Mark Birdwhistell, Vice President for Administration & External Affairs, UK HealthCare
- Alex Elswick, Co-Founder, Voices of Hope
- Dr. Agatha Critchfield, Co-Founder & Medical Director, PATHways Program
- Nikki Strunk, Parent of Deceased, Brendan Strunk
- "L," PATHways Patient
- Rachel Coburn Smith, Executive Director, Refuge Clinic
- Cornelia 'Neal' Vaughan, Founder, Chrysalis House
- Dr. Peter Giannone, Chief, Division of Neonatology & Vice Chair, Pediatric Research, UK HealthCare

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HHS-OS EF Lit 18-0241-001411

EXT-18-241-G-000044

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: HHS Office of Public Affairs <hhsopa@hhs.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2017 4:32 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: Readout of U.S. Surgeon General VADM Jerome Adam's Visit to Local Addiction Treatment Facility

News Release

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

202-690-6343
media@hhs.gov
www.hhs.gov/news
Twitter @HHSMedia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, October 30, 2017

Readout of U.S. Surgeon General VADM Jerome Adam's Visit to Local Addiction Treatment Facility

Following President Donald Trump's call to action on Thursday regarding America's opioid epidemic, U.S. Surgeon General Vice Admiral Jerome Adams visited Phoenix House in Arlington, VA, to highlight work being done by nonprofit organizations to combat the epidemic and hear from treatment experts and other heroes on the frontlines.

Phoenix House offers evidence-based addiction treatment to teens, adults, and families, as well as unique services for pregnant women, mothers with young children, and the military community. During his visit, Surgeon General Adams was able to tour various parts of the facility, meet with current patients and learn firsthand of their experience and treatment programs.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Surgeon General Adams had the following to say about his visit:

"It was an honor to visit a treatment center today in Virginia as part of a coordinated effort for top Trump Administration officials to hold listening sessions on the frontlines of the opioid epidemic, the day after the President directed agencies to use all appropriate emergency and other relevant authorities to address the opioid crisis and the Acting Secretary of Health and Human Services declared a nationwide public health emergency as a result of the opioids crisis. Empowering local communities and civil-society groups is a key part of the Department of Health and Human Services's comprehensive strategy for tackling opioid addiction. We enjoyed hearing the perspectives of a number of treatment experts today. We look forward to more such visits to come, as we raise awareness of the crisis that President Trump has made a top priority."

More information on Phoenix House may be found here: https://www.phoenixhouse.org/

###

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 5:39 PM
To: Brennan, Patrick (OS/ASPA); Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Lloyd, Matt (OS/ASPA); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); Caliguiri, Laura (HHS/IOS); Brady, Will (HHS/IOS); Norton, Jane (OS/IEA); McGowan, Robert (Kyle) (HHS/IEA); Seidel, Elizabeth (OS/IEA)
Subject: RE: For review by 8 PM: Chamber of Commerce speech by Acting Secretary Hargan
Attachments: 10 17 17 Chamber speech_nina.docx

Just a few questions for clarification.

From: Brennan, Patrick (OS/ASPA)
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 5:02 PM
To: Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Lloyd, Matt (OS/ASPA); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); Caliguiri, Laura (HHS/IOS); Brady, Will (HHS/IOS); Norton, Jane (OS/IEA); McGowan, Robert (Kyle) (HHS/IEA); Seidel, Elizabeth (OS/IEA)
Subject: For review by 8 PM: Chamber of Commerce speech by Acting Secretary Hargan

Hi all,

Attached is a draft of remarks for Acting Secretary Hargan to deliver tomorrow afternoon at the Chamber of Commerce. Also attached is the draft IEA memo for more context about the event where he'll be speaking.

(b)(5)

Please let me know if you have any thoughts or edits **by 8 PM** this evening if possible. Thank you!

Best,
Patrick

Patrick Brennan
Department of Health and Human Services
Office: 202-205-2819 | Cell: (b)(6)

Predecisional/deliberative communication

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From:	Johnson, Linda (OS/OGC)
Sent:	Wednesday, October 11, 2017 5:00 PM
To:	Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL); Morse, Sara (HHS/ASL); ASAIO Staff; ASPEClearances (OS/ASPE); Whitley, Edward (HHS/ASL); Davis, Ms. Cynthia (ACF); Logan, Scott (ACF); Gottlich, Vicki (ACL); Jackson, Caldwell (ACL); Lutz, Brian T. (ACL/OEA); Duncan, Constance (HHS/ASFR); Smith-Simpson, Jacqlyn (HHS/ASFR); Talbert, Ada L. (CMS/OL); Wikelius, Kristin (CMS/OL); Mason, James (HHS/IEA); Adams, Claudia (HHS/OS); Lawson, Heather (HHS/OCR)
Cc:	OIGClearances@oig.hhs.gov; Davis, Jeffrey (HHS/OGC); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Cleary, Kelly (HHS/OGC); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Hertzog, Christian (HHS/OGC); Blackwell, Edith (HHS/OGC); Willoughby, Michelle (HHS/OGC); Haron, Judith (HHS/OGC); Jeffries, Elizabeth (HHS/OGC); Terry, Minnie (HHS/OGC); Fisher, Barbara (HHS/OGC); Huff, Bonita (HHS/OGC); Schuham, Aaron (HHS/OGC); Wiggins, Audrey (HHS/OGC); Barry, Daniel J (HHS/OGC); Caney, Brian (HHS/OGC); OS GCGL, EMAIL (HHS/OS)
Subject:	Reply due NOON Wed., 10/18: OMB RFV: HR__ - Agricultural Guestworker Act
Attachments:	Ag-Act-9.28.17.pdf

TO:

L/H	L/HS
ACF	ASPE
ACL	CMS
ASA	IEA
ASFR	OCR

FROM: Office of the General Counsel/Legislation Division

SUBJECT: HR _____ -- Agricultural Guestworker Act

(NOTE: Attached for your review, please find an unintroduced House bill called the Agricultural Guestworker Act.)

The Office of Management and Budget has asked for the Department's views on this draft bill.

In order that we may respond promptly to this request, please give your comments as soon as possible but no later than **12:00 NOON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18** to **both (1) CHRISTIAN HERTZOG** of this Division **and (2)** cc: our general e-mailbox (email.gcl@hhs.gov) (Microsoft Outlook users, select: OS GCL, EMAIL from the Global Address List).

To ensure that the Department's comments are given full consideration, please observe the following guidelines in providing your office's comments:

- Are there provisions of this bill that would conflict with Department or Administration policy, and how?

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

- Are there provisions that would pose difficulties for the operation or management of HHS programs, and how?

- Are there any other significant issues that you can identify?

- If you recommend specific changes, supply reasons and explanations, if the reasons are not obvious.

If you have any questions, call the GCL staff attorney named above at 202.260.6183, or our Legislative Reference Service at 202.690.7750.

Attachments

cc: OIG
GC/IO
GC/CFA
GC/CMS
GC/CR
GC/GL
OS/IOS

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Graham, John (HHS/ASPE)
Sent: Tuesday, October 03, 2017 11:45 AM
To: Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS); Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS); Brady, Will (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Caliguiri, Laura (HHS/IOS); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: Discretionary A-19s for transmission to OMB COMMENTS DUE NOON TOMORROW Wednesday, October 4
Attachments: HHS FY19 Discretionary Legislative Proposals JRG REDLINE.docx; A-19 Discretionary Decision Memo.docx

(b)(5)

John R. Graham
Acting Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Office: (202) 690-7858
Direct: (b)(6)
Mobile:

Hubert Humphrey Building
Room 415-F
200 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20201

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From: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR)
Sent: Monday, October 02, 2017 7:33 PM
To: Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS); Graham, John (HHS/ASPE); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: Shipley, Samuel (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: Discretionary A-19s

That is great news, thanks Ann. (b)(5)

Jen Moughalian
US Department of Health and Human Services
202-690-6061 (Office)
(b)(6) (Cell)

Deliberative and pre-decisional communication

From: Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, October 02, 2017 7:21 PM
To: Graham, John (HHS/ASPE); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Shipley, Samuel (HHS/IOS)
Subject: Re: Discretionary A-19s

Yes

On: 02 October 2017 18:16, "Graham, John (HHS/ASPE)" <John.Graham@hhs.gov> wrote:

(b)(5)

John R. Graham
Acting Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Office: (202) 690-7858
Direct: (b)(6)
Mobile:

Hubert Humphrey Building
Room 415-F
200 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20201

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 2:32 PM
To: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Cochran, Norris (HHS/ASFR); Cabezas, Miriam (HHS/ASFR); Palmer, Ashley (OS/ASFR); Miller, Caitlyn (OS/ASFR)
Subject: RE: Please review by 3 pm: Harvey Emergency Supplemental Funding Request Memo for TEP
Attachments: Harvey Decision_Recommendation Memo (3)_nina.docx

Here are my edits to the opioid list reflecting updated content.
(b)(5)
Thanks

From: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR)
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2017 8:43 AM
To: Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Cochran, Norris (HHS/ASFR); Cabezas, Miriam (HHS/ASFR); Palmer, Ashley (OS/ASFR); Miller, Caitlyn (OS/ASFR)
Subject: Please review by 3 pm: Harvey Emergency Supplemental Funding Request Memo for TEP

Counselors –

Attached is a draft on the Harvey Emergency Supplemental Funding Request Memo we would like to put in the Secretary's Briefing Book this evening. (b)(5)
(b)(5)

Please send edits by 3 pm today. Thanks

Jen Moughalian
US Department of Health and Human Services
202-690-6061 (Office)
(b)(6) (Cell)

Deliberative and pre-decisional communication

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2017 5:30 PM
To: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Cochran, Norris (HHS/ASFR); Cabezas, Miriam (HHS/ASFR); Palmer, Ashley (OS/ASFR); Miller, Caitlyn (OS/ASFR); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: Please review by 3 pm: Harvey Emergency Supplemental Funding Request Memo for TEP
Attachments: Harvey Decision_Recommendation Memo (3) ps mw.docx

(b)(5)

Maggie

Deliberative and pre-decisional communication

From: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR)
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2017 4:57 PM
To: Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Cochran, Norris (HHS/ASFR); Cabezas, Miriam (HHS/ASFR); Palmer, Ashley (OS/ASFR); Miller, Caitlyn (OS/ASFR); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: Please review by 3 pm: Harvey Emergency Supplemental Funding Request Memo for TEP

Thanks for all these helpful edits. We're reviewing and will likely circle back with questions and clarifications.
We met a few times during the week after Labor Day to discuss the OpDiv requests, including on September 8th. Thanks

Deliberative and pre-decisional communication

From: Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2017 4:38 PM
To: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Cochran, Norris (HHS/ASFR); Cabezas, Miriam (HHS/ASFR); Palmer, Ashley (OS/ASFR); Miller, Caitlyn (OS/ASFR)
Subject: RE: Please review by 3 pm: Harvey Emergency Supplemental Funding Request Memo for TEP

My suggestions in the attached.

Paula

From: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR)
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2017 8:43 AM
To: Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Cochran, Norris (HHS/ASFR); Cabezas, Miriam (HHS/ASFR); Palmer, Ashley (OS/ASFR); Miller, Caitlyn (OS/ASFR)
Subject: Please review by 3 pm: Harvey Emergency Supplemental Funding Request Memo for TEP

Counselors –

Attached is a draft on the Harvey Emergency Supplemental Funding Request Memo we would like to put in the Secretary's Briefing Book this evening. OMB is pressing us for this information, so we would like to submit this tomorrow.

Please send edits by 3 pm today. Thanks

Jen Moughalian
US Department of Health and Human Services
202-690-6061 (Office)
(b)(6) (Cell)

Deliberative and pre-decisional communication

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Brennan, Patrick (OS/ASPA)
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2017 2:38 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Zebley, Kyle (HHS/OS/OGA); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: For review by 3:30 PM: Draft Secretary remarks for China letter signing

Works for me, thank you!

From: Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2017 2:26 PM
To: Brennan, Patrick (OS/ASPA); Zebley, Kyle (HHS/OS/OGA); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: For review by 3:30 PM: Draft Secretary remarks for China letter signing

(b)(5)

From: Brennan, Patrick (OS/ASPA)
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2017 2:24 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Zebley, Kyle (HHS/OS/OGA); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: For review by 3:30 PM: Draft Secretary remarks for China letter signing

(b)(5)

From: Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2017 2:23 PM
To: Zebley, Kyle (HHS/OS/OGA); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Brennan, Patrick (OS/ASPA)
Subject: RE: For review by 3:30 PM: Draft Secretary remarks for China letter signing

(b)(5)

From: Zebley, Kyle (HHS/OS/OGA)
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2017 2:22 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Brennan, Patrick (OS/ASPA)
Subject: RE: For review by 3:30 PM: Draft Secretary remarks for China letter signing

(b)(5)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2017 2:20 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Brennan, Patrick (OS/ASPA)
Cc: Zebley, Kyle (HHS/OS/OGA)
Subject: RE: For review by 3:30 PM: Draft Secretary remarks for China letter signing

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2017 2:14 PM
To: Brennan, Patrick (OS/ASPA); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Zebley, Kyle (HHS/OS/OGA)
Subject: RE: For review by 3:30 PM: Draft Secretary remarks for China letter signing

(b)(5)

From: Brennan, Patrick (OS/ASPA)
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2017 2:07 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Zebley, Kyle (HHS/OS/OGA)
Subject: FW: For review by 3:30 PM: Draft Secretary remarks for China letter signing

Hi Keagan and Maggie,

(b)(5) - don't need you to look immediately but we're going to try to get it in the secretary's book at 4 PM.

Thank you!

- Patrick

From: Brennan, Patrick (OS/ASPA)
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2017 1:18 PM
To: Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Davis, Jeffrey (HHS/OGC); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Kemper, Laura (HHS/ASL)
Cc: Lloyd, Matt (OS/ASPA); Murphy, Ryan (OS/ASPA); Oakley, Caitlin B. (OS/ASPA); Pasch, David (OS/ASPA); Zebley, Kyle (HHS/OS/OGA)
Subject: For review by 3:30 PM: Draft Secretary remarks for China letter signing

Hi all,

Attached and pasted below are short draft remarks for Secretary Price to deliver tomorrow at the signing of a letter of intent on health cooperation with the Chinese Minister of Health.

Please let me know if you have edits or concerns by 3:30 PM. Apologies for the tight turnarounds today.

Thank you!

Best,
Patrick

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Page 058 of 405

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From:	Healy, Jenifer (HHS/OS/OGA)
Sent:	Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:13 AM
To:	Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS)
Cc:	Zebley, Kyle (HHS/OS/OGA)
Subject:	4.4 Sustainable Health Agenda for the Americas_ JLH edits.docx - Sent from MaaS360
Attachments:	4.4 Sustainable Health Agenda for the Americas_ JLH edits.docx

Maggie,
Attached is the draft position paper for the sustainable health agenda, including the talking points you'll give on the footnote. It looks like it will come up around 3pm on Monday, so you can just stay at PAHO after the Tedros meeting.

I've made several edits to the draft sent from our Americas team, tracked in the attached, feel free to offer any additional edits. If you can send it back to me either today or tomorrow, so I can get it finalized before Monday that would be great.

Thanks!
Jeni

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL)
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:44 AM
To: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS); Caliguiri, Laura (HHS/IOS); Bardis, John (HHS/ASA); Graham, John (HHS/ASPE); Pence, Laura (HHS/IOS); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Graham, John (HHS/ASPE); O'Brien, John (HHS/ASPE)
Cc: Cochran, Norris (HHS/ASFR); McMillen, Cheryl (HHS/ASFR); Elder, Mark (HHS/ASFR); Kelley, Curtis (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: RE: Please review by 10 AM Friday: FY 2019 Mandatory A19 Legislative Proposals
Attachments: Package 2 FY 2019 Mandatory Legislative Proposals (3).docx

(b)(5)

Nice work!

From: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR)
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:28 AM
To: Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS); Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); Caliguiri, Laura (HHS/IOS); Bardis, John (HHS/ASA); Graham, John (HHS/ASPE); Pence, Laura (HHS/IOS); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Graham, John (HHS/ASPE); O'Brien, John (HHS/ASPE)
Cc: Cochran, Norris (HHS/ASFR); McMillen, Cheryl (HHS/ASFR); Elder, Mark (HHS/ASFR); Kelley, Curtis (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: RE: Please review by 10 AM Friday: FY 2019 Mandatory A19 Legislative Proposals

We have not received any edits to these mandatory A19 proposals, so they will be sent to OMB early this afternoon. Speak now or forever hold your peace!

Jen Moughalian
US Department of Health and Human Services
202-690-6061 (Office)
(b)(6) (Cell)

Deliberative and pre-decisional communication

From: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR)
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2017 10:16 PM
To: Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS); Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); Caliguiri, Laura (HHS/IOS); Bardis, John (HHS/ASA); Graham, John (HHS/ASPE); Pence, Laura (HHS/IOS); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Graham, John (HHS/ASPE); O'Brien, John (HHS/ASPE)
Cc: Cochran, Norris (HHS/ASFR); McMillen, Cheryl (HHS/ASFR); Elder, Mark (HHS/ASFR); Kelley, Curtis (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: Please review by 10 AM Friday: FY 2019 Mandatory A19 Legislative Proposals

SBC Colleagues,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Attached you will find a second draft package of mandatory A19s for submission to OMB on Friday, September 22nd as an addition to the package sent to OMB on Monday, September 18th. **We are seeking your comments and feedback by 10 am Friday.**

(b)(5)

Thank you!

Jen Moughalian
US Department of Health and Human Services
202-690-6061 (Office)
(b)(6) (Cell)

Deliberative and pre-decisional communication

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: OS HHSPress (HHS/ASPA)
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:30 AM
To: OS - ASPA - Clearance; OS - ASPA - Public Health Clearance; OS - ASPA - Health Care Clearance; OS - ASPA - Human Services Clearance
Cc: Russell, Lola S. (CDC/OD/OADC); Haynes, Benjamin (CDC/OD/OADC); Bonds, Michelle E. (CDC/OD/OADC); Burden, Bernadette (CDC/OD/OADC); Harben, Kathy (CDC/OD/OADC); Kelly, Bertram (CDC/OD/OADC)
Subject: CLEARANCE_1003: CDC "STDs at Record High, urgent need to rebuild prevention programs"
Attachments: Press Release - STD Surveillance - for HHS 092217.docx; STD Surveillance Report Messages, Social.docx

Agency/Office: CDC

Subject (or headline): *STDs at Record High, urgent need to rebuild prevention programs*

Material: Draft news release, key messages

Deadline for comments: Before 11 a.m. Monday, Sept. 25

Planned release date: Tuesday, Sept. 26

Driver: Publication of Surveillance Report

Best,

Mike Robinson
Strategic Planning, ASPA

202-690-6885 –desk
(b)(6) –mobile

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Graham, John (HHS/ASPE)
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 5:34 PM
To: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Caliguiri, Laura (HHS/IOS); Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS); Bardis, John (HHS/ASA); Brady, Will (HHS/IOS); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS); Cochran, Norris (HHS/ASFR)
Cc: MirskyAshby, Audrey (HHS/ASPE); Cravens, Catherine (OS/ASPE)
Subject: A-19 discretionary decision memo SBC Review 1:00 p.m. Monday, September 18 Requested
Attachments: A-19 Discretionary Decision Memo For SBC 1.1.docx

My initial request was unrealistic. Please review by next Monday at 1 p.m. I attach a copy with less white space.

From: Graham, John (HHS/ASPE)
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 3:20 PM
To: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Caliguiri, Laura (HHS/IOS); Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS); Bardis, John (HHS/ASA); Brady, Will (HHS/IOS); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS); Cochran, Norris (HHS/ASFR)
Cc: MirskyAshby, Audrey (HHS/ASPE); Cravens, Catherine (OS/ASPE)
Subject: A-19 discretionary decision memo EXPEDITED SBC REVIEW 4:30 p.m. TODAY REQUESTED

(b)(5)

John R. Graham
Acting Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Office: (202) 690-7858
Direct: (b)(6)
Mobile:

Hubert Humphrey Building
Room 415-F
200 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20201

INFORMATION NOT RELEASABLE TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS AUTHORIZED BY LAW: This information has not been publicly disclosed and may be privileged and confidential. It is for internal government use only and must not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive the information. Unauthorized disclosure may result in prosecution to the fullest extent of the law. Deliberative, pre-decisional communication.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL)
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 4:21 PM
To: Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Graham, John (HHS/ASPE); Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Caliguiri, Laura (HHS/IOS); Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS); Bardis, John (HHS/ASA); Brady, Will (HHS/IOS); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS); Cochran, Norris (HHS/ASFR)
Cc: MirskyAshby, Audrey (HHS/ASPE); Cravens, Catherine (OS/ASPE)
Subject: RE: A-19 discretionary decision memo EXPEDITED SBC REVIEW 4:30 p.m. TODAY REQUESTED
Attachments: A-19 Discretionary Descision Memo For SBC.DOCX

(b)(5)

From: Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 4:10 PM
To: Graham, John (HHS/ASPE); Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Caliguiri, Laura (HHS/IOS); Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS); Bardis, John (HHS/ASA); Brady, Will (HHS/IOS); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS); Cochran, Norris (HHS/ASFR)
Cc: MirskyAshby, Audrey (HHS/ASPE); Cravens, Catherine (OS/ASPE)
Subject: Re: A-19 discretionary decision memo EXPEDITED SBC REVIEW 4:30 p.m. TODAY REQUESTED

I have been and continue to be in meetings and have been and continue to be unable to review.

Paula

On: 15 September 2017 15:20, "Graham, John (HHS/ASPE)" <John.Graham@hhs.gov> wrote:

(b)(5)

John R. Graham
Acting Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Office: (202) 690-7858
Direct: (b)(6)
Mobile:

Hubert Humphrey Building
Room 415-F
200 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20201

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

INFORMATION NOT RELEASABLE TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS AUTHORIZED BY LAW: This information has not been publicly disclosed and may be privileged and confidential. It is for internal government use only and must not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive the information. Unauthorized disclosure may result in prosecution to the fullest extent of the law. Deliberative, pre-decisional communication.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, September 05, 2017 1:04 AM
To: Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: Please review by noon Thurs: ACF/Medicaid FY 2019 Mandatory Budget Memo
Attachments: Mandatory Proposals_rev AS MW.docx

Hi!

I bet you thought I would never get back to you on this.

(b)(5)

Would you all be able to discuss this at 9:00 am? I can be reached at home then on my iPhone (b)(6)

Thanks,

Maggie Wynne

Deliberative and pre-decisional communication

From: Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Wednesday, August 30, 2017 8:56 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)
Subject: FW: Please review by noon Thurs: ACF/Medicaid FY 2019 Mandatory Budget Memo
Importance: High

Hi Maggie,

I'm attaching my thoughts and suggestions on:

(b)(5)

I had no comments on the other documents Curtis shared.

Andrew

From: Kelley, Curtis (HHS/ASFR)
Sent: Wednesday, August 30, 2017 4:43 PM
To: Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Cochran, Norris (HHS/ASFR); McMillen, Cheryl (HHS/ASFR)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Subject: FW: Please review by noon Thurs: ACF/Medicaid FY 2019 Mandatory Budget Memo
Importance: High

Andrew and Sarah-Lloyd:

(b)(5)

From: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR)
Sent: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 6:36 PM
To: Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Nelson, Beth (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Keckler, Charles (HHS/IOS); Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS); Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); Caliguiri, Laura (HHS/IOS); Bardis, John (HHS/ASA); Graham, John (HHS/ASPE); Pence, Laura (HHS/IOS); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Cochran, Norris (HHS/ASFR); O'Keefe, Erin (HHS\ASFR); McMillen, Cheryl (HHS/ASFR); Kelley, Curtis (HHS/ASFR); Davis, Jeffrey (HHS/ASFR); Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Cash, Lester (HHS/ASFR); Miller, Caitlyn (OS/ASFR)
Subject: Please review by noon Thurs: ACF/Medicaid FY 2019 Mandatory Budget Memo
Importance: High

SBC –

We are scheduled for 30 minutes on Thursday to brief Dr. Price on ACF Mandatory Proposals for the FY 2019 Budget and request initial guidance on Medicaid. Attached is the draft memo, which is similar to a version you received several weeks ago for the postponed initial meeting. Please send edits to myself and Curtis Kelly by noon tomorrow.

I will also be sending a calendar invite for later this week to discuss CMS. We received additional proposals late on Friday.

Thanks

Jen Moughalian
US Department of Health and Human Services
202-690-6061 (Office)
(b)(6) (Cell)

Deliberative and pre-decisional communication

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Nelson, Thayer (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 5:05 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: FW: Reply by COB, 5/25:OMB RFVs:S 1028(National Family Caregiving Strategy)
Attachments: S 1028.HHS.comments.053017docx.docx

(b)(5)

Let me know what you think.

Thanks.

Thayer
(b)(6)

From: Fuma, Julia (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 11:17 AM
To: Nelson, Thayer (HHS/OGC)
Cc: Scott, Marie (HHS/OGC)
Subject: FW: Reply by COB, 5/25:OMB RFVs:S 1028(National Family Caregiving Strategy)

Hi Thayer,

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

From: Nelson, Thayer (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 9:45 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Nicholls, Richard (ACL/OA); Lutz, Brian T. (ACL/OEA); Jackson, Caldwell (ACL/OA); Smith-Simpson, Jacqlyn (HHS/ASFR); Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL); Whitley, Edward (HHS/ASL); Bobo, Patricia (HHS/OGC); Earles, Vertrice (HHS/ASA) (CTR); Scott, Marie (HHS/OGC); Talbert, Ada L. (CMS/OL); Wikelius, Kristin (CMS/OL); ASPEClearances (OS/ASPE)
Subject: RE: Reply by COB, 5/25:OMB RFVs:S 1028(National Family Caregiving Strategy)

(b)(5)

Please let me know **by 3:30 pm today, Wednesday, May 31**, if you have any concerns with, or proposed revisions to, the draft response.

Thank you.

Thayer

(b)(6)

****

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

Please see attached for additional comments on specific provisions of the bill. Let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss.

Thank you.

Thayer
(b)(6)

From: Willoughby, Michelle (HHS/OGC)
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 11:34 AM
To: Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL); McGuffee, Tyler Ann (HHS/ASL); Whitley, Edward (HHS/ASL); Kemper, Laura (HHS/ASL); Lawrence, Courtney (HHS/ASL); Aramanda, Alec (OS/ASL); Davis, Ms. Cynthia (ACF); Logan, Scott (ACF); Sulton, Jae (ACF); Talbert, Ada L. (CMS/OL); Wikelius, Kristin (CMS/OL); ASPEClearances (OS/ASPE); East, Janet (HHS/OASH); Stallion, Vivian (HHS/OS); ASAIO Staff; Barcus, Lea (PSC/OD); Earles, Vertrice (HHS/ASA) (CTR); Chletsos, Lori (PSC/OD) (CTR); Molloy, Paula (OS/ASA); Becton, Reginal (OS/ASA/OHR/SPD); Hoffman, Darrell (HHS/ASA); Major, Christine (HHS/ASA); Zuco, Paola (OS/ASA); Jackson, Caldwell (ACL/OA); Lutz, Brian T. (ACL/OEA); Nicholls, Richard (ACL/OA); Stauffer, Rachel (OS/ONC); Duncan, Constance (HHS/ASFR); Smith-Simpson, Jacqlyn

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(HHS/ASFR); Atkinson, Leslie (HRSA); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Groves, Garrick (HRSA); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Adams, Claudia (HHS/OS); Brockett, Sharon (HHS/OCR); Householder, Donna (HHS/OS); Lawson, Heather (HHS/OCR); Morgan, Sherri (OS/OCR); Schmidt, Peggy (HHS/OCR)
Cc: Nelson, Thayer (HHS/OGC); Davis, Jeffrey (HHS/OGC); Friedman, Richard (HHS/OGC); Malliou, Ekaterini (OS/IOS); Blackwell, Edith (HHS/OGC); Johnson, Linda (OS/OGC); Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC); Stimson, Brian (HHS/OGC); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); Cleary, Kelly (HHS/OGC); Huff, Bonita (HHS/OGC); Schuham, Aaron (HHS/OGC); Benor, David E.(HHS/OGC); Naimon, David (HHS/OGC); OGC PH and S BRANCH CONTROLS; Fisher, Barbara (HHS/OGC); Haron, Judith (HHS/OGC); Jeffries, Elizabeth (HHS/OGC); Terry, Minnie (HHS/OGC); Barry, Daniel J (HHS/OGC); OS GCGL, EMAIL (HHS/OS); OIGClearances@oig.hhs.gov
Subject: Reply by COB, 5/25:OMB RFVs:S 1028(National Family Caregiving Strategy)

TO:

L(HS)	L(H)
ACF	ACL
CMS	ONC
ASPE	ASFR
ASH	HRSA
ASA/PSC/OHR	IOS/OS

FROM: Office of the General Counsel/Legislation Division

SUBJECT: OMB Request for Views on S 1028 -- National Family Caregiving Strategy

(NOTE: Attached please find bill text for S. 1028, the Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage (RAISE) Family Caregivers Act of 2017. The bill was reported from the Senate HELP Committee on May 11.

The RAISE Act would require HHS to establish and maintain a National Family Caregiving Strategy and to convene a Family Caregiving Advisory Council. Federal membership would include CMS, ACL, ONC, and ACF within HHS, as well as representatives from VA, Labor, SBA, CNCS, and Treasury. The bill would exempt the committee from FACA requirements.)

The Office of Management and Budget has asked for the Department's views on this bill.

In order that we may respond promptly to this request, please give your comments as soon as possible but no later than **COB, THURSDAY, MAY 25** to both **(1) THAYER NELSON** of this Division **and (2)** cc: our general e-mailbox (email.gcl@hhs.gov) (Microsoft Outlook users, select: OS GCL, EMAIL from the Global Address List).

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To ensure that the Department's comments are given full consideration, please observe the following guidelines in providing your office's comments:

- Are there provisions of this bill that would conflict with Department or Administration policy, and how?

- Are there provisions that would pose difficulties for the operation or management of HHS programs, and how?

- Are there any other significant issues that you can identify?

- If you recommend specific changes, supply reasons and explanations, if the reasons are not obvious.

If you have any questions, call the GCL staff attorney named above, at 202-690-7747, or our Legislative Reference Service, at 202.690.7750.

Attachments

cc: OIG
GC/IO
GC/CMS
GC/CFA
GC/GLD
GC/PH
IOS/OS
GCL (R Friedman)

Michelle Lawrence Willoughby
Office of the General Counsel/Legislation Division
Legislative Reference Service
202.690.7750 fax 202.690.7309
Michelle.Willoughby@hhs.gov

This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED and/or PRIVILEGED, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 10:40 PM
To: Schaeffer, Alison (HHS/OS/OGA) (CTR); Shipley, Samuel (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Burris, Hannah (HHS/OGA); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS)
Subject: RE: For Your Review: U.S. chapter of the Health in the Americas 2017 publication
Attachments: Health in the Americas-U.S. Chapter_HHS Edits (3).docx

Sam and Alison,

(b)(5)

Thank you,
Maggie

From: Schaeffer, Alison (HHS/OS/OGA) (CTR)
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 11:10 AM
To: Shipley, Samuel (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Burris, Hannah (HHS/OGA)
Subject: RE: For Your Review: U.S. chapter of the Health in the Americas 2017 publication

Hi Sam,

(b)(5)

Hope this answers your questions.

Best,
Alison

Alison Schaeffer
Executive Assistant
Office of Global Affairs
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Office: 202.205.7733 | Mobile: (b)(6)

From: Shipley, Samuel (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 10:41 AM
To: Schaeffer, Alison (HHS/OS/OGA) (CTR); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Burris, Hannah (HHS/OGA)
Subject: RE: For Your Review: U.S. chapter of the Health in the Americas 2017 publication

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

Thanks,
Sam

From: Schaeffer, Alison (HHS/OS/OGA) (CTR)
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 10:39 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Shipley, Samuel (HHS/IOS); Burris, Hannah (HHS/OGA)
Subject: RE: For Your Review: U.S. chapter of the Health in the Americas 2017 publication

Hi Maggie,

(b)(5)

Best,
Alison

Alison Schaeffer
Executive Assistant
Office of Global Affairs
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Office: 202.205.7733|Mobile: (b)(6)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 9:31 AM
To: Schaeffer, Alison (HHS/OS/OGA) (CTR); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Shipley, Samuel (HHS/IOS); Burris, Hannah (HHS/OGA)
Subject: RE: For Your Review: U.S. chapter of the Health in the Americas 2017 publication

Hi Alison,
Thank you for the reminder.

What is the practice here on sending back comments? Do we send back the marked up document with suggested edits and comments included? I wasn't sure what the spreadsheet included in the earlier message was for.

Thanks,
Maggie

From: Schaeffer, Alison (HHS/OS/OGA) (CTR)
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 9:27 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Shipley, Samuel (HHS/IOS); Burris, Hannah (HHS/OGA)
Subject: RE: For Your Review: U.S. chapter of the Health in the Americas 2017 publication

Good Morning,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I am flagging the below request for your review. Sorry for not mentioning yesterday but this has been reviewed Marie M. in OHR, along with other OpDivs. Our drop-dead deadline to provide our feedback to PAHO is 10AM this morning.

Best,
Alison

Alison Schaeffer
Executive Assistant
Office of Global Affairs
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Office: 202.205.7733|Mobile: (b)(6)

From: Schaeffer, Alison (HHS/OS/OGA) (CTR)
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 1:26 PM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Shipley, Samuel (HHS/IOS)
Subject: For Your Review: U.S. chapter of the Health in the Americas 2017 publication
Importance: High

Dear Maggie, Mary-Sumpter and John,

Sam Shipley is out of the office today (b)(6) He has asked that I reach out to you directly on the US Chapter of the Health in the Americas 2017 publication because we need your clearance/comments by COB today. Our original deadline was yesterday but have been granted a small extension from PAHO. The concern is that we will miss this deadline and our comments/edits won't be taken into account before PAHO publishes.

The attached word document includes compiled edits/comments from the OpDivs and is what I request you review. I am also including an excel spreadsheet that shows edits that aren't included in the word document because they are: primarily editorial preference; those that suggest that PAHO include additional information or considerations outside the current scope of the document; and vague comments without specific line edits. The rationale for this is to help PAHO focus on the more important edits/comments in order to ensure that the document is accurate.

Please let me know if there are any questions.

All the best,
Alison

Alison Schaeffer
Executive Assistant
Office of Global Affairs
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Office: 202.205.7733|Mobile: (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, May 09, 2017 10:56 PM
To: Pollock, Rachel (HHS/ASFR); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS); Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL); Morse, Sara (HHS/ASL); Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); ASPEClearances (OS/ASPE); OS OGC-IO ControlDesk (HHS); East, Janet (HHS/OASH); Hall, Bill (HHS/ASPA); Murphy, Ryan (OS/ASPA); Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Williams, Cameron (HHS/ASFR); Klimczak, Kate (HHS/ASFR); Rice, Peggie (HHS/ASFR); Donley, Katherine (HHS/ASFR); Cochran, Norris (HHS/ASFR); Coughlin, Janis (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: RE: For Your Review by Noon Wednesday: House Labor/HHS QFRs on FY 2018 - BATCH TWO
Attachments: QFRs _ TPMD March 29 House LaborHHS FY18 _ Batch 2 msl.docx

(b)(5)

From: Pollock, Rachel (HHS/ASFR)
Sent: Tuesday, May 09, 2017 11:31 AM
To: Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS); Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL); Morse, Sara (HHS/ASL); Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); ASPEClearances (OS/ASPE); OS OGC-IO ControlDesk (HHS); East, Janet (HHS/OASH); Hall, Bill (HHS/ASPA); Murphy, Ryan (OS/ASPA); Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Williams, Cameron (HHS/ASFR); Klimczak, Kate (HHS/ASFR); Rice, Peggie (HHS/ASFR); Donley, Katherine (HHS/ASFR); Cochran, Norris (HHS/ASFR); Coughlin, Janis (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: For Your Review by Noon Wednesday: House Labor/HHS QFRs on FY 2018 - BATCH TWO

All –

Attached please find Batch 2 of the Questions for the Record from the Secretary's March 29 hearing before the House Labor/HHS Appropriations Subcommittee on the President's FY 2018 Budget request. Please note that only the questions you have not yet reviewed appear in the attached. **Language that appears in blue was included in Batch 1**.

Please review the QFRs and send me any comments by 12:00 noon tomorrow (Wednesday, May 10).

Rachel Pollock
Office: 202.690.7483
Cell: (b)(6)

From: Pollock, Rachel (HHS/ASFR)
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 4:23 PM
To: Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS); Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL); Morse, Sara (HHS/ASL); Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); ASPEClearances (OS/ASPE); OS OGC-IO ControlDesk (HHS); East, Janet (HHS/OASH); Hall, Bill (HHS/ASPA); Murphy, Ryan (OS/ASPA)
Cc: OS - Budget Office Managers; Williams, Cameron (HHS/ASFR); Klimczak, Kate (HHS/ASFR); Rice, Peggie (HHS/ASFR); Donley, Katherine (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: For Your Review by COB Tuesday: House Labor/HHS QFRs on FY 2018 - BATCH ONE

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

All –

Attached for your review please find Questions for the Record from the Secretary's March 29 hearing before the House Labor/HHS Appropriations Subcommittee on the President's FY 2018 Budget request. Please note that this is batch one of two for these QFRs – there are some responses missing in the attached document. We will provide the remaining responses early next week.

Counselors – please note that we have assigned each QFR a lead reviewer based on your portfolios. We would appreciate your review of each assigned QFR for tone as well as accurate description of the policy discussed. The QFRs are color-coded by reviewer to make it easier for you to scan the document:

John
Maggie
Paula
Heather
Nina
Kris
Mary-Sumpter

Please review the attached QFRs and provide any comments by COB Tuesday, May 9. Thank you.

Rachel Pollock
Chief, Congressional Liaison Branch
Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources
Department of Health and Human Services
Rachel.Pollock@hhs.gov
Office: 202.690.7483
Cell: (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 8:43 PM
To: Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Pollock, Rachel (HHS/ASFR); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS); Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL); Morse, Sara (HHS/ASL); Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); ASPEClearances (OS/ASPE); OS OGC-IO ControlDesk (HHS); East, Janet (HHS/OASH); Hall, Bill (HHS/ASPA); Murphy, Ryan (OS/ASPA)
Cc: OS - Budget Office Managers; Williams, Cameron (HHS/ASFR); Klimczak, Kate (HHS/ASFR); Rice, Peggie (HHS/ASFR); Donley, Katherine (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: RE: For Your Review by COB Tuesday: House Labor/HHS QFRs on FY 2018 - BATCH ONE
Attachments: QFRs _ TPMD March 29 House LaborHHS FY18 _ Batch 1 for Review (2)msl_mw.docx

(b)(5)

From: Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 6:59 PM
To: Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Pollock, Rachel (HHS/ASFR); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS); Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL); Morse, Sara (HHS/ASL); Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); ASPEClearances (OS/ASPE); OS OGC-IO ControlDesk (HHS); East, Janet (HHS/OASH); Hall, Bill (HHS/ASPA); Murphy, Ryan (OS/ASPA)
Cc: OS - Budget Office Managers; Williams, Cameron (HHS/ASFR); Klimczak, Kate (HHS/ASFR); Rice, Peggie (HHS/ASFR); Donley, Katherine (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: RE: For Your Review by COB Tuesday: House Labor/HHS QFRs on FY 2018 - BATCH ONE

(b)(5)

From: Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Sunday, May 07, 2017 4:01 PM
To: Pollock, Rachel (HHS/ASFR); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS); Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL); Morse, Sara (HHS/ASL); Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); ASPEClearances (OS/ASPE); OS OGC-IO ControlDesk (HHS); East, Janet (HHS/OASH); Hall, Bill (HHS/ASPA); Murphy, Ryan (OS/ASPA)
Cc: OS - Budget Office Managers; Williams, Cameron (HHS/ASFR); Klimczak, Kate (HHS/ASFR); Rice, Peggie (HHS/ASFR); Donley, Katherine (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: Re: For Your Review by COB Tuesday: House Labor/HHS QFRs on FY 2018 - BATCH ONE

(b)(5)

Paula

On: 05 May 2017 16:32, "Pollock, Rachel (HHS/ASFR)" <Rachel.Pollock@hhs.gov> wrote:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

All –

Attached for your review please find Questions for the Record from the Secretary's March 29 hearing before the House Labor/HHS Appropriations Subcommittee on the President's FY 2018 Budget request. Please note that this is batch one of two for these QFRs – there are some responses missing in the attached document. We will provide the remaining responses early next week.

Counselors – please note that we have assigned each QFR a lead reviewer based on your portfolios. We would appreciate your review of each assigned QFR for tone as well as accurate description of the policy discussed. The QFRs are color-coded by reviewer to make it easier for you to scan the document:

John
Maggie
Paula
Heather
Nina
Kris
Mary-Sumpter

Please review the attached QFRs and provide any comments by COB Tuesday, May 9. Thank you.

Rachel Pollock
Chief, Congressional Liaison Branch
Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources
Department of Health and Human Services
Rachel.Pollock@hhs.gov
Office: 202.690.7483
Cell: (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From:	Klimczak, Kate (HHS/ASFR)
Sent:	Monday, May 08, 2017 1:31 PM
To:	Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS)
Cc:	Cochran, Norris (HHS/ASFR); Coughlin, Janis (HHS/ASFR); Pollock, Rachel (HHS/ASFR); Klimczak, Kate (HHS/ASFR)
Subject:	REMINDER: For review by Monday (5/8) 10am - Secretary's FY18 Budget Briefing Papers
Attachments:	Batch 1 SBB for Counselor Review.docx; Batch 2 SBB for Counselor Review.docx

Reminder: If you haven't already, please send any comments on the attached batches of Secretary Budget Briefing papers as soon as possible. Thank you!

From: Klimczak, Kate (HHS/ASFR)
Sent: Thursday, May 04, 2017 3:44 PM
To: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Cochran, Norris (HHS/ASFR); Coughlin, Janis (HHS/ASFR); Pollock, Rachel (HHS/ASFR); Klimczak, Kate (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: For review by Monday (5/8) 10am - Secretary's FY18 Budget Briefing Papers: Batch 2

All,

Thank you again for taking the time to review the Secretary's FY18 Budget briefing papers. As promised, attached please find the second batch of FY18 budget briefing papers. For your awareness, there are seven papers in this batch. I have also reattached the first batch of papers in this email for your convenience.

As a reminder, please review and send any comments to Kate Klimczak (kate.klimczak@hhs.gov) by 10am next Monday, May 8th. ASFR will incorporate all of your comments and produce a final briefing book before the FY18 Budget's scheduled release on May 22nd.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Kate

From: Klimczak, Kate (HHS/ASFR)
Sent: Monday, May 01, 2017 5:52 PM
To: Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Cochran, Norris (HHS/ASFR); Coughlin, Janis (HHS/ASFR); Pollock, Rachel (HHS/ASFR); Klimczak, Kate (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: For review by Monday (5/8) 10am - Secretary's FY18 Budget Briefing Papers

All,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

Attached are the first batch of SBB papers for your review. We plan to send a second batch tomorrow afternoon (you will see placeholders in the attached document). Please note, we have noted directly in the briefing papers if we are waiting for additional information or if material has been previously cleared.

Please review and send any comments to Kate Klimczak (kate.klimczak@hhs.gov) by 10am on Monday, May 8th. ASFR will incorporate all of your comments and produce a final SBB before the FY18 Budget's scheduled release on May 22nd.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you!
Kate

Kate Klimczak
Appropriations Liaison
ASFR | Office of Budget
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Kate.Klimczak@hhs.gov | 202-690-6293

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 9:34 AM
To: Klimczak, Kate (HHS/ASFR); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Cochran, Norris (HHS/ASFR); Coughlin, Janis (HHS/ASFR); Pollock, Rachel (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: RE: For review by Monday (5/8) 10am - Secretary's FY18 Budget Briefing Papers
Attachments: Batch 1 SBB for Counselor Review_mw.docx

Attached are my comments and edits to Batch 1. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Thank you,
Maggie

From: Klimczak, Kate (HHS/ASFR)
Sent: Monday, May 01, 2017 5:52 PM
To: Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Cochran, Norris (HHS/ASFR); Coughlin, Janis (HHS/ASFR); Pollock, Rachel (HHS/ASFR); Klimczak, Kate (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: For review by Monday (5/8) 10am - Secretary's FY18 Budget Briefing Papers

All,

(b)(5)

Attached are the first batch of SBB papers for your review. We plan to send a second batch tomorrow afternoon (you will see placeholders in the attached document). Please note, we have noted directly in the briefing papers if we are waiting for additional information or if material has been previously cleared.

Please review and send any comments to Kate Klimczak (kate.klimczak@hhs.gov) by 10am on Monday, May 8th. ASFR will incorporate all of your comments and produce a final SBB before the FY18 Budget's scheduled release on May 22nd.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you!
Kate

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Kate Klimczak
Appropriations Liaison
ASFR | Office of Budget
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Kate.Klimczak@hhs.gov | 202-690-6293

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Klimczak, Kate (HHS/ASFR)
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 10:53 AM
To: Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Horn, Wade (HHS/IOS) (CTR); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS); Street, Amanda (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Cochran, Norris (HHS/ASFR); Coughlin, Janis (HHS/ASFR); Pollock, Rachel (HHS/ASFR); Klimczak, Kate (HHS/ASFR)
Subject: For review: Secretary Price hearing prep papers and draft testimony - Due TODAY at 3pm
Attachments: House LHHS Hearing Prep Papers3.21.17.docx; 20170321 House LHHS FY18 TEP Written Testimony _ For Policy Team Review.....docx

Importance: High

Good morning—

As you know, Secretary Price is scheduled to testify before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor-HHS on Wednesday, March 29 at 10:00am. The topic for this hearing is the Department's FY 2018 Budget request. We have two hearing related documents for your review:

1. Written testimony— (b)(5)
   (b)(5)
2. Briefing papers— (b)(5)
   (b)(5)

Please note: shortly I will be sending out calendar invitations for hearing prep sessions with the Secretary later this week and early next week.

Thank you! Please let us know if you have any questions.

Kate Klimczak
Appropriations Liaison
ASFR | Office of Budget
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Kate.Klimczak@hhs.gov | 202-690-6293

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: OS HHSPress (HHS/ASPA)
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2017 4:38 PM
To: OS - ASPA - Clearance; OS - ASPA - Health Care Clearance; OS - ASPA - Human Services Clearance; OS - ASPA - Public Health Clearance
Cc: Formoso, Paula (HHS/ASPA); Fontenot, Monique (OS/ASPA)
Subject: Clearance_1096: ASPA - Religious Freedom Contraceptive IFR
Attachments: DRAFT FACT SHEET_Religious Exemptions and Accommodations for Coverage of Certain Preventive Services .docx

Importance: High

EXPEDITED CLEARANCE

All: For your review and input.

Subject/Description: Religious Freedom Contraceptive IFR Fact Sheet

On October 6, 2017, the Departments of Health and Human Services, Treasury, and Labor (the Departments) announced two companion interim final rules that provide conscience protections to Americans who have a religious or moral objection to paying for health insurance that covers contraceptive/abortifacient services.

Agency/Office: ASPA

COMMs Materials for Rollout:

- Fact Sheet

Deadline for comments: **12:00PM, Wednesday October 11, 2017**

Planned release date/driving event: Wednesday, October 11, 2017

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Daniels, Carla (HHS/ASPA)
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2017 5:16 PM
To: ASPA Strategic Planning
Subject: ASPA Human Services Calendar for Thursday, September 14, 2017

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	TBD

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

Carla L. Daniels
Public Affairs Specialist
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
OS/ASPA
Office: 202-690-4595
Cell: (b)(6)
www.hhs.gov/news

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: OS HHSPress (HHS/ASPA)
Sent: Thursday, September 07, 2017 5:24 PM
To: OS - ASPA - Clearance; OS - ASPA - Public Health Clearance; OS - ASPA - Health Care Clearance; OS - ASPA - Human Services Clearance
Cc: Broido, Tara (HHS/OASH); Gianelli, Diane M (OASH); Kotwicki, Lauren (HHS/OASH); Migliaccio, Kate (HHS/OASH); Nseir, Alexandra (HHS/OASH) (CTR); Vafiades, Mark (HHS/OASH)
Subject: CLEARANCE_0921: OASH "Addressing Boys' and Men's Mental Health"
Attachments: CLEARANCE - Addressing Boys and Mens Mental Health_OASH Region 5.docx

Importance: High

Agency/Office: OASH

Headline: *Addressing Boys' and Men's Mental Health*

Material: Draft article

Deadline for comments: Before 1 p.m. Monday, Sept. 11

Planned publish date: Monday, Oct. 2 (Deadline for final product to go to magazine is September 13)

Driver: For Chicago Medicine (the magazine of the Chicago Medical Society) asked HHS Region 5 for an article on boys' and men's mental health

Best,

Mike Robinson
Strategic Planning, ASPA

202-690-6885 –desk
(b)(5) –mobile

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Daniels, Carla (HHS/ASPA)
Sent: Thursday, September 07, 2017 4:54 PM
To: ASPA Strategic Planning
Subject: ASPA Human Services Calendar for Thursday, September 7, 2017

(b)(5)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

Carla L. Daniels
Public Affairs Specialist
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
OS/ASPA
Office: 202-690-4595
Cell: (b)(6)
www.hhs.gov/news

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: For OS announcements to all of HHS <HHS-NEWS-ALL@LIST.NIH.GOV> on behalf of Price, Thomas (HHS/OS) <Thomas.Price@HHS.GOV>
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2017 3:45 PM
To: HHS-NEWS-ALL@LIST.NIH.GOV
Subject: Week in Review

Dear Team –

It was another eventful and productive week at the Department of Health and Human Services.

Thank you to all OpDiv and StaffDiv staff who were involved over the weekend coordinating through ASPR and the Secretary's Operations Center with respect to preparing for and responding to Friday's cyberattack, and especially with respect to making sure all of our systems, servers, and end-user devices were appropriately patched. Great work.

This week marks Women's Health Week, which began with Mother's Day yesterday. Advancing women's health and wellness is a top priority for President Trump and our Department. We join the President in our commitment to work to ensure that all women in America have access to critical support services and high quality, affordable healthcare.

As you know, another one of my top priorities is to address the opioid crisis in America. This past week, we kicked off our national opioid listening tour by visiting Michigan, West Virginia, Maine, and New Hampshire to hear from state and local policymakers, advocates, first responders, recovery advocates, treatment and prevention specialists, survivors, affected family members, and many more. Our purpose was to learn how the federal government can best support their local initiatives to combat the opioid crisis. These states have done good work, and, together, we can and will do more to advance the fight to end this epidemic.

We are publishing a series of blog posts about these listening sessions, highlighting stories from the front lines of the opioid crisis. These stories are powerful, sobering, and tragic; but they must be told. I'm grateful for all those who participated last week and who are working tirelessly to help those struggling with opioid dependence. They are a beacon of hope, and the Department is committed to helping them win the fight against opioid addiction. Click here to read our first blog post, "Slipping Through the Cracks: Stories from the Front Lines of the Opioid Crisis."

Secretary Price meeting with first responders in West Virginia. Photo Courtesy of HHS.

In observance of National Physical Fitness and Sports Month, we join the President's Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition to encourage everyone to "Move in May." Join the conversation on social media using #MoveinMay and click here for motivation and ideas for how to stay active.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Another May observance is National Food Allergy Month. To help Americans avoid the health risks posed by food allergens, FDA enforces the Food Allergen Labeling and Consumer Protection Act of 2004. FDA has identified eight major food allergens to be aware of: milk, eggs, fish, crustacean shellfish, tree nuts, peanuts, wheat, and soybeans. Learn about the major allergens listed on food labels and how to protect yourself and your family.

Here are a few, additional recent highlights from across the Department:

On Monday, Margaret Honein, chief of CDC's Birth Defects Branch and co-lead of the Pregnancy and Birth Defects Task Force for CDC's Zika response, authored a powerful blog about the uncertain future that lies ahead for babies born with serious Zika-related birth defects and the heartbreak and challenges that their families face. The posting on hhs.gov provides information on how pregnant women can protect themselves to avoid infection and how we also need to follow the health of babies who may have been infected.

On Tuesday, Dr. Scott Gottlieb was confirmed as FDA Commissioner. As stated in Tuesday's press release: "We are excited to partner with Dr. Gottlieb to protect and promote the health of the American people. Dr. Gottlieb brings considerable experience to the FDA. His background will be crucial for keeping the FDA as the gold standard for safe treatments while advancing new, innovative solutions to the many public health challenges our nation faces. I am confident Dr. Gottlieb will make decisions that reduce regulatory burdens while protecting public health. Congratulations to Dr. Gottlieb and his family."

Secretary Price swearing in Dr. Gottlieb as FDA Commissioner on Thursday, May 11, 2017. Photo Courtesy of HHS.

Just a reminder that as it is our duty to serve the public, anyone suspecting fraud, waste, or abuse is encouraged to report it. Please direct complaints related to whistleblowing to the HHS OIG Hotline (1-800-447-8477) or the Office of Special Counsel Hotline (1-800-572-2249).

As we look toward the summer and for our fellow baseball fans, mark your calendars for Wednesday, August 9, to join us at HHS's annual celebration of camaraderie and baseball with the Washington Nationals. We hope you'll join us for a night full of fun activities for all HHS employees! Learn more at nationals.com/HHS.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

It's a pleasure to serve with and learn from each of you. We appreciate your talents and the enthusiasm you bring to your work. You're changing lives every day.

Thank you.

Thomas E. Price, M.D.
Secretary of Health and Human Services

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Brennan, Patrick (OS/ASPA)
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2017 12:05 PM
To: Leggitt, Lance (HHS/IOS); Skrzycki, Kristin (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Lenihan, Keagan (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Flick, Heather (OS/OGC); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Lapinski, Mary-Sumpter (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Lloyd, Matt (OS/ASPA); Murphy, Ryan (OS/ASPA); Hall, Bill (HHS/ASPA); Bult, Nathan (OS/ASPA); Arbes, Sarah (HHS/ASL); Morse, Sara (HHS/ASL)
Subject: FOR REVIEW: Secretary quote re Ventures Fund by 4 PM today
Attachments: Ventures Press Release Final_ES.docx

Hi all,

(b)(5)

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns by 4 PM today.

- Patrick

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: For OS announcements to all of HHS <HHS-NEWS-ALL@LIST.NIH.GOV> on behalf of Price, Thomas (HHS/OS) <Thomas.Price@HHS.GOV>
Sent: Monday, May 01, 2017 4:09 PM
To: HHS-NEWS-ALL@LIST.NIH.GOV
Subject: Week in Review

Dear Team –

This past week marked the first 100 days of the Trump Administration. From taking quick steps to begin to stabilize the health insurance market and give states more opportunities to make Medicaid work for their unique populations, to unleashing innovation for patients and addressing the opioids crisis, HHS has done much to improve the health and well-being of Americans. It is your specific contributions and diligent service that make HHS a department of great service and positive impact.

In recognition of Autism Awareness Month, we shared a blog post to honor our fellow Americans living with autism for the joy they bring to our lives and their incomparable contributions to our society. It's a privilege to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the talented and hardworking individuals here at HHS who are working daily to enhance the quality of life and maximize health and social outcomes for Americans with autism. We will continue to work with President Trump, Congress, and the health care community to improve treatments and ensure more coordinated care for Americans living on the autism spectrum.

Here are a few recent highlights from across the Department:

Last week, CNN aired a recent interview I had with Chief Medical Correspondent, Dr. Sanjay Gupta. It included a look at the experiences that led me to pursue medicine and dedicate my life's work to the service of others, both in medicine and in public service. The doctor-patient relationship modeled for me by my grandfather, also a physician, is one I'll never forget and will work to uphold as I serve alongside all of you on behalf of the American people.

On Monday, CDC, in partnership with the March of Dimes, launched a new website to connect pregnant women and families affected by Zika to physicians across ten states who are able to provide specialty care. I commend CDC and the many individuals who support this critical, innovative project.

On Tuesday, we recognized Earth Day at HHS by hosting an expo in the Great Hall to promote healthy and sustainable practices. This year's theme, "Walking Green, Explore Everyday Strides for Sustainable Living," promotes easy, daily practices that each of us can take to live better, longer and healthier lives while supporting the environment.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

In a continuing effort to protect consumers, the FDA on Tuesday posted warning letters addressed to 14 U.S.-based companies illegally selling more than 65 products that fraudulently claim to prevent, diagnose, treat or cure cancer. The products are marketed and sold without FDA approval, most commonly on websites and social media platforms. The FDA continues to monitor and take action against companies promoting and selling unproven treatments in an effort to minimize the potential dangers and to educate consumers about the risks.

Also on Tuesday, it was a joy to join Fox Business's Maria Bartiromo to discuss our ongoing work to enact patient-centered solutions that will provide access to quality, affordable health care for all Americans, as well as our efforts to tackle the opioid crisis. HHS has had some very significant accomplishments during the first 100 days of the Trump Administration on this front, including awarding $485 million in grants to states and territories to expand access to treatment and fight opioid addiction. It's an honor to share the great work of the Department.

On Wednesday, we traveled to Alkermes, a company in Wilmington, Ohio, that produces a drug the FDA approved to treat opioid addiction just a few years ago. Opioid addiction is one of the most critical public health crises facing our nation, and confronting it is one of my top priorities as secretary. Speaking of 100 days, President Trump just this month assembled a commission that includes the leaders of key cabinet departments to look at what the government is doing about this epidemic right now and what it ought to be doing. HHS is doing a wonderful job to specifically support innovation that will help us to provide hope and healing and fight the opioids crisis.

Also on Wednesday, the Humphrey Building cafeteria served as a drop off site as part of Federal Employee Prescription Drug Take Back Day. This national observance allows federal employees a convenient and confidential opportunity to dispose of unwanted, unused, or expired prescription drugs, including opioid painkillers, from their homes. Thank you to the many individuals who helped to coordinate this effort, as well as those who dropped off prescription drugs.

On Thursday, it was a pleasure to speak at the Health Datapalooza in Washington about the valuable role that health IT plays in our work to improve patient care. The kinds of innovations that entrepreneurs, researchers, and other HHS officials talked about at Datapalooza hold great promise for improving patient care. But if we want to really live up to that promise, implementation of new technologies must be done in a way that does not increase burdens on doctors and other health care providers.

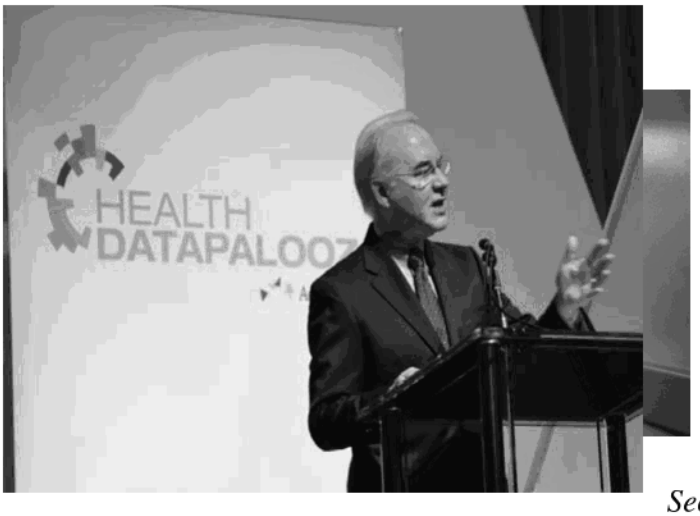
Thank you again for the commitment and enthusiasm you bring to HHS. It's a joy and honor to lead this team.

Thomas E. Price, M.D.
Secretary of Health and Human Services

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

HHS team members touring the Earth Day Expo in the HHS Humphrey Building Great Hall. Photos Courtesy of HHS.

Secretary Price met with employees and leaders at Alkermes in Wilmington, Ohio. Photos Courtesy of HHS.



Secretary Price attends Health Datapalooza in Washington. Photos Courtesy of HHS.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Murphy, Ryan (OS/ASPA)
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2017 11:17 AM
To: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Cc: Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS)
Subject: Re: ASPA Public Health Communications Calendar: Wednesday, March 29, 2017

(b)(5)

On: 30 March 2017 11:14, "Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)" <Margaret.Wynne@hhs.gov> wrote:
Thanks, Ryan.

(b)(5)

Maggie

From: Murphy, Ryan (OS/ASPA)
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2017 10:50 AM
To: Agnew, Ann (HHS/IOS); Schaefer, Nina (HHS/IOS); Brooks, John (HHS/IOS); Stannard, Paula (HHS/IOS); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Subject: FW: ASPA Public Health Communications Calendar: Wednesday, March 29, 2017

Here's an example of an ASPA comms calendar that is sent around regularly. This one is from the public health folks so doesn't cover everything.

From: Robinson, Michael J (HHS/ASPA)
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 7:35 PM
To: Robinson, Michael J (HHS/ASPA)
Subject: ASPA Public Health Communications Calendar: Wednesday, March 29, 2017

Hi!

The ASPA Public Health Communications Calendar is below.

Have an inspired night!

Observances / ICYMI	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Internal TBD

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Page 101 of 405

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of the Freedom of Information Act

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Page 102 of 405

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information Act

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b)(5)

V/r,

Mike Robinson
Strategic Planning, ASPA

202-690-6885 –desk
(b)(6) –mobile

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 8:41 AM
To: Katy Talento (Kathryn(Talento (b)(6)
Subject: FW: Immediate Review Request WHA talking points: 13.7 & 16.3 (due COB Friday)
Attachments: 13.7 Migrant health.pdf; 13.7 Migrant health position paper_rev.docx; 16.3 Global Strategy for Women Children Adolescents_rev.docx; 16.3 Women children adolescent strategy.pdf

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From: Wood, Rachel (HHS/OS/OGA)
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 7:23 AM
To: Grigsby, Garrett (HHS/OS/OGA); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Zebley, Kyle (HHS/OS/OGA); Wolfe, Mitchell (HHS/OS/OGA); Roth, Mary (FDA/OC); Campbell Jr, Russell C (FDA/OC); Hashemi, Sema (FDA/OC); CGH/OD Policy Office Inbox (CDC.GOV); Stanojevich, Joel G. (CDC/CGH/OD); Kaladi, Ramu (CDC/CGH/OD); Herrfurth, George (NIH/FIC) [E]; Stevens, Lisa (NIH/NCI) [E]; Kostelecky, Brenda (NIH/NCI) [E]; Handley, Gray (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Trimble, Ted (NIH/NCI) [E]; Rosa, William (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Dominique, Joyelle (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Balbus, John (NIH/NIEHS) [E]; Novotny, Thomas (HHS/OASH); Prasad, Joshua (HHS/OASH); Moore, Jonathan (HHS/ASPE); Demby, Austin (HRSA); Nesseler, Kerry (HRSA); Darr, Charles (HRSA); Mitchell, Winnie (SAMHSA/OPPI); Dicocco, Casey (ACL/AOA); Crockett, Cailin (ACL/AoA); Hitt, Linda (ACF); Cottingham, Kenneth (ACF); Guterbock, Michael (OS/ASPR/OPP); Marinissen, Maria (OS/ASPR/OPP); Barna, Lauren (OS/ASPR/OPP); Woodis, Wilbur (IHS/HQ); Holland, Howard (AHRQ/OC); Andrews, Danielle Y. (CMS/CCSQ); Blackwood, Ann (OS); Kopolow mccall, Melissa (STATE.GOV); aathwin@usaid.gov; BrownGI@state.gov; mpaykar@usaid.gov; Leslie_Yang (b)(6) Deborah (b) Lashley-Johnson (b)(6) Conor (b) Harrington (b)(6) Julie (b) Callahan (b)(6) John (Pacheco (b)(6) Charisma.Hampton@USPTO.GOV; Michael.Smith@USPTO.GOV; Karin.Ferriter@USPTO.GOV; Minna.Moezie@USPTO.GOV; Soma.Saha@uspto.gov; Summer.Kostelnik@USPTO.GOV; Wendell.Dennis@fas.usda.gov; Joanna.Brown@fas.usda.gov; Karina.Ramos@fas.usda.gov; Caitrin.Martin@fas.usda.gov; PetrilloJE@state.gov; Pandemic-Response-OES@state.gov; Lobel, Hannah (STATE.GOV); megan.crowe@trade.gov; Stevan.Mitchell@trade.gov; john.c.daniel2.civ@mail.mil; Dulaney, Megan (MIL); Finman.Hodayah@epa.gov; MacDonald.Ted@epa.gov; Courtney.Perez@ttb.gov; Karen.Welch@ttb.gov; Hillary_H_Carter@nsc.eop.gov; Bleimund, Emily (OS/OGA); Danelski, Ann (HHS/OGA); Jones, Christopher (HHS/ASPE); Sullivan, Casey (HHS/ASPE); Green, Hugh (CDC/OD/OCS); Mamacos, Peter (HHS/OGA); Levine, Maya (OS/OGA); Lamourelle, Gabrielle (HHS/OS/OGA); Lim, Matt (STATE.GOV); Tracy Carson; Wood, Rachel (HHS/OS/OGA); Chao, Ann (NIH/NCI) [E]; Danelski, Ann (HHS/OGA); ProdromouMK@state.gov; Kim, Curi (ACF); wsteiger@usaid.gov
Subject: Immediate Review Request WHA talking points: 13.7 & 16.3 (due COB Friday)

Dear all,

Attached for immediate interagency review are revised U.S. talking points on the following two WHA agenda items:

(b)(5)

These items may be discussed on Saturday so **please send your edits to me by COB today, Friday 5/26.**

Many thanks,
Rachel

Rachel.wood@hhs.gov
International cell: (b)(6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Bulletin Intelligence <HHS@BulletinIntelligence.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 7:36 AM
To: HHS@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: HHS News Briefing for Monday, March 13, 2017
Attachments: HHSNewsBriefing170313.doc

HHS NEWS BRIEFING

This document and searchable archives are available at hhs.bulletinintelligence.com.

TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2017 7:30 AM EDT

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+ Historian: Andrew Jackson's Legacy, Good And Bad, A Reminder That "History Is Complicated."
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Leading the News:

PRICE, OTHER GOP LEADERS INSIST AHCA WILL NOT REDUCE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH HEALTH COVERAGE. This morning, several television, print and online news outlets are reporting that on Sunday, Trump Administration officials touted the GOP's Affordable Care Act Replacement plan, and insisted it would not lead to less coverage. Overall, media coverage was somewhat negative, pointing out that critics are challenging those comments, and warning that the plan would result in millions of consumers losing healthcare coverage.

The Washington Post (3/12, Bump, 11.43M) reports various analysts are predicting that between six million and 15 million people may lose healthcare coverage if the GOP's replacement plan for the Affordable Care Act becomes law. In contrast, Republican leaders contend the number is actually zero, or negative, meaning that some consumers may gain coverage due to the American Health Care Act. For instance, on NBC's "Meet the Press," HHS Secretary Tom Price described how

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the plan will be successful. Price stated, “Success, it’s important to look at that. ... It means more people covered than are covered right now at an average cost that is less. I believe that we can firmly do that with the plan that we’ve laid out there.”

USA Today (3/12, Wolf, 5.28M) reports that on Sunday, Trump Administration officials staunchly defended the AHCA, “insisting that it will increase coverage, reduce costs and leave no one worse off.” The article mentions Price’s comments, and points out that on ABC’s “This Week,” Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney said “the ‘truly indigent’ will not lose out, as liberal interest groups charge.” He also asserted that Medicaid will “be even better.” But, these “rosy forecasts soon will come up against the Congressional Budget Office’s estimate of the Republican bill’s impact,” perhaps as soon as Monday, the piece notes.

The Wall Street Journal (3/12, Harrison, Harris, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) also quotes Price as saying, “We strongly support the plan. ... I firmly believe nobody will be worse off financially in the process that we’re going through.”

But, the Los Angeles Times (3/12, King, 4.52M) reports an analysis it conducted “showed that the proposal would most hurt Trump’s own backers – lower-income, older voters in conservative, rural parts of the country.” The paper adds that on Sunday, GOP leaders “sought to dilute the impact of the coming budget office forecast, saying it had been off base in the past in predicting the numbers of people who would be able to obtain insurance.”

On NBC’s Meet the Press (3/12, 5.27M), Price was asked if “the Republican plan which leaves much of the Obamacare architecture in place is an acknowledgment that the healthcare system can’t be run by the free market alone.” Price said, “No, not at all. Obviously, this is a transition that we’re going through, but the important thing is to appreciate that the market as it is right now is failing. Obamacare, the ACA, has failed.” He added that consumers’ premiums and deductibles continue to rise, and while some of them have insurance cards, “they don’t have any coverage.”

Later on NBC’s Meet the Press (3/12, 5.27M), Price was also asked if the AHCA “is Obamacare-lite,” if the GOP is “essentially accepting the architecture, but just trying to remodel the building.” He responded, “No. Absolutely not. In fact, this is a little puzzling because independents and conservatives for decades have said shouldn’t we equalize the tax treatment of the purchase of health coverage for folks who get it through their employer and folks who aren’t able to get it through their employer, and that’s what the tax credits do.”

Bloomberg Politics (3/12, Edney, Tracer, 201K) reports that Price also said, “If you create a system that’s accessible for everybody and you provide the financial feasibility for everybody to get coverage, then we have a great opportunity to increase coverage over where we are right now. ... Nobody will be worse off financially in the process that we’re going through, understanding that they’ll have choices.”

Also covering the story are CNN (3/12, Watkins, 29.79M), NBC’s Meet the Press (3/12, Koenig, 5.27M), MSNBC’s Morning Joe (3/10, 270K), the AP (3/12), Politico (3/12, McCaskill, 2.46M), The Hill (3/12, Savransky, 1.25M), the Huffington Post (3/12, Terkel, 237K), another Huffington Post (3/10, Young, 237K) article, New Orleans Times-Picayune (3/12, Sayre, 656K), New York Post (3/12, Moore, 3.82M), Washington Examiner (3/10, Kasperowicz, 400K), The Hill (3/12, Savransky, 1.25M), and another Washington Examiner (3/12, Giaritelli, 400K) article.

TRUMP, PENCE TOUT GOP’S ACA REPLACEMENT PLAN. During the weekend, President Trump continued to express his support for the American Health Care Act as Vice President Pence traveled to Louisville, Kentucky to pitch the bill recently unveiled by House Republican leaders. Media coverage of their efforts, which includes four minutes combined on the network newscasts, was mostly neutral, although several articles examined GOP opposition to the healthcare reform proposal.

ABC World News Tonight (3/11, story 3, 0:50, Jarvis, 14.63M) reported that on Saturday, Vice President Mike Pence “went to Kentucky to sell” Republicans’ plan to repeal and replace that Affordable Care Act, “giving a frank assessment of its challenges.” Pence said, “Folks, let me be clear, this is going to be a battle in Washington, DC.”

The CBS Weekend News (3/11, story 2, 1:25, Morgan) reported that Pence stated, “The truth is, Kentucky is a textbook example of Obamacare’s failures.” CBS added that on Friday, President Trump “voiced confidence in the bill when he met with key Republican committee members.” He said “I think it’s something that’s just going to happen very shortly.”

NBC Nightly News (3/11, story 3, 1:45, Diaz-Balart, 16.61M) reported that Pence and other GOP leaders touted the plan over the weekend. He said, “Obamacare has failed the people of Kentucky, it’s failed the people of America, and Obamacare must go.” Pence added, “We need every Republican in Congress and we’re counting on Kentucky.”

The Washington Post (3/11, Parker, 11.43M) reported that “Pence was in full charm mode” during the visit to Kentucky

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where he sought "to sell the Republican health-care plan in a state that has a complex relationship with former president Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act."

The Washington Times (3/12, Boyer, 272K) reports that the President "Trump is waging a charm offensive unseen in Washington in years, an effort that is galling Democrats and beguiling some Republicans who opposed his candidacy." For instance, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) stated, "I find the charm offensive offensive. I really do." She added, "If he's in a deal-making [mood], does that mean bowling at the White House in return for support for legislation? I think he's making fools of his own people."

The AP (3/11, Thomas) reported that "Pence appealed for total GOP congressional support for a White House-backed health overhaul." He told attendees that "Trump would lean on House Republicans – including two Kentucky lawmakers in the audience, Reps. Andy Barr and Brett Guthrie – to vote to replace former President Barack Obama's law."

Fox News (3/11, Weber, 11.07M) reported that Pence also said, "The ObamaCare nightmare is about to end." He added, "Here are the heartbreaking facts: Today, Americans are paying $3,000 more a year on average for health insurance since the day ObamaCare was signed into law."

The Hill (3/10, Greenwood, 1.25M) reported that Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin (R) said on Friday that he is "not impressed" with the GOP's plan to replace the ACA. He was quoted as saying that Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) "is not impressed with what has currently been offered. ... Truth be told, I'm not either. So I'm with him."

In a separate article, the Washington Post (3/10, A1, Sullivan, Snell, Debonis, 11.43M) reported on its front page that on Friday, House GOP lawmakers "defended their effort to pass a sweeping overhaul of the Affordable Care Act, as they prepared to meet President Trump at the White House amid mounting criticism from conservatives urging them to go further." During a news conference, those responsible for "shepherding the bill through the lower chamber outlined their next steps in repealing and replacing key parts of the ACA." Their efforts have "come under attack from both ends of the political spectrum."

USA Today (3/10, Jackson, 5.28M) reported that during the meeting at the White House, Trump told attendees that the ACA "was meant to explode" this year "because Obama won't be here." He was quoted as saying, "We are going to get it done."

The New York Times (3/10, Thrush, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reported that the event "was billed as a strategy session in the Roosevelt Room with Vice President Mike Pence; Representative Diane Black, Republican of Tennessee, the Budget Committee chairwoman; Representative Kevin Brady, Republican of Texas, the Ways and Means Committee chairman; Representative Greg Walden, Republican of Washington, the Energy and Commerce Committee chairman; and several other key Republicans."

The Hill (3/10, Vladimirov, 1.25M) quoted Trump as saying, "Through seven long years of botched rollouts, soaring costs, canceled plans, and bureaucratic mandates, Americans have called out for relief. And relief is what we are determined to give them." He also said, "I want every American to know that action on Obamacare is an urgent necessity."

Meanwhile, the Wall Street Journal (3/10, A1, Radnofsky, Bender, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reported on its front page that Trump's presidency will likely be defined by his ability to garner enough support to repeal and replace the ACA. Yet, to date, Trump has allowed others to take the lead in this effort.

Also covering the story were CNN (3/11, Merica, 29.79M), CBS News (3/10, 4.4M), Bloomberg Politics (3/11, Pettypiece, 201K), the Lexington (KY) Herald-Leader (3/11, Desrochers, 306K), the Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (3/11, Yetter, 328K), The Hill (3/11, Greenwood, 1.25M), The Hill (3/10, Lejeune, 1.25M), The Hill (3/11, Smilowitz, 1.25M), the New York Post (3/10, Fredericks, 3.82M), Politico (3/10, McCaskill, 2.46M), another Politico (3/11, Morin, 2.46M) article, the New York Daily News (3/10, Joseph, 4.45M), and the Washington Examiner (3/10, Westwood, 400K).

The Secretary in the News:

CNN TO HOST TOWN HALL ON AHCA WITH PRICE. On its website, CNN (3/10, Diaz, 29.79M) reported that it will "host a town hall with Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price on Wednesday, March 15." The event "will focus on the GOP's health care bill, will be moderated by CNN's Wolf Blitzer and Dana Bash."

GOP OFFICIALS "DISMISS" CBO ESTIMATES PRIOR TO THEIR RELEASE. The AP (3/12, Yen) reports that on Sunday, GOP lawmakers "dismissed an upcoming Congressional Budget Office analysis widely expected to conclude that more Americans will be uninsured under a proposal to dismantle Barack Obama's health law, despite President Donald

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Trump's promise of universal coverage." Meanwhile, during interviews on Sunday, House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) "and Trump administration officials vowed to move forward on their proposed 'repeal and replace' plan regardless of the CBO findings." They insisted "they can work past GOP disagreements," and characterized "the issue as one of 'choice' in which consumers are freed of a government mandate to buy insurance." Meanwhile, HHS Secretary Tom Price "said he 'firmly' believed that 'nobody will be worse off financially' under the health care overhaul."

The Washington Times (3/12, Wolfgang, 272K) and Reuters (3/12, Lawder) also cover the story.

SEBELIUS CRITICIZES AHCA. Asked on NBC's Meet the Press (3/12, Todd, 157K) if she believes Republicans have kept the "architecture of Obamacare" in place, former HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said, "I'm not sure what the goal is. We were pretty clear in the Obama Administration about what the goal was: insure everybody. Get everybody into the healthcare system. We knew we had to change insurance rules to do that. ... But I'm not sure what the goal is here. So they have kept some pieces. The preexisting condition, they have kept some subsidies, but in sort of the wrong place." She added, "This does serious damage to the whole marketplace theory and companies will flee given the uncertainty and the likelihood that this quickly becomes a high-risk pool."

The Hill (3/12, Savransky, 1.25M) reports Sebelius also said there are indications "anywhere from 2 [million] to 15 million people will lose coverage in this bill, and they are going after Medicaid expansion, which is a lot of lower-income working adults who will also lose that coverage."

Zika Virus News:

BRAZILIAN FAMILIES STRUGGLE WITH "DISASTROUS EFFECTS" OF ZIKA VIRUS. In a more than 4,000-word front-page article, the New York Times (3/11, Belluck, Franco, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reported "some of the public alarm over" the Zika virus "is receding," but "the disastrous effects" of the virus "are only deepening" for families of babies born with Zika-related birth defects. To highlight the long-lasting impact of the Zika virus on these families, the Times profiled "a couple persevering with ingenuity and grit despite their baby's frequent medical setbacks; a girl who became a Zika mother at 14, forcing her to mature well beyond her years; [and] newlyweds whose relationship could not withstand the pressures of caring for their disabled baby."

SANDERS: ARMY SHOULD NOT GIVE SANOFI EXCLUSIVE LICENSE FOR ZIKA VACCINE. In a New York Times (3/10, Sanders, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) op-ed, Sen. Bernie Sanders urged President Trump to block the Army from "making a bad deal, giving a French pharmaceutical company, Sanofi, the exclusive license to patents and thus a monopoly to sell a vaccine against the Zika virus." Sanders asked the President to "guarantee that Sanofi will not turn around and gouge American consumers, Medicare and Medicaid or our military when it sells the vaccine," but he warns Sanofi will likely "engage in exactly this predatory behavior – because it's happened before."

The Hill (3/11, Seipel, 1.25M) reported in its Briefing Room blog that Chelsea Clinton took to twitter to praise Sanders for the op-ed. Clinton tweeted about the "need to ensure equitable access to the" Zika vaccine, as well as all other vaccines.

The Hill (3/11, Smilowitz, 1.25M) also provided coverage of Sanders' op-ed.

CONNECTICUT LAUNCHES ZIKA PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN FOR TRAVELERS. The AP (3/11) reported Connecticut is introducing a new Zika awareness campaign directed at people traveling in the spring to warn them about the risk of contracting the virus if they travel to certain destinations abroad. According to the AP, "Public Health Commissioner Raul Pino says every case of Zika in Connecticut so far has been travel-related. As of this week, 111 Connecticut patients, including six pregnant women, have tested positive for the virus."

HHS in the News:

TRUMP EXPECTED TO NOMINATE GOTTLIEB AS FDA COMMISSIONER. The Washington Post (3/10, McGinley, Johnson, 11.43M) reported that President Trump is expected to nominate Scott Gottlieb, "a conservative physician and businessman with deep ties to the pharmaceutical industry," to be the next Food and Drug Administration commissioner. According to the Post, Gottilieb, if confirmed, "would bring a strong pro-industry, deregulatory approach" to the FDA, but "would preserve the agency's basic function: to ensure that drugs are proven to be safe and effective before they are allowed to be sold." The Post explains that Gottlieb is "a lymphoma survivor" and has "praised FDA's oncology division, which has sped up approvals under the leadership of Richard Pazdur."

The New York Times (3/10, Thomas, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reported that Gottlieb "served as a top official at the agency during the administration of President George W. Bush" and is seen as "more moderate" than Jim O'Neill, "an

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associate of the billionaire tech investor Peter Thiel," who was also under consideration. O'Neill "had supported bringing drugs to market even if it was not yet clear they worked." The pick "drew praise" from former FDA commissioner Mark McClellan, who said Gottlieb is "very well-qualified for the job and would make an excellent commissioner." Former FDA attorney John Taylor, a former colleague of Gottlieb, said he "does have a record of doing things that are for the benefit of the consumers."

The Wall Street Journal (3/10, Burton, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reported that Gottlieb could make substantial changes at the agency, as he has called for drug approval decisions to be made by a central committee with the FDA's most senior scientists, which some say could give the commissioner more direct authority over such decisions. Gottlieb has criticized FDA evidentiary requirements for drug and device approvals, saying there is "an increasingly unreasonable hunger for statistical certainty on the part of the FDA."

Politico (3/10, Karlin-Smith, 2.46M) reported that Gottlieb's "close ties with industry are likely to draw close Senate scrutiny" and characterizes Gottlieb as "a classic Washington insider who has occupied conservative turf in the health care debate for two decades."

STAT (3/10, Kaplan) reported that prior to his nomination, Gottlieb "told STAT that his first acts in office would focus on ensuring the safety of the blood supply and cracking down on unsafe foods, which he views as issues that deserve higher priority." STAT also expects Gottlieb to "ease off-label marketing restrictions" and "revamp the generic drug program to speed approval of complex generics."

Additional coverage was provided by: the Los Angeles Times (3/10, Petersen, 4.52M), Bloomberg Politics (3/10, 201K), the AP (3/10, Superville, Neergaard), Reuters (3/10, Clarke), Fierce Pharma (3/10, Saganowsky, 3K), Scientific American (3/10, Fine Maron, 1.88M), The Hill (3/10, Sullivan, 1.25M), ABC News (3/10, Faulders, 3.09M), CNN (3/10, Liptak, Marsh, 29.79M), Congressional Quarterly (3/10, Subscription Publication, 967), Nature (3/10, Ledford, 153K), NPR (3/10, Neel, 1.92M), Vox (3/10, Belluz, 1.15M), the Washington Times (3/10, Boyer, 272K), and the Washington Examiner (3/12, Giartelli, 400K).

Trump's Pick For FDA Chief Seen As "Establishment Candidate." STAT (3/10, Garde) reports that President Donald Trump's pick for FDA commissioner, Dr. Scott Gottlieb, is "the establishment candidate – and the biotech industry couldn't be more relieved." Gottlieb is considered "more closely aligned to the status quo" than some earlier, rumored FDA commissioner candidates, yet "he's by no means wedded to FDA dogma, advocating for faster drug approvals and relaxed rules on off-label marketing," STAT says, adding that "his version of FDA reform is far more palatable to industry than the upheaval advocated by his rivals." Gottlieb was formerly a deputy commissioner of the FDA.

STAT (3/11, Kaplan) also reports that Democrats largely "held their fire" over Gottlieb's nomination, in part "because they know Trump had flirted with far more radical choices," such as "a libertarian who once proposed replacing agency scrutiny of new medications with a 'Yelp for drugs.'"

WSJOURNAL PRAISES FDA NOMINEE GOTTLIEB. In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/12, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) praises FDA Commissioner-designate Scott Gottlieb as a fine choice for the difficult job, a pragmatist with a background at both the FDA and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The Journal says Gottlieb understands the problems of the FDA and has the mindset to tackle them.

FORMER CDC DIRECTOR: SODA TAXES SAVE LIVES. In a CNN (3/10, 29.79M) op-ed, former Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director and former Commissioner of the New York City Health Department Tom Frieden, MD, MPH argues that taxing sugary drinks is "one of the most effective strategies" for reducing soda consumption. He cites an analysis by Health Affairs that found Mexico's soda tax to be effective, and discusses beneficial public programs that soda tax funds help finance. He concludes, "governments that tax sugary drinks save lives, generate revenue and protect kids and adults."

CDC WARNING OF NATIONWIDE MUMPS OUTBREAKS. "Hundreds of cases of mumps have been reported across the country since the start of 2017, according to the Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention," USA Today (3/10, Bowerman, 5.28M) said, and "as of March 4, the CDC had received reports of 1,242 cases of mumps." The article adds that Ian Branam, a spokesman for the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the CDC, explained in an email that many of these "cases are from outbreaks continuing from 2016, when 5,311 cases were reported to the CDC, marking the highest number of mumps cases in a decade." He added, "Because outbreaks of mumps are unpredictable, we don't know if this level in mumps cases will continue for the remainder of 2017."

EDITORIAL: FDA APPROVAL PROCESS MUST BE EFFECTIVE, BUT SHOULD NOT SLOW DRUG DEVELOPMENT. In an editorial, Tulsa (OK) World (3/13, Writers, 348K) discusses "President Trump's proposal to shorten the approval

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process for new drugs under consideration by the US Food and Drug Administration." The World notes that "development of new drugs is expensive and time-consuming," and suggests that while drugs need to be safe, "the bureaucracy of making those assurances" should not slow the development of new drugs. Ultimately, the piece concludes, the FDA needs to work "as efficiently as possible to bring life-saving, life-improving developments to the public."

BIDEN PLEDGES TO WORK WITH TRUMP ADMINISTRATION ON CANCER RESEARCH. Reuters (3/12, Herskovitz) reports former Vice President Joe Biden said at the SXSW Summit on Sunday "that he would have liked to have been the US president who ended cancer." Biden discussed his "Cancer Moonshot" project, and "spoke of the need for prevention, research collaboration and big data to battle cancer." The Los Angeles Times (3/12, Yamato, 4.52M) reports Biden told attendees, "We need you to help us reach people who need to change their behavior and avoid cancer." The Hill (3/12, Firozi, 1.25M) reports he also referred to the Trump Administration indirectly, hoping it "will be able to focus on and be as committed and as enthusiastic as we were in the goal of ending cancer as we know it." He added, "I will do everything in my power to work with the new administration."

Also providing coverage were the Chicago Tribune (3/12, Graham, 2.54M), CNN Money (3/12, O'Brien, 3.59M), TIME (3/12, Park, 6.98M), and the NBC Nightly News (3/12, story 9, 2:05, Snow, 16.61M) broadcast.

NCI RESEARCHER SUGGESTS IMMUNOTHERAPY WILL SEE "DRAMATIC PROGRESS" IN COMING YEARS. CBS News (3/12, 4.4M) reports on immunotherapy, an alternative to "traditional" cancer treatments that engineers a patient's white blood cells to fight cancer. Dr. Steven Rosenberg of the National Cancer Institute, a pioneer in the treatment, says that "immunotherapy is still in its infancy." At this point, he explains, "I think we understand why the patients who are successfully treated experience tumor regression," adding that "we're going to see dramatic progress in the next few years to come." The piece also profiles Burak Guvensoyler, a cancer patient undergoing the treatment at the National Cancer Institute and has seen positive results.

NIAAA SENIOR SCIENTIFIC ADVISER DISCUSSES ALCOHOL RISKS. The Philadelphia Inquirer (3/10, Giordano, 586K) interviewed National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism senior scientific adviser Aaron White on the dangers of alcohol ahead of St. Patrick's Day this Friday. White says that "Alcohol puts the toxic in intoxication," adding that a hangover means "you've poisoned yourself." White provides tips to readers on how to prepare for drinking, including eating first; drinking nonalcoholic fluids; and avoiding mixing drugs and alcohol.

DETROIT RESEARCHERS RECEIVE $9 MILLION NCI GRANT TO STUDY CANCER IN AFRICAN-AMERICANS. The Detroit Free Press (3/11, Riley, 1.01M) reported the Karmanos Cancer Institute and the Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit received a five-year, $9 million grant from the National Cancer Institute "to examine why black people have a higher incidence of, and death from, cancer than other races." Dr. Joanne Elena a director of NCI's epidemiology and genomics research program, said that while there have been larger studies for cancer survivors of all races, "this is the largest study looking at a wide variety of variables for African-American survivors."

PETA FILES COMPLAINT WITH NIH OVER UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH ANIMAL TESTING. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (3/11, Wilson Fuoco, 493K) reported the University of Pittsburgh announced last week that "the care and treatment of animals in [university] research laboratories...is in full compliance with the Animal Welfare Act and U.S. Department of Agriculture regulations." The University was subject to "an unannounced USDA inspection" after PETA filed a complaint. The group "filed a complaint with the National Institutes of Health" in response last Thursday, saying the University still has "some very serious violations."

DRUG COMPANIES ARE REPURPOSING OLD DRUGS FOR REVENUE. The Boston Globe (3/12, Keshavan, 1.08M) reported that drug manufacturers are turning to repurposing older drugs to make money. The Globe explains, getting a new drug "to market can take decades and can cost hundreds of millions of dollars," while "finding a new use for an old drug is a whole lot cheaper." The piece profiles the Accelerating Drug Development and Repurposing Incubator, which analyzes "anonymous clinical and genetic data" to find new uses for drugs. National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences director Dr. Christopher Austin supports the practice, saying that "it's clear that Mother Nature is the original repurposer." He also seems to support higher prices for the treatments, asking "If you want to repurpose a generic drug, how are you going to do it with no profit margin?". He adds, "the NIH can't afford to throw $50 million, or $100 million, in cash at every one of these problems."

TRUMP BUDGET MAY CUT FUNDING TO NIH, OTHER PROGRAMS. Reuters (3/12, Cowan, Rampton) reports President Trump's budget proposal has opened a rift between Republicans that support cuts to domestic programs and those that worry it could "force lawmakers to choose between opposing the president or backing reductions in popular programs such as aid for disabled children and hot meals for the elderly." Among those in the latter group, Rep. Tom Cole of Oklahoma warns "his district could get hit by National Institutes of Health cuts, as could sewage treatment facilities funded by the EPA."

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NCBI EDITOR HOPES TO FIND MORE IMAGES OF FEMALE SCIENTISTS. Vox (3/11, Belluz, 1.15M) reported National Center for Biotechnology Information editor Hilda Bastian found that "finding photos of women scientists, particularly black female scientists like Price, is...difficult." Bastian was searching "for images of black female scientists" during black history month, and encountered several difficulties. She believes that "the next generation of women, looking for inspiration about what to study in college or what career path to pursue, deserve" better access to role models, and has written a guide "with the intention of crowdsourcing some of the digging."

DOCTORS WARN PAIN KILLER CRACK DOWN COULD HAVE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES. Politico (3/10, Allen, 2.46M) reported, "A group of prominent pain and addiction specialists are pushing back against the federal opioid crackdown by asking CMS to withdraw a notice that would make it extremely difficult for Medicare patients to get painkiller prescriptions above a certain strength." Politico writes, "More than 80 physicians...wrote to acting Medicare director Cynthia Tudor about the notice." The article explains, "There is no evidence that pain patients weaned off of opioids turn to heroin in large numbers, but it's possible that street drugs can become an option 'when their other drug of choice becomes unavailable,' and the issue needs more study, said Wilson Compton, deputy director of the National Institute of Drug Abuse." Surgeon General Vivek Murthy told Politico, "we have to do all these things without allowing the pain-control pendulum to swing to the other extreme, where patients for whom opioids are necessary and appropriate cannot obtain them."

WALSH: TRUMP ADMINISTRATION SHOULD INVEST IN UNIVERSAL FLU VACCINE. Bloomberg View (3/10, Walsh, 125K) columnist Brian Walsh said that last week, President Trump promised "to unleash a new era of drug development so grand that 'our children will grow up in a nation of miracles,'" but "his main strategy for doing so – slashing Food and Drug Administration regulations – won't solve one of the most pressing health challenges facing the country, and the world." Walsh urged Trump to provide funding for a universal influenza vaccine to assure national security. He added, "A universal flu vaccine that could last for years or longer and better protect against both seasonal and pandemic strains of influenza is potentially within our reach, said Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and the nation's preeminent disease expert." Walsh also pointed out that "Dr. Barney Graham, deputy director of vaccine research center at NIAID, has a vaccine candidate that has found success in animal trials."

Health Reform:

GOP LAWMAKERS "BRACING" FOR RELEASE OF CBO ESTIMATES ON AHCA. The AP (3/13, Yen) reports that GOP lawmakers working to repeal the Affordable Care Act are "bracing for a Congressional Budget Office analysis widely expected to conclude that fewer Americans will have health coverage under the proposal, despite President Donald Trump's promise of 'insurance for everybody.'" House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) "said he fully expects the CBO analysis to find less coverage since the GOP plan eliminates the government requirement to be insured."

CMS AND CBO TO PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE IN HEALTHCARE DEBATE. The Hill (3/13, Cusack, 1.25M) reports the CMS Office of the Actuary and the CBO may play a pivotal role in the debate over the AHCA. The agencies are in charge of estimating the economic impact legislation may have once it goes into effect. The CBO is expected to release its analysis of the GOP healthcare plan sometime this week. Many Republican leaders have already begun attacking the CBO over their analysis by arguing the non-partisan agency has been incorrect with past estimates.

GOP LAWMAKERS REPORTEDLY STILL NOT UNIFIED ON ACA REPLACEMENT PLAN. The AP (3/12, Lerer, Beaumont) reports that less than a day after Donald Trump won the presidential election, House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) "triumphantly proclaimed the start of a new era of Republican leadership that would 'hit the ground running.'" Yet, just "weeks into Trump's administration, Republicans are running – just in different directions." The article points out that GOP leaders are proceeding with efforts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, but "conservative activists and GOP lawmakers are slamming the proposal as 'Obamacare lite,' 'Obamacare 2.0' and 'RINOcare' – RINO standing for Republicans In Name Only, a term of derision."

TRUMP PREPARES TO PROMOTE AHCA DURING TRIP AROUND THE COUNTRY. As President Trump prepares to travel around the country to build support for House Republicans' healthcare bill, the legislation was the subject of much discussion on the Sunday talk shows. The CBS Weekend News (3/12, story 2, 2:25, Quijano) pointed out that the "re-ignited healthcare debate was a hot topic on the Sunday morning programs." The discussion, which included Administration officials, Republican lawmakers who support the bill, as well as Republicans and Democrats who oppose it, garnered relatively heavy media coverage, much of which highlighted efforts by Administration officials and GOP leaders to "impugn" a pending CBO report on the bill's potential impact.

The Washington Times (3/12, Wolfgang, 272K) reports that Gary Cohn, director of the White House's National Economic

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Council, told Fox News Sunday, "The president, the vice president, all of us at the White House are fully committed to this bill, and we're going to do whatever it takes to get it passed." Cohn added, "Yes, he's going to travel. ... Yes, he's going to go out to the different congressional regions and he's going to be personally involved in getting passed." The Times says Cohn's comments suggest that Trump "will appeal to individual lawmakers who oppose the bill."

ABC World News Tonight (3/12, story 3, 2:00, Jarvis, 14.63M) described this as "a critical week at the White House" as Trump tries "to sell his Obamacare replacement, fending off fears that millions may lose coverage, and criticism from some of his own party."

On NBC Nightly News (3/12, story 3, 2:15, Snow, 16.61M), correspondent Kelly O'Donnell said that this week, Trump will "hit the road for a rally in Nashville that is categorized as a campaign event, not official White House business. But the President is expected to try to sell the GOP plan with much of his own political capital on the line." She added that HHS Secretary Tom Price "says the proposal won't cost consumers more."

RYAN SAYS GOP IS "OBLIGATED" TO OVERHAUL ACA. House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) said on CBS' Face The Nation (3/12, Dickerson, 4.61M), "Everybody doesn't get what they want, but we are getting much better policy here. ... If we just did nothing, washed our hands of the situation, we would see a further collapse of the health insurance markets, so we feel an obligation to step in front of that collapse and replace this with one that works and that has more freedom. ... We made a promise to the people who elected us" that "we would repeal and replace this law and basically said this is what we would replace it with, and now we are keeping our word." Ryan also rejected allegations the House is moving too fast, saying, "This has been a long, deliberative process. Suggesting this is moving fast, going through four committees, going through regular order, saying you are going to do this for seven years and now come to the point where we are actually on the cusp of keeping our word, I hardly think that is rushing things."

Politico (3/12, McCaskill, 2.46M) reports "Ryan expressed confidence Sunday that House Republicans' Obamacare replacement could pass the Senate, but also acknowledged the reality of the GOP's failure to advance the legislation to the president's desk: a 2018 bloodbath." He said, "I believe we can get 51 votes out of the Senate."

The Hill (3/12, Shelbourne, 1.25M) reports Ryan concurred that "if we don't keep our word to the people who sent us here," there will be a "bloodbath," as President Trump predicted.

The Washington Post (3/12, Snell, 11.43M) reports that Ryan said "he doesn't know how many Americans would lose coverage under his proposal to revise the Affordable Care Act, which is under fire from fellow Republicans, AARP and virtually every sector of the U.S. health care industry." He is quoted as saying, "I can't answer that question. ... It's up to people'"

Also covering the story are the New York Daily News (3/12, Edelman, 4.45M), Fox News (3/11, Pergram, 11.07M), CBS News (3/12, Schultheis, 4.4M), The Hill (3/11, Marcos, 1.25M), Politico (3/10, Nelson, 2.46M), The Hill (3/10, Greenwood, 1.25M), the Washington Examiner (3/12, Lawler, 400K), another Washington Examiner (3/12, Lawler, 400K) article, the Huffington Post (3/10, Delaney, 237K), The Hill (3/12, Shelbourne, 1.25M), and a third Washington Examiner (3/12, Lawler, 400K) article.

TRUMP, GOP REPORTEDLY MOVING FORWARD WITH "HIGH-RISK" PLAN TO REPEAL AND REPLACE ACA. In a front-page article, the New York Times (3/11, A1, Pear, Kaplan, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) said President Trump and House Republicans appear to be "pressing forward with a high-risk strategy to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, disregarding the views of medical professionals and potentially imperiling the party's political future in conservative states where many voters stand to lose their health care."

TRUMP ACCUSED OF FLIP FLOPPING. Glenn Kessler writes in the Washington Post (3/13, 11.43M) "Fact Checker" that while there is no rule requiring politicians to "remain consistent in their policies," they must "explain to voters why they changed their minds." The piece says since the election, President Trump has been flip flopping so much that it is difficult "to keep up with all of" his "changes in position." For instance, he vowed not to cut Medicaid, but a provision in the American Health Care Act, which aims to replace the Affordable Care Act, would end the Medicaid expansion in 2020.

SEN. PAUL SAYS AHCA IS ESSENTIALLY OBAMACARE-LITE. Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) said on CBS' Face The Nation (3/12, Dickerson, 4.61M), "I think it is basically Obamacare-Lite. It keeps the subsidies, keeps the taxes for a year, then keeps the Cadillac tax forever, the tax on good insurance. It keeps the individual mandate, interestingly. Republicans have complained for years and we didn't like" the fact that "the government was going to make you pay a penalty. Well, now, instead of paying the penalty to the government, you pay the meant to the insurance industry." Paul further argued that "premiums are rising through the roof, soaring in the individual market. That will happen under the Ryan plan as well because it does nothing to fix the fundamental problem."

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Politico (3/12, McCaskill, 2.46M) reports Paul also said "Republicans lack sufficient votes to even begin 'real' negotiations on House leaders' Obamacare replacement plan." He stated, "We are still in the pre-negotiation period."

The Washington Times (3/12, Wolfgang, 272K) reports Paul "said flatly that he doesn't believe the president is fully committed to the legislation as currently written." He also stated that House GOP leaders are "presenting a false choice between the status quo or the current alternative proposal backed by Mr. Ryan."

The Hill (3/10, Hensch, 1.25M), The Hill (3/10, Carney, 1.25M) "Floor Action" blog and the Washington Examiner (3/12, Lawler, 400K) also covered the story.

OMB DIRECTOR CRITICIZES CBO SCORING, TOUTS GOP'S PLANS FOR MEDICAID. OMB Director Mulvaney said on ABC's This Week (3/12, Stephanopoulos, 6.61M), "We continue to think, and have for a long time, that the CBO is scoring the wrong thing. They're scoring Obamacare as it exists today, not tomorrow. ... The CBO is failing to take into consideration what happens to folks...when there are no providers, which there may be as soon as next year." Asked by host George Stephanopoulos if that means the Administration would reject a CBO analysis that found "fewer people will be covered, costs will be going up" under the Republican plan, Mulvaney said, "I don't think the costs will go up at all. In order for this to be passed on budget reconciliation, it has to reduce the debt and thus save money."

Asked about the plan to rollback the Medicaid expansion, Mulvaney said on CNN's State Of The Union (3/12, Tapper, 420K), "Just because you spend less money on something doesn't mean it can't get better. ... One of the things we are trying to drive into Medicaid...we are trying to make Medicaid a lot more efficient." He added, "We met with 46 governors two weeks ago. And one of the things they asked us for is more control of what the government sends them. ... Right now under Obamacare and the existing Medicaid rules, Medicaid is the one-size fits down, Washington-knows-best type of approach. And we think with this bill, we would give more control to the states and allow them to drive efficiencies that would increase quality and also reduce costs."

ABC News (3/12, Beggin, 3.09M) also covers the story on its website. The Hill (3/12, Savransky, 1.25M), McClatchy (3/12, Pugh, 74K) and the Washington Examiner (3/12, Giaritelli, 400K) provide additional coverage.

KASICH URGES DEMS, GOP TO WORK TOGETHER ON HEALTHCARE REFORM. On NBC's Meet the Press (3/12, Todd, 157K), Ohio Gov. John Kasich (R) said, "The bill needs [to be] fixed. The current system doesn't work and that's why it's possible to get Democrats involved. But you don't want to throw the baby out with the bathwater. Let me ask you this: If I put you on an exchange for your family and I give you a $4,000 tax credit or $3,000, what kind of insurance are you going to buy for $3,000?"

NBC's Meet the Press (3/12, Koenig, 5.27M) reports online that Kasich argued "Republicans and Democrats should work together to improve health care legislation, predicting that President Donald Trump 'would be flexible' on the issue." Kasich stated, "When you jam something through one party over another, it's not sustainable."

Politico (3/10, Nelson, 2.46M) reported that Kasich made the same argument in a New York Times op-ed on Friday, saying "a true and lasting reform of the health insurance system must be accomplished by bringing the two sides together." He also warned that cutting Medicaid, "a provision of the GOP bill that some Republican senators have said will prevent them from supporting the bill," is "ineffective." Kasich added that these type of "cuts put 'at risk our ability to treat the drug-addicted, mentally ill and working poor who now have access to a dependable source of care.'"

Also covering the story are The Hill (3/12, Savransky, 1.25M), The Hill (3/10, Greenwood, 1.25M), the AP (3/12), the Cincinnati Enquirer (3/12, Weiser, 511K), the Columbus (OH) Dispatch (3/12, Wehrman, 529K), and the Washington Examiner (3/12, Giaritelli, 400K).

REP. JORDAN WANTS GOP TO KEEP PROMISE OF REPEALING ACA. Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH) said on Fox News Sunday (3/12, Wallace), "We told the American people...we were going to replace Obamacare and bring down the cost of insurance. This legislation doesn't do that. We didn't tell the American people we were going to repeal Obamacare, but keep some of the taxes in there." He added, "We didn't tell them we were going to repeal Obamacare and take the Medicaid expansion and extend it. ... We didn't tell them they would have an insurance subsidy in the bill either. Let's do what we said we would."

The Hill (3/12, Beavers, 1.25M) reports that Jordan, who is "a founding member of the House Freedom Caucus," vowed to "vote against the current Republican healthcare proposal." He said, "We said we were going to repeal it, so let's do that."

In a separate article, The Hill (3/10, Vladimirov, 1.25M) reported that on Friday, Jordan also said "he does not want the

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debate over the GOP's new healthcare bill to be a "binary choice" for the American people."

The Washington Examiner (3/10, Kasperowicz, 400K) also covered the story.

REP. MEADOWS SAYS CONSERVATIVES ARE WILLING TO WORK WITH TRUMP ON HEALTH REFORM. Freedom Caucus Chairman Mark Meadows (R-NC) said on CNN's State Of The Union (3/12, Tapper, 420K), "The Freedom Caucus and a number of conservatives are willing to work with the President. And the encouraging thing for me is the President told me personally, we want to make this better for the American people. And he's willing to negotiate. The art of the deal is not dead." He added, "So I think what we'll see at the end of the day are modifications to the Ryan bill that is out there right now...that truly transforms it to something that President Trump and the American people can support."

GOP LEADERSHIP, CONSERVATIVES AT ODDS OVER ACA REPLACEMENT PLAN. The Hill (3/11, Sullivan, 1.25M) reported that House GOP leaders and conservatives "are in a standoff...over the Republican ObamaCare replacement bill rapidly moving to the House floor." But if one side does not "give ground, the bill appears unable to pass." The article pointed out that conservatives have several "objections, and many of them are vowing to vote against the legislation unless substantial changes are made." Meanwhile, leaders are "pushing back, saying that lawmakers will ultimately face a take-it-or-leave-it proposition with the bill."

Similarly, Politico (3/12, Bade, 2.46M) reports House GOP conservatives are warning "they won't support the House GOP Obamacare alternative as it's written, saying that they'll let the bill fail if they don't get concessions." Freedom Caucus Chairman Mark Meadows (R-NC) said, "We've got to lower health care premiums...and this current plan doesn't effectively lower health care premiums. ... If we don't do that, then we just have Obamacare by another name."

UNINSURED IN CHAFFETZ'S DISTRICT HIGHLIGHT NEED FOR IPHONES. The New York Times (3/11, Healy, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) interviewed several "uninsured Americans" in Rep. Jason Chaffetz's (R-UT) district after he recently suggested they "invest in their own health care 'rather than getting that new iPhone that they just love.'" The Times said that for these poor working families, not having insurance is difficult, but life without smartphones is "unthinkable" because the phones are used to fill many different needs.

PELOSI SAYS NO DEMOCRAT WILL SUPPORT GOP'S ACA REPLACEMENT BILL. The Washington Times (3/10, McLaughlin, 272K) reported House Minority Leader Pelosi "said Friday she does not envision a single House Democrat breaking ranks to vote in favor of the Obamacare replacement bill that GOP leaders are pushing on Capitol Hill." Speaking at a breakfast sponsored by the Christian Science Monitor, Pelosi stated, "I don't see any Democratic votes for what they are doing – none. ... It isn't even about Democrats or Republicans, it is about meeting the needs of the American people."

The Christian Science Monitor (3/10, Kiefer, 387K) reported that Democrats are facing a "battle" as they attempt to prevent the ACA from being repealed. Pelosi pointed out that should "Democrats succeed, she sees three scenarios: Republicans do nothing; they go back to the drawing board; or they reach out to Democrats to fix the current law, dubbed 'Obamacare.'"

GOP REPORTEDLY MOVING SWIFTLY ON ACA REPLACEMENT BILL IN HOPES OF AVOIDING OPPOSITION. The AP (3/11, Werner) said that President Obama and Democrats took "more than a year to pass the Affordable Care Act, a slow and painstaking process that allowed plenty of time for a fierce backlash to ignite, undermining the law from the very start." The GOP is attempting to avoid the same pitfalls. The article pointed out that since the AHCA was released on Monday, "House Republicans swiftly pushed it through two key committees," in hopes of passing "the legislation in the full House during the week of March 20 before sending it to the Senate and then...to President Donald Trump – all before Congress can take a recess that could allow town hall fury to erupt."

HOUSE GOP CONSERVATIVES PUSH FOR STRICTER INSURANCE, MEDICAID REQUIREMENTS. The AP (3/10, Fram) reported that on Friday, conservative House GOP lawmakers "demanded tougher changes...in insurance requirements and Medicaid than" the AHCA "proposes, and warned they'd oppose the legislation if it isn't reshaped." The article added that although the Trump Administration "signaled an openness to negotiate...there was resistance from House leaders."

AARP OPPOSED TO ACA REPEAL MEASURE. The Wall Street Journal (3/11, Peterson, Hackman, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reported AARP is opposed to the American Health Care Act over its likely impact on seniors, although David Certner, AARP's legislative policy director, said the organization is open to joining negotiations over the proposal. Certner was most critical of the bill's tax credits, and he pointed out that because they are an integral part of the legislation, Republicans would have to make significant changes to garner the group's support.

SPICER SAYS TRUMP COMMITTED TO AHCA, BUT DOES NOT SUPPORT REVERSING MEDICAID EXPANSION.

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The Hill (3/11, Shelbourne, 1.25M) reported that on Saturday, White House press secretary Sean Spicer said during an interview that "President Trump is committed to the healthcare plan proposed by House Republicans" on Monday. He stated that Trump "is very committed to seeing this through," and he has had meetings "with members from both houses and both parties."

A separate article for The Hill (3/10, Hellmann, 1.25M) reported Spicer also said on Friday that "Trump does not support speeding up the rollback of the Medicaid expansion."

TRUMP, GOP LEADERS SAY REFORM IS CRUCIAL BECAUSE ACA IS A "DISASTER." The AP (3/12, Alonso-Zaldivar) reports that according to President Trump and GOP leaders, "drastic action is needed because the Obama-era health care overhaul is a disaster, with soaring premiums and insurers bailing out." The article says while "major parts of the 2010 law are clearly troubled...others are working fairly well."

SENATE DEMS FACING RE-ELECTION IN 2018 SEEMINGLY NOT COMPELLED TO VOTE FOR AHCA. The Washington Post (3/11, Weigel, 11.43M) reported that the three-part GOP "plan to replace the Affordable Care Act is intended to end with massive political pressure on Senate Democrats, who'll face a choice: Vote with them on individual replacement bills, or be blamed for the American Health Care Act's implementation going awry." The idea is that the 10 Senate Democrats who are facing re-election in 2018 would be compelled to vote for the GOP's plan. The article said the problem with that notion "is that those Democrats feel little pressure to vote Trump's way."

DEMOCRATS SAY THEY ARE READY TO BEGIN ATTACKING GOP OVER ACA. Politico (3/12, Everett, Caygle, 2.46M) reports that during the last four elections, "Democrats have been battered and bruised by political attacks over Obamacare," but now, they believe "the time has finally arrived to take the fight to Republicans." The article says Democrats are "convinced that the politics of the ever-potent issue is shifting dramatically in their favor." According to Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), "We are on offense and united. They are on defense and divided, the opposite of what people would have predicted a month or two ago."

SURVEY FINDS SLIGHT MAJORITY OF AMERICANS BELIEVES AHCA WOULD BE WORSE THAN ACA. The Huffington Post (3/12, Edwards-Levy, 237K) reports that according to a new HuffPost/YouGov survey, "public reactions to the Republican plan to repeal the Affordable Care Act are divided...with a narrow plurality of Americans saying the proposal would mark a step down." Data show that although 27 percent of respondents "expect the new health care bill, if it passes, would be better than the current law, 32 percent think it would be worse, and 13 percent that it would be about the same." An additional "28 percent aren't sure."

SEN. COTTON WARNS AHCA WILL NOT PASS AS IS, SAYS CBO'S ESTIMATES SHOULD BE TAKEN "SERIOUSLY." Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR) said on ABC's This Week (3/12, Stephanopoulos, 6.61M), "As written today, it will not pass the Senate. I believe it would have adverse consequences for millions of Americans and wouldn't deliver on our promises to reduce the cost of health insurance to Americans. I would say to my friends in the House of Representatives, do not walk the plank and vote for a bill that cannot pass the Senate and then have to face the consequences of that vote. ... Therefore, I think the House should take a pause and try to get as close as we can to a good result before they send to it the Senate."

Fox News (3/12, 11.07M) reports that while Administration officials criticized the CBO on Sunday, Cotton said it "can make mistakes." Yet, he acknowledged that CBO does "provide an important amount of information and analysis that allows senators and congressmen to make informed choices. … We need to take it seriously. We don't have to accept everything and every conclusion at face value."

WHITE HOUSE COUNSELOR SAYS ACA REPEAL DEBATE IS ALLOWING TRUMP TO SHOW HE IS A DEAL MAKER. The Hill (3/10, Hensch, 1.25M) reported White House counselor Kellyanne Conway said the debate about repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act is allowing President Trump to "showcase his business background." She stated, "You really see Donald Trump the negotiator, the decision-maker, the deal-maker, the great listener. ... He's been receiving different members of Congress and senators into the Oval Office, into the White House."

TRUMP'S CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISER SAYS TRUMP ADMINISTRATION MOST CONCERNED ABOUT ACCESS TO CARE. Asked if the President will "support a bill that throws millions of Americans off insurance," Gary Cohn, director of the White House National Economic Council, said on Fox News Sunday (3/12, Wallace), "It's not just about coverage, it's about access to care. ... The numbers of who's covered and who is not covered, that's interesting...but what we care about is people being able to get health care and being able to see their doctor. That's what we care about." He added, "We are offering coverage to everyone. If you are on Medicaid today, you will stay on Medicaid. If you are covered on an employee-sponsored plan, you will be continued to be covered by that. It's that middle group, we will provide tax credit so you can go out and buy a plan. And buy a plan that you want, not a plan that Washington is saying you should buy."

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The Hill (3/12, Beavers, 1.25M) reports Cohn said that Trump "has been willing to accept improvements to the bill. We've gone out of our way, and the president has said this, to say" anything which "makes the bill better for Americans, we are willing to accept."

MCCARTHY "BLASTS" GOP CONSERVATIVES WHO THREATEN TO VOTE AGAINST AHCA. Politico (3/10, Bade, 2.46M) reported that on Friday, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) "panned conservatives' ideas to change the House GOP's Obamacare replacement, even as the far-right pleads with President Donald Trump to heed their requests." The article said he "blasted the House Freedom Caucus' push for a repeal-only bill as irresponsible," and warned that repealing the ACA "without a replacement intact 'would double your premiums and you would collapse the market.'"

On its website, CBS News (3/10, 4.4M) reported that some conservatives who are unhappy with AHCA threatened to vote against the measure, although they said "they'd be more likely to support it if the changes proposed to the Medicaid expansion are moved up from 2020 to next year." In response, McCarthy stated, "I think right now that'd be very difficult to do."

Reuters (3/10, Cornwell) and The Hill (3/10, Concha, 1.25M) also covered the story.

DATA INDICATE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION SPENT ABOUT $77 MILLION TO PROMOTE ACA IN 2016. The New York Post (3/13, Halper, Moore, 3.82M) reports that according to figures it obtained, the Obama Administration spent "more than $77 million to promote the former president's signature health-care legislation" in 2016. Data indicate "the federal government contracted with Democratic-leaning p.r. firm Weber Shandwick to spend $74.15 million on July 28, 2016, and another $3.69 million on Sept. 9, 2016, promoting the plan."

TRUMP ACCUSED OF BREAKING TWO HEALTHCARE PROMISES. Aaron Blake wrote in the Washington Post (3/10, 11.43M) "The Fix" that two breaking stories "both point to major broken promises for President Trump." News media reported that the ACA replacement proposal "would cut a mental-health and addiction treatment mandate covering 1.3 million Americans – counter to a Trump promise to expand treatment." Meanwhile, CNN said "the Trump White House is negotiating to possibly roll back the Medicaid expansion earlier in order to appeal to conservatives – counter to Trump's promise to leave Medicaid alone."

ANALYSIS INDICATES PEOPLE IN RURAL AREAS WOULD BE HARDEST BY HIGHER COSTS DUE TO AHCA. The Wall Street Journal (3/12, Mathews, Chinni, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports that according to an analysis conducted by Oliver Wyman, a unit of Marsh & McLennan Cos., House Republicans' plan to replace the Affordable Care Act may harm people in rural areas the most by significantly raising their health insurance premiums. The article points out that in the worst-case scenario, some people's premiums could exceed their annual incomes.

NYTIMES ANALYSIS FINDS PEOPLE WHO SUPPORTED TRUMP MAY LOSE THE MOST UNDER AHCA. The New York Times (3/10, Cohn, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reported that according to an analysis conducted by "The Upshot," Americans "who stand to lose the most in tax credits under the House Republican health plan tended to support Donald J. Trump over Hillary Clinton in the 2016 election." Data show that on the whole, "voters who would be eligible for a tax credit that would be at least $1,000 smaller than the subsidy they're eligible for under Obamacare supported Mr. Trump over Hillary Clinton by a seven-point margin." Indeed, those who would lose the most, that is, they would qualify for about $5,000 less in tax credits under the GOP proposal, "supported Mr. Trump by a margin of 59 percent to 36 percent."

The Los Angeles Times (3/12, Levey, 4.52M) reports that some of those who would be most affected "are 60-year-olds with annual incomes of $30,000." Data show that in some "1,500 counties nationwide, such a person stands to lose more than $6,000 a year in federal insurance subsidies. Ninety percent of those counties backed Trump, the analysis shows."

NBC News (3/12, Chinni, Bronston, 2.67M) also covers the story on its website.

ANALYSIS SUGGESTS WEALTHIEST WOULD GAIN $157 BILLION FROM AHCA TAX CUTS. The New York Times (3/10, Drucker, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reported that according to the Joint Committee on Taxation, two of the largest "tax cuts in Republican proposals to repeal the Affordable Care Act would deliver roughly $157 billion over the coming decade to those with incomes of $1 million or more." The article pointed out that tax cuts often "benefit mostly the wealthiest, but still save some money for a majority of Americans." Yet, "the benefits of these reductions would be aimed squarely at the top."

The Huffington Post (3/11, Cohn, 237K) also covered the story.

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ANTHEM SUPPORTS AHCA IN LETTER TO HOUSE REPUBLICANS. Politico (3/10, Pradhan, 2.46M) reported Anthem, the second largest health insurer in the US, said in a letter to House Republicans that they support the AHCA. Anthem said in the letter that Republicans should move "as quickly as possible" to pass the bill.

The Hill (3/10, Hensch, 1.25M) reported Anthem CEO Joseph Swedish said in the letter that the bill "addresses the challenges immediately facing the individual market and will ensure more affordable health plan choices for consumers in the short term." Modern Healthcare (3/10, Dickson, Subscription Publication, 241K) also covered the story.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS' HEALTHCARE BILL WOULD PROHIBIT PEOPLE FROM USING FEDERAL TAX CREDITS TO PURCHASE PLANS THAT COVER ABORTION. The New York Times (3/11, A16, Zernike, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reported the House Republicans' healthcare bill "would bar people from using federal tax credits to buy health insurance plans that cover abortion." Abortion right advocates have said that if the bill is passed, it could cause insurers to stop covering abortion. The article also points out that the bill would conflict with a California state law that requires insurers to cover abortion.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS' HEALTHCARE BILL COULD RESTRICT WOMEN'S ACCESS TO CERTAIN HEALTHCARE SERVICES. The AP (3/10, Jalonick) reported the House Republicans' healthcare bill could lessen women's access to certain healthcare services by giving insurers more "leeway" in covering "essential health benefits," compared to the ACA. The article also reported that the bill includes provisions that would "phase out" the ACA's Medicaid expansion and prohibit federal funding for Planned Parenthood for a year, which could restrict women's access to certain healthcare services.

REPS. ISSA, HUNTER BOTH FACE PROTESTERS AT TOWN HALL MEETINGS FOCUSED ON HEALTHCARE. The Los Angeles Times (3/11, Figueroa, Stewart, 4.52M) reported "rowdy protestors" confronted Reps. Darrell Issa (R-CA) and Duncan Hunter (R-CA) outside "separate back-to-back town hall meetings" in California. The article reported that healthcare was the main topic at both events and that hundreds of people protested outside at both meetings.

On its website, CNN (3/11, Scott, 29.79M) reported Issa "declined to say how he'd vote on the Republican plan to repeal the law," but also said, "The current bill is not in a form that I approve of. I'm trying to change it, but ultimately the Affordable Care Act has problems that have to be fixed, so my intention is to keep working on the fixes."

"PROGRESSIVE GROUPS" PLANNING TO PROTEST OVER HEALTHCARE AT UPCOMING TOWN HALL MEETINGS DURING CONGRESSIONAL RECESS IN APRIL. The Hill (3/11, Hagen, 1.25M) reported "progressive groups" are "gearing up" to protest the House Republicans' healthcare bill at town hall meeting during the upcoming Congressional recess in April. The article pointed out that several town hall events held by Republican members of Congress in February "were swamped with rowdy protesters who were particularly concerned about changes to ObamaCare."

ANALYSIS: PROPOSED TAX CREDITS UNDER HOUSE REPUBLICAN BILL HAVE SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES COMPARED WITH ACA TAX CREDITS. The AP (3/11, Ohlemacher) reported the tax credits proposed in the House Republicans' healthcare bill "are simpler" than those created under the Affordable Care Act, "but consumers might still have to pay a large share of their income to obtain health insurance." The article outlines the similarities and differences between the tax credits created under the ACA and those proposed under the Republican bill.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS' HEALTHCARE BILL WOULD NOT REPEAL MEDICARE HOSPITAL READMISSION REDUCTION PROGRAM. Bloomberg News (3/10, Shanker, 2.41M) reported the House Republicans' healthcare bill would not repeal the Medicare Hospital Readmission Reduction Program, which was created under the Affordable Care Act with the aim of reducing hospital readmissions among Medicare patients. The article reported that the program "has been quietly improving the quality of health care – while saving the federal government billions of dollars – by penalizing hospitals that have too many readmissions within 30 days of patient discharge."

MANY HOSPITALS, HEALTH SYSTEMS CONCERNED ABOUT IMPACT OF MORE UNINSURED PATIENTS UNDER REPUBLICAN HEALTHCARE PLAN. The AP (3/12, Kennedy) reports many hospitals and health systems are concerned about covering the cost of treating more uninsured patients if the House Republicans' healthcare bill is passed into law. The article highlights several health systems across the country that are concerned about the potential ramifications of the bill on their bottom line and the care available to their patients.

USA Today (3/12, O'Donnell, 5.28M) reports that some healthcare experts are concerned the Republican plan to replace the ACA "could have a dire impact on hospital finances...creating serious concerns about patient safety and health care quality." The article points out that last week, major hospital groups "including the American Hospital Association and those representing children's hospitals and psychiatric hospitals, came out against the new legislation," citing "the number

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of low income people who would become uninsured due to changes in the Medicaid program, as well as cuts in subsidies to those with ACA individual plans."

The Washington Times (3/12, Howell, 272K) says activist groups are "lining up against the plan, suggesting the tough road Republicans have ahead of them." In addition to hospitals, which "say their bottom lines will suffer" and the bill could "risk progress that's been made in fighting the opioid epidemic that's touched every part of the country," the AARP "says the bill increases the 'age tax' on older Americans by allowing insurers to charge even more for older customers than Obamacare already did," and doctors' groups "say the poor and sick won't be able to afford to buy plans with the level of assistance the GOP proposal would offer."

Large Healthcare Groups Criticize House Republicans' Healthcare Bill. The Washington Examiner (3/12, Carney, 400K) reports large healthcare lobby groups, including the American Medical Association, have criticized the House Republicans' healthcare bill. The article reports that many Democrats have cited such criticism as evidence that the bill is flawed.

Antelope Valley Community Clinic Concerned About Potential ACA Repeal. The Los Angeles Times (3/10, Karlamangla, 4.52M) reported the Antelope Valley Community Clinic in Lancaster, CA is concerned about the potential impact of the Affordable Care Act being repealed. The article explained that the clinic has outgrown its facilities multiple times in the past eight years and is planning to relocate again later this year. Clinic CEO James Cook, however, believes that if the ACA is repealed, the clinic would likely have to lay off staff and offer fewer services.

CBO ANALYSIS OF HEALTHCARE BILL COULD IMPACT BILL'S FUTURE. The Washington Post (3/10, Bump, 11.43M) reported the CBO's estimate of how many people would lose coverage if the House Republicans' healthcare bill is passed and signed into law could be influential in the debate over the bill. The article points out that while some have recently criticized the office's assessments as inaccurate, "the CBO's analysis is generally accepted as sound."

MANY PATIENTS AT CLINIC IN WEST VIRGINIA HAVE HEALTHCARE COVERAGE UNDER ACA AND VOTED FOR PRESIDENT TRUMP. The Washington Post (3/11, Contrera, 11.43M) reported many patients at the Tug River clinic in Northfork, WV have healthcare coverage under the Affordable Care Act and voted for President Donald Trump who promised to repeal the law. The article reported that in McDowell County, WV, the "primary impact of the ACA" was "Medicaid expansion, which has given more people access to the kind of health care that wasn't widely available or affordable to them before."

BREITBART NEWS CRITICIZING HOUSE REPUBLICANS' HEALTHCARE BILL. The Hill (3/11, Greenwood, 1.25M) reported, "Breitbart News is upping its attack on House Republicans' healthcare proposal." The article reported that "the far-right news website that has long backed President Trump has published a series of articles this week highlighting perceived negative aspects of House GOP leaders' proposal to repeal and replace ObamaCare," including an interview with former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin (R).

The Hill (3/11, Seipel, 1.25M) "Blog Briefing Room" reported that in her interview with Breitbart, former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin criticized the House Republicans' healthcare bill and predicted that President Trump will intervene and fix the bill. During the interview, Palin described the bill as "RINO-care" and also said it still had elements of "socialism." The Huffington Post (3/12, Papenfuss, 237K) also covers Palin's interview with Breitbart News.

SOME REPUBLICAN MEMBERS OF ARIZONA'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION SUGGEST IT MAY BE POLITICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO REPEAL ACA. The Arizona Republic (3/12, Hansen, Nowicki, 1.1M) reports some Republican members of Arizona's Congressional delegation have made comments suggesting that it may be politically impossible to repeal the Affordable Care Act. Sen. Jeff Flake (R-AZ) said, "If Republicans have accepted that everybody with pre-existing conditions are covered, that kind of dictates a lot of what you can and can't do," while Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) said, "We cannot abandon any group of Americans who have become accustomed to receiving health care." The article also quotes several of Arizona's Representatives criticizing the Republicans' healthcare bill.

ACA HAS EXPANDED HEALTHCARE COVERAGE IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA. The San Diego Union-Tribune (3/11, Sisson, 496K) reported 264,295 residents of San Diego County have enrolled in California's expanded Medicaid program under the ACA, and the ACA's federal subsidies for health insurance "covered nearly two-thirds of the premiums" paid by residents of San Diego County who bought health insurance off the state's ACA exchange.

DEMONSTRATORS HOLD "DIE-IN" TO PROTEST POTENTIAL ACA REPEAL IN BROOKLYN. The New York Daily News (3/11, Eisinger, 4.45M) reported demonstrators held a "die-in" protest in downtown Brooklyn on Saturday to protest the potential repeal of the Affordable Care Act. Participants held signs in the shape of tombstones with messages like "RIP Obamacare" and shared stories about how the law had impacted their lives. The demonstration "culminated with

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hundreds lying on the sidewalk outside Brooklyn Borough Hall."

SEN. SANDERS CRITICIZES HOUSE REPUBLICANS' HEALTHCARE BILL AS "ABSOLUTE DISASTER." On its website, CBS News (3/12, Sganga, 4.4M) reports Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) has criticized the House Republicans' healthcare bill, calling it an "absolute disaster." Sanders said on the CBS News "Face the Nation" program that the bill is a $275 billion tax break for the wealthiest Americans.

The Hill (3/12, Shelbourne, 1.25M) reports Sanders added, "In my view, what the American people want is an improvement on ObamaCare, not the decimation of ObamaCare and throwing so many people off of health insurance and raising premiums substantially."

The AP (3/12, Virtanen) reports, "US Sen. Bernie Sanders [I-VT] said Sunday that the Senate can defeat the House Republican proposal to replace the Affordable Care Act with a version he said would provide enormous tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans." Sanders "received a standing ovation immediately from about 250 people in a high school auditorium in McDowell County," WV, "and his call for universal health care as a right for all Americans was greeted with loud applause." The Washington Examiner (3/12, Lawler, 400K) also covers the story.

AHCA PROGRESS SLOWS IN CONGRESS OVER DISPUTE ON FUTURE OF MEDICAID EXPANSION. The Wall Street Journal (3/10, Hackman, Armour, Hughes, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reported that the GOP alternative to the ACA appeared to get bogged down in Congress on Friday over the fate of the Medicaid expansion. GOP governors from states that expanded Medicaid intend to propose measures for maintaining parts of the expansion. The Journal writes that the CBO is expected to release their score of the American Health Care Act sometime this week.

GOP ALTERNATIVE TO ACA UNDERMINES OPIOID TREATMENT PROGRAM. CNN (3/11, Merica, 29.79M) reported, "The current version of the Trump-backed Republican health care plan would end the Obamacare requirement that addiction services and mental health treatment be covered under Medicaid in the 31 states that expanded the health care program. The GOP plan would instead leave up to states – and their budgets – to decide whether to cover drug treatment and mental health services under Medicaid." CNN writes that under the ACA 1.3 million Americans are currently seeking drug abuse treatment. Experts worry that the GOP alternative to the ACA will reverse progress for drug treatment for many patients.

COMMENTARY CONSIDERS ACA. Several outlets offer opinions on health reform.

In his New York Times (3/13, Krugman, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) column, Paul Krugman warns, "Don't make the mistake of dismissing the" GOP "assault on the Congressional Budget Office" on its expected scoring of the GOP healthcare plan "as some kind of technical dispute." The move is part of efforts by "a president and party that fundamentally don't accept the idea that there are objective facts" to force "everyone to accept that reality is whatever they say it is." Krugman adds that the CBO is likely to determine that the bill would cause millions to lose health coverage, putting it "in the same position as the news media, which Mr. Trump has declared 'enemies of the people'...because they dare to challenge him on anything."

In the New York Times (3/10, Lieber, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) "Your Money," columnist Ron Lieber asked the "inconvenient question that lingers in nearly every debate over tax breaks: Just how long do we want to keep subsidizing people whose incomes seem quite healthy?" He pointed out that in the leaked version of the American Health Care Act, "it looked as though everyone who didn't get health insurance from an employer or government program would get a tax credit to help buy coverage." Yet, "the bill that Republican leadership introduced this week now limits full credits to single people with $75,000 of income and under or married folks who make $150,000 or less."

The Washington Post (3/11, 11.43M) editorialized that while President Trump and House Republicans so far have "avoided addressing the likelihood" the American Health Care Act "would significantly increase the ranks of the uninsured and dodged questions about its fiscal responsibility," the Congressional Budget Office "will soon issue a report on their proposal, probably this week." Republicans have "preemptively attacked the country's designated budget scorekeepers," an act of "hypocrisy" that the Post condemned as both "beyond galling" an "mind-blowing." The paper also warned the attacks are "not just odious, but dangerous, too," because while the CBO "will not provide perfect predictions," its estimates "will be far more informed than others' – Mr. Trump's, for example."

The Los Angeles Times (3/10, 4.52M) said in an editorial that while supporters of House Republicans' healthcare replacement bill "have stuck to platitudes that obscure much of what the bill would actually do," there is "one thing they're making no bones about: They want to kick millions of people off of Medicaid, the joint federal-state healthcare program for the poor. It wouldn't happen immediately, but it would happen inexorably, deliberately." The Times argued that "making Medicaid less costly and more effective is just one part of the larger challenge of reining in all healthcare costs," yet this

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cannot be done “if millions of people go uninsured, with no oversight of their health or management of their care.” The paper concluded “time and a long-term focus” are necessary, but neither is “on display in the House’s headlong rush toward a healthcare disaster.”

The Chicago Tribune (3/10, 2.54M) said in an editorial that while “the majority of House Republicans are in a huge rush to repeal and replace Obamacare,” those lawmakers who fight House Speaker Paul Ryan and “who don’t seize” the opportunity to “fix” the American healthcare system, “especially Republicans, should expect the wrath of voters in 2018 and 2020.” The paper added, “Right now, though, the choice is stark: Stick with Obamacare, its imploding markets and its millions of still-uncovered Americans. Or drive toward a more flexible approach. These moments come rarely, most often when a new Congress isn’t yet obsessing on the next election.”

Tommy G. Thompson, former HHS Secretary and former Wisconsin governor, wrote in The Hill (3/10, 1.25M) “Pundits Blog” blog that “legislating is a messy, long process,” so “as Congress begins the process of considering the Republican repeal and replace bill – The American Health Care Act (AHCA) – it is important to remember some recent legislative history to help us prepare for what’s going to happen next.” He urged GOP lawmakers to learn the lessons of the Medicare Modernization Act (MMA), which “from beginning to end...took nearly six months...to move from introduction to being signed by the president on Dec. 8, 2003.”

In the Washington Post (3/10, 11.43M) “Post Partisan” blog, contributor Ed Rogers wrote that “the era of Obamacare may soon be over.” Rogers argued that the Trump Administration is “moving in sync with House and Senate leadership” to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, and that complaints from some Republicans “aren’t the real story.”

Theresa Brown, RN, a hospice nurse, writes in an opinion piece in the New York Times (3/12, SR9, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) that the House Republicans’ healthcare bill would result in millions of people losing access to healthcare coverage. Brown argues that it would be “sad and wrong” to abandon people in need of medical care, and that “the human cost of limiting health care to those who can pay would be higher than any of us should be willing to bear.”

Betsy McCaughey, a senior fellow at the London Center for Policy Research, wrote in an opinion piece in the New York Post (3/10, 3.82M) that the House Republicans’ healthcare bill “will boost your chances of getting a job and cut your tax bill, not to mention your insurance costs.” McCaughey argued that the bill would also “stave off a tidal wave of future Medicaid spending that threatens to drown the states and Uncle Sam in red ink” by removing the ACA’s mandates for individuals to buy insurance and employers to provide insurance.

The Philadelphia Inquirer (3/11, 586K) editorialized that Republicans “don’t know what to do” on healthcare. The editorial contended that the House Republicans’ healthcare bill is “an abomination that will make it even harder for millions of Americans to get adequate health care.”

The Knoxville (TN) News Sentinel (3/12, 245K) editorializes the House Republicans’ healthcare bill “is underwhelming at best.” The editorial asserts the bill would result in fewer people having health insurance and higher out-of-pocket costs for patients. The editorial notes that the American Medical Association and other groups “have come out in opposition to the plan.”

David A. Super, a law professor at Georgetown Law, wrote in an opinion piece in The Hill (3/10, 1.25M) that “it is difficult to understand what the” American Health Care Act “is designed to accomplish, either substantively or politically.” Super argued that the bill resembles the ACA enough to upset the “Repeal Only” faction of the Republican Party, while it also “fails to prevent millions of people from losing coverage,” which will leave Republicans in swing districts vulnerable to outraged constituents.

In an opinion piece, The Week (3/10, 2.41M) economics and business correspondent Jeff Spross wrote that “Republican infighting over replacing ObamaCare” is getting worse everyday. Spross argued that moderates in the party are scared of taking away healthcare coverage from their constituents, while conservatives in the party want to fully repeal the law.

In an opinion piece, Forbes (3/10, 15.17M) contributor Peter Ubel wrote that if President Trump really wanted to deliver “a much better healthcare plan at much lower cost,” then “he should pay attention to one of the problems with Obamacare – the subsidies to purchase insurance might have been too stingy.” Ubel argued that the ACA’s subsidies were insufficient to help many people afford health insurance, and that if President Trump wants to avoid a similar problem he should support legislation that would offer more generous subsidies for “low and middle income people.”

Brent Budowsky wrote in his column in The Hill (3/10, 1.25M) that a single-payer healthcare system is “the real healthcare reform that is needed.” Budowsky predicted that Republicans will fail to pass a healthcare reform bill that satisfies the American public and that after that, the idea of a single-payer system, likely championed by Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT),

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will begin to gain momentum.

Forbes (3/12, 15.17M) contributor Bruce Japsen writes that young Americans dislike the penalty imposed on those who sign up for health insurance after not having coverage for 63 continuous days, as proposed by the House Republicans' healthcare bill. Sarah Schultz, a spokeswoman for Young Invincibles said, "They may as well call it the millennial penalty."

Steven Pearlstein, a professor at George Mason University, wrote in an opinion piece in the Washington Post (3/10, 11.43M) "Wonkblog" that Republicans have been arguing for a patient-centered, market-based healthcare system for years, but that their new bill doesn't include the provisions necessary to create such a system. Pearlstein argued that such a system would require price transparency and measures to improve healthcare quality, neither of which is contained in the Republican bill.

Professor of economics and public affairs at Princeton University and a former vice chairman of the Federal Reserve Alan Blinder writes in an opinion piece for the Wall Street Journal (3/12, Blinder, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) that the GOP healthcare plan received almost universal condemnation after it was rolled out. Blinder argues the rollout was not driven by economic or political logic but rather by the political syllogism: Something must be done. This is something. Therefore, we must do it. Blinder argues the GOP plan will worsen the so called death spiral that the US healthcare system is currently in because it strips the individual mandate, which is critical to getting younger, healthier Americans in the system to offset the cost of sicker Americans.

Paul Waldman wrote for the Washington Post (3/10, Waldman, 11.43M) in its "Plum Line" blog that the GOP's alternative to the ACA is essentially, "You're on your own." Waldman points out the GOP also advanced other legislation this week that would "make changes to the civil justice system long sought by doctors and U.S. corporations, including a cap on some medical malpractice awards and new roadblocks for classes of people seeking to sue jointly to address harm." Waldman warns, "if you're not rich or powerful...[the] government won't be there to protect you or give you a helping hand."

Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO) wrote in a guest column for the Denver Post (3/10, 778K) that the GOP alternative to the ACA fails his litmus test because it "falls so far short that it's unclear what it set out to fix." Bennet argues, "We desperately need changes to improve care and costs for Americans, especially in rural communities. The Trump plan does neither. Instead it slashes support for the most vulnerable by cutting $600 billion in taxes for wealthier Americans. Cutting support for poor kids and seniors to finance tax breaks for the wealthy is not just bad policy, it is immoral."

Jay Cost writes in a guest column for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (3/12, 493K) that the GOP alternative to the ACA's rollout did not go well last week as many groups were quick to express their opposition to it. Cost argues the proposal's "greatest flaw is that it does not remedy the fundamental unfairness at the heart of American health care. In fact, it makes it worse." Cost points out that the subsidies in the legislation are "profoundly" unfair in their nature because lower income individuals will see their assistance cut and richer Americans will see an increase in their benefits.

In an opinion piece for Roll Call (3/10, Allen, 63K) Jonathan Allen argued that Democrats need to propose their own alternative to the GOP alternative to the ACA. Allen acknowledged that the safest political path for Democrats is to sit back and do nothing, but it is not the best path, morally. Allen argued, "Democrats may never have a better time to seize the middle ground, protect benefits for the lower and middle classes, and ensure that all Americans have quality health care. They can pin Ryan and his House Republicans into their ideological corner and produce both policy and political victories." Therefore, Allen concluded, "Democrats should take note of that and come up with a progressive, modernized proposal that appeals not just to Trump but to a broad cross-section of American voters."

Sam Hickman, West Virginia state director of the National Association of Social Workers, wrote in a guest article for the Charleston (WV) Gazette-Mail (3/11, Hickman, 9K) that the GOP is fighting to remove parts of the ACA that helped benefit those seeking treatment for their opioid addiction. Hickman argued that West Virginia has been hardest hit by the opioid crisis, and the Medicaid expansion in the ACA has been the most powerful tool in combating the crisis.

Stephanie Grace wrote in an opinion piece for the Baton Rouge (LA) Advocate (3/11, 75K) that the GOP's planned rollback of the Medicaid expansion my be enough to sink the entire proposal. Grace argues the four GOP senators who have drawn a red line in the sand over the Medicaid expansion are going to be the hardest to convince and will be the most likely source of the legislation's downfall.

David Nicklaus writes in an opinion piece for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch (3/12, 729K) that the GOP's efforts to rush their ACA alternative through congress will result in many missed opportunities to actually address some concerns Americans have about the healthcare system. Nicklaus argues that some ideas in the legislation could actually work, but taken on the whole, the legislation is "deeply flawed." Nicklaus points out the ACA alternative makes it more difficult for poorer

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Americans to afford insurance, which could result in the collapse of the GOP alternative.

The New York Daily News (3/11, 4.45M) editorialized that the GOP alternative to the ACA would cause New York to suffer the "consequences of the [GOP] quackery" more than any other state. The Daily News argued, "New York would lose more than $1 billion in funds that help hospitals treat the uninsured – while states that needlessly denied expanded Medicaid coverage to their working-class citizens are poised to get a cash boost." The Daily News concludes the GOP alternative to the ACA is a "con job."

The Bergen (NJ) Record (3/12) editorializes that the GOP alternative to the ACA is not a "better way" to deliver healthcare in the US. The Record argues, "Certainly we don't know what the final 'repeal and replace' bill will look like, or even if it will garner enough votes to advance to the president's desk. But what seems certain, if it passes without drastic change, is that millions of Americans who now have reliable health insurance will be forced to do without or to see their access to quality care rolled back."

The Concord (NH) Monitor (3/12, 36K) editorializes, "The American Health Care Act...would be a disaster for New Hampshire," and "the bill is unlikely to pass. But if it or something similar did become law, New Hampshire would fare worse than most states." The Monitor argues the state would be hit particularly hard due to the its aging population and reliance on Medicaid to help cover the cost of services for aging residents. The Monitor points out, "Shifting a substantial portion of Medicaid expenses to the state would mean one of two things: Thousands of people, most of them mothers with young children, would have to be kicked off Medicaid and waiting lists created for nursing home care or taxes would have to go up. Lawmakers probably couldn't wring all that much more out of existing taxes so they would have to look to a broad-based tax."

In an opinion piece for U.S. News & World Report (3/10, Cary, 1.02M), Mary Kate Cary argued that President Trump needs to keep his campaign promise to "immediately repeal and replace Obamacare." Cary wrote, "Republicans need to behave like a big-tent governing majority, instead of a group of ideologically pure rugged individualists." Cary concluded that GOP lawmakers should take the deal offered to them by President Trump and House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) and push for changes they want in phase two and three of healthcare reform.

The Sacramento (CA) Bee (3/11, 574K) editorialized, "In their rush to dismantle the Affordable Care Act, congressional Republicans are engaging in a sleight-of-hand at the expense of people who are among the least able to fend for themselves, the severely mentally ill." The Bee pointed out that the GOP alternative to the ACA would roll back the gains lawmakers made when they passed the 21st Century Cures Act, which increased funding for mental healthcare. The Bee concluded, "Of all the ways in which Trumpcare puts ideology over need, this is perhaps the most sickeningly shortsighted. The care of the least among us should not be partisan."

In an article for the San Francisco Chronicle (3/10, 2.2M), Thomas Lee argued, "Should the Republicans succeed in scrapping the Affordable Care Act, the country's health care system will suffer a big setback," because, "[buried] in the enormous law are lesser-known provisions that are perhaps far more crucial to the long-term vitality of our health care system than merely expanding coverage." Lee pointed out, "So far, the debate over replacing the Affordable Care Act has centered on health insurance. But any law that focuses solely on coverage ignores the underlying flaw in the U.S. health care system: that we pay too much for too little."

Thomas Suddes wrote in an opinion piece for the Cleveland Plain Dealer (3/11, 976K) that "If it passes, U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan's bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act would be a disaster for Ohioans." Suddes quoted Ohio Gov. John Kasich who told reporters that the GOP proposal would, "unnecessarily puts at risk [Ohio's] ability to treat the drug-addicted, mentally ill and working poor who now have access to a stable source of care." Suddes concluded, "If the Ohio Republicans in Paul Ryan's House caucus vote 'yes' on his ACA repeal bill, their message to the 700,000 Ohioans who might eventually lose Medicaid coverage might as well be, 'Don't get sick' – and to the Ohio hospitals that could go broke, 'Suck it up.'"

The Denver Post (3/11, 778K) editorialized, that Sen. Cory Gardner (R-CO) is about to suffer from an attack he made on his predecessor – being the deciding vote on healthcare reform. The Post pointed out that Gardner was one of four Republican senators who sent a letter earlier this month demanding the ACA alternative "not come at the cost of disruption in access to health care for our country's most vulnerable and sickest individuals." The Post concluded that the GOP needs to ensure their changes to the healthcare system will work before they institute changes that could severely impact the 400,000 Coloradans currently enrolled in the Medicaid expansion.

Author and radio host Wayne Allyn Root writes in his biweekly column for the Las Vegas Review-Journal (3/12, 676K) that "Obamacare is a vampire. A werewolf. You either kill it, or it kills you." Root argues that the GOP needs to go "Full Monty" with their healthcare reform legislation. Root explains the ACA has wrecked the lives of the working class, and the GOP doesn't need to work with Democrats because they will never vote for a Republican-backed legislative package.

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Henry Aaron wrote for The Hill (3/10, 1.25M) in its "Pundits Blog" that the GOP healthcare plan will "provide less coverage while increasing costs for low- and moderate-income families," which he says goes against the promise President Trump made during his presidential campaign. Aaron argued, "The ACA has expanded and deepened coverage and lowered out-of-pocket costs. It has brought affordable care within reach for millions who were previously denied coverage or charged exorbitant premiums." Meanwhile, the "Republican plan, released this week, would, if enacted, do none of these things."

Raoul Lowery Contreras wrote for The Hill (3/10, Contreras, Contributor, 1.25M) in its "Pundits Blog" that "many Hispanics are still without coverage. In fact, Hispanics are the least-insured population group." Contreras pointed out that the Hispanic community tend to live longer and be younger than the average American. Contreras also argues that the ACA's Spanish language website was a bigger blunder than the English language version, and claims that fear is a driving factor in preventing many from registering for health insurance, because the ACA website requires disclosing information which some fear could be used by ICE agents to aid their efforts in deporting immigrants.

Linda Chaves wrote in an opinion piece for the Dallas Morning News (3/10, 1.12M) that "Anyone who believed that we could expand health care coverage to more people, insist that those with pre-existing conditions be covered, mandate that more procedures be paid for by insurance and impose one-size-fits-all policies for the young and healthy and for the elderly and sick and not see premiums explode doesn't understand basic economics." Chaves argued, "it is only fair that older Americans – who consume far costlier treatments – pay more for their premiums, as should smokers, heavy drinkers and overweight people." Chaves concludes the biggest problem for the GOP will be to justify, "that there are no free lunches, not even in health care."

Co-Chairs of the Coalition for Whole Health Ron Manderscheid And Paul Samuels wrote for The Hill (3/10, Manderscheid, Samuels, Contributors, 1.25M) in its "Congress Blog" that "Substance use disorders and mental illness affect 1 out of every 3 adults in this country." Therefore, the authors argued, "The need to address mental health and substance use disorders in any 'repeal and replace' proposal is of paramount concern to many leaders on both sides of the political aisle." The contributors pointed out that Congress has expanded access to mental health services over the past few decades, and the biggest challenge for lawmakers is "how to build on this progress."

Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics, Pathology and Decision Science, and Director of the Center for Healthcare Policy at the Texas Public Policy Foundation Dr. Deane Waldman wrote for The Hill (3/10, Waldman, Contributor, 1.25M) in its "Pundits Blog" that there is no constitutional justification to allow the federal government to dictate healthcare policy, but there is justification, via the Tenth Amendment, for allowing the states to take the lead on the issue. Waldman argued, "By giving over healthcare to the states and providing fixed, limited amounts for support, we can end the practice of writing blanks checks. Washington can begin to balance the budget." Waldman dubbed her alternative as "StatesCare," and claimed "states know best how to care for their people."

Under the headline "Tom Price is lying about the GOP health plan," Sarah Cliff argues in an opinion piece for Vox (3/12, 1.15M), "There is nothing in the plan to suggest...low-income Americans would suddenly gain cheaper – or even comparable – coverage to make up for what they lose." Cliff believes Trump Administration officials are falling into the same trap the Obama Administration fell into, namely pretending that there are not trade-offs in healthcare policy. Cliff concludes the GOP is free to make promises right now because the legislation has not passed, but once it does, those promises will be part of consumers' expectations.

BOOKER SAYS ACA SHOULD BE FIXED, NOT SCRAPPED. Sen. Cory Booker, appearing on CNN's State Of The Union (3/12, Tapper, 420K), said of the American Health Care Act, "The Republicans cannot force this down our throats. It's going to knock a lot of folks off [insurance], hurt long-term care, hurt good, working-class folks. So I don't understand what their political strategy is, because this is bad politics, but deeper than that, it is bad policy and bad process." The Newark (NJ) Star-Ledger (3/12, 438K) reports that Booker "said Congress made improvements to other major social legislation, including Social Security and Medicare, after they were enacted, and could do the same" to the Affordable Care Act. He said, "That would be great if they were coming with an open heart to say, 'Hey, this is not perfect, let's fix it.' What we're saying in the Democratic Party is, 'Lets build upon it, let's fix it.'"

ANTHEM SAYS IT MAY PULL OUT OF CONNECTICUT EXCHANGE. The Connecticut Mirror (3/12, Becker) reports that Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield President Jill Hummel has informed Connecticut's Affordable Care Act exchange that it is "likely to notify state regulators this summer that it will withdraw" next year, "even though the company has not yet decided whether to sell plans in 2018." This year, Anthem has about 31 percent of all Access Health CT enrollees, though it is covering more than 22,000 fewer Connecticut residents than it did last year.

CONCERNS RISING IN DELAWARE OVER POSSIBILITY OF ACA REPEAL. The Wilmington (DE) News Journal (3/10,

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Albright, 452K) reported on the "mounting nervousness in Delaware" over the Republican "crusade to replace the Affordable Care Act. Some residents are worried that their tax breaks and reduced premiums will evaporate," and "state leaders, already struggling with a $350 million budget gap, fear the GOP will cut Medicaid spending and leave them in an even deeper hole." Delaware Secretary of Health and Social Services Kara Odom Walker said, "We are not panicking, but we are watching what is happening very closely. It's very much a moving target, but we have some concerns about how the people we serve might be affected."

AHCA COULD MEAN FEWER COMPANIES OFFERING HEALTH COVERAGE. The Huffington Post (3/10, Brenoff, 237K) reported, "If the GOP's proposed American Health Care Act were to pass, companies with 50 or more employees will no longer have to offer health insurance," which "could cause a sea change in how the nation's health care delivery system operates, according to industry experts." The Huffington Post says companies may drop insurance "because it costs too much. ... The share of Fortune's top companies that still pay for 100 percent of their employee health care dropped to 9 percent in 2016 from 34 percent in 2001."

MEDICAL DEVICE GROUP BACKS AHCA. The Boston Globe (3/12, Weisman, 1.08M) reports that the Advanced Medical Technology Association, or AdvaMed, has endorsed the American Health Care Act, breaking ranks with "groups representing doctors, nurses, hospitals, and consumers [that] have all lined up against the Republican bill." AdvaMed Chief Advocacy Officer J.C. Scott said the group "is seizing on the Republican bill as a way to eliminate the excise tax – which amounts to a 2.3 percent levy on annual device sales."

CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND-NEW YORK WARNS THAT AHCA COULD COST MILLIONS OF STATE CHILDREN COVERAGE. The New York Daily News (3/10, Blain, 4.45M) reported that the Children's Defense Fund-New York warned Friday that the Affordable Health Care Act "will jeopardize the health care for the more than 2 million children in New York who depend on Medicaid." The group's director of health policy Benjamin Anderson said that the "proposed cap on Medicaid funding contained in the House bill would shift enormous costs to the states and likely force New York to reconsider both eligibility and the level of benefits offered through Medicaid."

MURPHY: AHCA IS "A DUMPSTER FIRE OF A BILL." The Connecticut Mirror (3/12, Radelat) interviews Sen. Chris Murphy about the American Health Care Act. He said, "The Republicans have an awful product on their hands. This is a dumpster fire of a bill and Republicans and Democrats know it. Essentially it takes healthcare away from millions of Americans to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy." He also said the bill does not meet GOP promises on replacing the Affordable Care Act: "Their main campaign promise was that they would get rid of the Affordable Care Act and replace it with something better. There is not a single Republican who can stand up and say this expands healthcare coverage or it lowers costs."

GOP CANDIDATES IN THIS YEAR'S RACES HOSTILE TOWARD AHCA. The Washington Times (3/12, McLaughlin, 272K) reports that the American Health Care Act "is proving to be absolute poison" in Republican primary races this year, with candidates ranging "from noncommittal to downright hostile." Conservatives seeking the GOP nomination in the GA6 special election and the Virginia gubernatorial race say the bill does not go far enough, and "for Republican leaders already having a tough time selling their bill in Washington, the last thing they need is a steady dose of negative reaction from candidates running in elections back home."

BALDWIN CRITICIZES AHCA AT MILWAUKEE TOWN HALL. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (3/12, Stephenson, 513K) reports that Sen. Tammy Baldwin "pressed her case against the Republican health care plan at a mostly friendly town hall meeting Sunday in Milwaukee." She admitted that the Affordable Care Act "was not without its problems," but "said the answer is 'not to get rid of those guaranteed protections, not to give huge tax breaks to the very wealthiest and to in particular target insurance CEOs for huge breaks, while diminishing the solvency of Medicare, capping and cutting Medicaid, and making it more difficult for those with pre-existing conditions to be able to afford coverage.'"

HELLER CRITICIZES AHCA IN MEETING WITH NEVADA CONSTITUENTS. Politico (3/12, Everett, 2.46M) reports that Sen. Dean Heller, "the most vulnerable GOP senator on the ballot" in 2018, "panned" the American Health Care Act during a Saturday meeting with constituents. Heller "raised significant issues to state Republicans and senior center residents about how the bill would affect the state's Medicaid population, even as he declined to say that health care is a fundamental right."

MINNESOTA COULD LOSE $80 MILLION IN PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING UNDER AHCA. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (3/12, Howatt, 1.27M) reports, "Minnesota stands to lose $80 million in public health funding over the next five years under the new congressional GOP health care bill." The American Health Care Act "would cut $1 billion annually from the nation's public health system, money that is the core source of funding for childhood immunization programs, lead poisoning prevention and infectious disease monitoring."

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DEMOCRATIC DATA: MORE THAN 40,300 NC5 RESIDENTS AT RISK OF LOSING COVERAGE. The Winston-Salem (NC) Journal (3/12, Craver, 204K) reports that according to Democratic congressional staff, "more than 40,300 residents in the 5th Congressional District of North Carolina are at risk of losing their health insurance coverage if the Trump administration and Republican-controlled Congress eliminate the Affordable Care Act marketplace."

JACKSON LEE SAYS THERE IS NO "CLARITY" ON ACA REPLACEMENT. The Houston Chronicle (3/11, George, 1.91M) reported that Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (R-TX) appeared at a "friendly town hall" in Houston on Saturday "that didn't have the tension or protesters present at similar recent meetings." Regarding GOP efforts to replace the Affordable Care Act, Jackson Lee said, "We are asking the same questions – what will happen? – and I don't think we have any clarity."

BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATORS WARN OF AHCA IMPACT. The Connecticut Post (3/12, Freedman, 268K) reports that Bridgeport, Connecticut hospital administrators warn that "the GOP replacement for Obamacare now working its way through the House would cost them millions that they'd have little chance of recovering. ... Right off the bat, Bridgeport's major 'safety-net' hospital could lose $19 million annually starting in 2020 just from the Republicans' rewrite of the Medicaid formula," according to one official, "and if predictions of up to 15 million losing insurance under Trumpcare prove to be accurate, the number of patients in need of free care could be staggering."

NYTIMES CONSIDERS "FIVE BIG NUMBERS TO LOOK FOR" IN CBO HEALTHCARE REPORT. The New York Times (3/12, Katz, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) considers "The Five Big Numbers To Look For In The C.B.O. Report On Health Care Reform": What the long-term cost will be, how many people will lose their health coverage, how much premiums will change, how many people will lose Medicaid coverage, and how employer-based insurance will change.

IOWA, NEBRASKA REPUBLICANS DIVIDED OVER AHCA. The Omaha (NE) World-Herald (3/13, Morton, 544K) reports that while Republicans "are in position to finally deliver on their long-standing campaign pledges to repeal the Affordable Care Act," the effort "could be derailed by conservatives" who oppose the American Health Care Act. Sen. Charles Grassley defended the bill and "rejected the notion" that its tax credits "are essentially the same as the subsidies in the current law." Two Nebraska House Republicans "have expressed support for the proposal. But other House members from Nebraska and western Iowa have been withholding judgment – as have those on the other side of the Capitol." Both Sen. Deb Fischer and Ben Sasse say they are not yet ready to state a position.

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEMOCRATIC SENATORS TO HOLD NEWS CONFERENCE ON AHCA TODAY. The AP (3/13) reports that Sens. Maggie Hassan and Jeanne Shaheen will hold a news conference on Monday morning "to talk about what they call the 'devastating' effects of Republicans' proposed health care overhaul." The New Hampshire Democrats "are dubbing the plan 'Trumpcare.'"

Healthcare News:

VA SECRETARY SHULKIN VISITS MIAMI VA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM. The Miami Herald (3/10, Chang, 856K) reports US Veterans Affairs Secretary Shulkin on Friday visited the Miami VA Healthcare System barely one month following his unanimous confirmation. The Herald says he is the only member of President Trump's cabinet to have served in the Obama Administration and the first non-veteran to serve as VA Secretary. According to the article, "the Miami VA Healthcare System is among Florida's busiest, serving about 58,000 patients a year, with an annual budget of $537 million and about 2,800 employees." The piece publishes an interview the Herald conducted with Shulkin.

NYTIMES: VA TAKES IMPORTANT STEP IN PROVIDING CARE TO DISCHARGED VETERANS. The New York Times (3/11, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) editorializes that the Department of Veterans Affairs last week took "an important, belated step to protect tens of thousands of former service members who risked their lives in war zones." The Times says that following the withdrawal of troops from Iraq in 2011, the military let go of a large number of veterans on less than honorable discharges, often for minor infractions. This has left many without "access to health care and other benefits." Now, the VA "will provide emergency mental health care to some veterans who received less than honorable discharges." For those who were dishonorably discharged, the Times says they will still remain ineligible for access to care.

HOUSE COMMITTEE APPROVES BILL THAT WOULD ALLOW EMPLOYERS TO INCREASE PENALTIES FOR EMPLOYEES WHO DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN WORKPLACE WELLNESS PROGRAMS. The New York Times (3/11, A10, Abelson, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reported the House Committee on Education and the Workforce approved a bill "aimed at making it easier for companies to gather genetic data from workers and their families, including their children, when they collect it as part of a voluntary wellness program." The article reports that the bill (HR 1313), also known as the Preserving Employee Wellness Programs Act, "could make it harder for workers to keep employers from getting access to their personal medical and genetic information and raise the financial penalties for those who opt out of workplace wellness programs."

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In "To Your Health," the Washington Post (3/11, Sun, 11.43M) reported the bill "would allow employers to impose penalties of up to 30 percent of the total cost of the employee's health insurance on those who choose to keep such information private." A group of almost 70 organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, wrote a letter to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce last week saying that the bill would undermine the Americans with Disabilities Act and the 2008 Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act. STAT (3/10, Begley) and the Christian Science Monitor (3/12, Rosen, 387K) also cover the story.

Health Information Technology:

PROPUBLICA DRAWS ON PROVIDER DATABASES FOR "VITAL SIGNS" PROJECT. The independent reporting organization ProPublica (3/10, Klein, Wei, 30K) said it had launched a project and tool called "Vital Signs" that "puts the most important information from across all of our health care projects in one easy-to-use place." The new tool draws on ProPublica's healthcare databases, "including Dollars for Docs and Prescriber Checkup," and can be used for alerts. For professionals, Vital Signs data "is available via API," and can be used "to match what we know about providers with other information, as long as you know their NPI numbers."

Human Services News:

KENTUCKY GOVERNOR ANNOUNCED FOSTER CARE, ADOPTION INITIATIVE. The Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (3/10, Watkins, 328K) reported Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin and other government leaders spoke at the "Open Hearts/Open Homes Summit to Save Our Children" on Friday concerning requests for public assistance in renovating the state's adoption and foster care system. Bevin, whose family attempted to adopt a young girl but was denied, said "the system failed her," and that legislators have "got to rethink the entire process." Bevin's initiative aims to partner the state government with nonprofit organizations, churches, and others with needy children throughout the state. Bevin said the program will also employ a foster care and adoption "czar" dedicated to finding "the absolute best path forward for every child in state custody."

TEXAS LEGISLATORS DISCUSS BUDGET REQUESTS FOR DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES. The Dallas Morning News (3/10, Garrett, 1.12M) reported the Texas State Legislature's budget department is currently negotiating who will finance the overhaul of either the state's Child Protective Services agency or its foster-care system. The current budget can provide "two more years' worth of the emergency pay raises and new hires," but the total sum amounts to about one-quarter of the Department of Family and Protective Services' requested budget. A spokesman for Speaker Joe Straus (R-San Antonio) explained that the House budget "is a work in progress."

Medicare:

SENIORS STRUGGLE WITH NAVIGATING MEDICARE COMPLEXITIES. The Columbus (OH) Dispatch (3/12, Pyle, 529K) reports the Medicare Rights Center recently releases a report outlining the most common problems faced by seniors using Medicare. Researchers analyzed 16,000 calls to the consumer helpline in 2015 and determined the most common issues were related to navigating Medicare Part B.

GOP KEEPS MEDICARE CUTS IT ATTACKED UNDER OBAMA. The Washington Examiner (3/12, Cohen, 400K) reports, "Republicans complained for years about the Medicare cuts imposed by Obamacare, but are not looking to restore those cuts in legislation that aims to undo the law." The Examiner writes that one main reason for not restoring the cuts is the massive cost of doing so. Critics argue the GOP only used the cuts as a political line and never intended to restore them.

Medicaid & CHIP:

MISSOURI LAWMAKERS DEBATE FUNDING MECHANISM OF MEDICAID. The Columbia (MO) Missourian (3/12, Sadler, 21K) reports Missouri state lawmakers are debating the future of Medicaid in the state. Sen. David Sater (R-Cassville) is proposing legislation that would alter the way the program is funded in the state. Opponents argue the legislation would slash funding for the program, while supporters argue it would offer the state more flexibility.

EDITORIAL: ENDING MEDICAID EXPANSION IS A BAD IDEA. The Akron (OH) Beacon Journal (3/11, 255K) editorialized in favor of the state's expansion of Medicaid. The article points out that Medicaid brings an efficient delivery of services to the state, adding, "Of all the flaws in the Affordable Care Act, the Medicaid expansion is not one of them. To mess with this achievement 'makes no sense,' as John Kasich often and responsibly reminds."

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GOP PLANS FOR MEDICAID COULD UNDERMINE NURSING HOMES. The Duluth (MN) News Tribune (3/12, Bowe, 134K) reports the GOP plans to quit fully funding Medicaid and force "states, nursing homes, hospitals and others to make up the difference, which would grow over time." The Tribune writes that the changes would make it more difficult for nursing homes to attract and retain the best staff members possible, as the facilities already operate on narrow profit margins.

OPINION: LEGISLATION IN NEW HAMPSHIRE WOULD DEVASTATE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF NURSING HOME STAFF. Brendan Williams wrote in an opinion piece for the Concord (NH) Monitor (3/11, 36K) that "HB 1 would make chronic underfunding worse by freezing the nursing home appropriation for the next two years. This would have a devastating impact upon recruitment and retention of caregivers." Williams explains that New Hampshire "has the nation's third-largest gap between Medicaid payments and costs for the skilled care provided by nursing homes." Williams concludes that lawmakers must use HB 1 as a starting point, but not consider it a final product.

ARKANSAS GOV. HUTCHINSON PROPOSES SCALE BACK OF STATE'S MEDICAID PROGRAM. The AP (3/11, Demillo) reported "Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson is hoping to finally get the flexibility to scale back the hybrid Medicaid expansion he inherited that's covering more than 300,000 of his low-income constituents. But his plans to move 60,000 people off the program and require many of them to work may face a future as uncertain as that of the federal health care law that enabled the expanded coverage." The AP explained, "the program uses Medicaid funds to purchase private insurance for low-income residents. It was crafted as an alternative to the Medicaid expansion envisioned under the federal health law."

OPINION: PROTECTING MEDICAID BENEFITS CHILDREN. In an opinion piece for the Deseret (UT) News (3/11, 362K), Jessica Mandel wrote lawmakers' attempts to alter the funding mechanism of Medicaid will be making it more difficult for children to access the necessary medical care they need. Mandel argued, "Children who are sick or in pain undermine classroom learning and student success, for themselves and their classmates. The productivity of their parents is also adversely affected. But when children do have access to needed care, we see the benefits to our economy and society." Mandel concluded, "Block grants or spending caps put our whole system at risk and undermine care for our most vulnerable. We must continue to provide a strong health care foundation for all children, so Utah families can continue to succeed."

MEDICAID CAPS EXPECTED TO HARM PATIENTS WITH LONG-TERM DISABILITY. The Philadelphia Inquirer (3/11, Sapatkin, 586K) reported, "The GOP [healthcare] bill alters how Medicaid works, changing it from an open-ended entitlement program to one that is limited to a set amount per person each year, no matter if more people need help, or if costs go up." According to Kristen Dama, an attorney who focuses on Medicaid policy at Community Legal Services of Philadelphia, "Seventy-two percent of our Medicaid spending is going to seniors and adults with long-term disability," which makes it difficult to find cost savings.

CLOSE THE GAP IDAHO RALLY FOR EXPANDING MEDICAID. The Idaho State Journal (3/10, Goins, 57K) reported at a Medicaid expansion rally on Thursday, member of "Close the Gap Idaho," spoke in favor of the Medicaid expansion. Attendees urged the state to expand Medicaid so they do not miss out on federal dollars.

KENTUCKY DOCTOR FOUND GUILTY OF MEDICAID FRAUD. The AP (3/12) reports, "A jury in Pulaski County has found a physician guilty of receiving payment from Kentucky's Medicaid program for tobacco cessation counseling that he did not perform." Dr. Ezekiel Akande was found guilty of fraud and theft by "unlawful taking over $10,000. Both charges are felonies."

BILL WOULD CREATE PREPAID DENTAL PLANS FOR NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAID RECIPIENTS. The Winston-Salem (NC) Journal (3/12, Craver, 204K) reports, the North Carolina legislature is considering a bill which "would require state health regulators to enter into capitation contracts with at least two prepaid dental plans to cover Medicaid and N.C. Health Choice recipients." The Journal explains, "A capitation system is where a flat fee is paid to cover all care services for most recipients. The plans would be responsible for most cost overruns."

GOP ACA ALTERNATIVE HAS MADE UNLIKELY BEDFELLOWS OF POLITICAL RIVALS. The Washington Post (3/12, Goldstein, 11.43M) reports, "The House GOP's legislation would end the system in which the government pays each state a specific share of all its Medicaid costs and instead would provide a fixed sum for each beneficiary – no matter how much or little of the costs that funding covered." The Post explains the legislation has made "unlikely bedfellows with a common stake in traditional Medicaid's status quo have begun to mobilize. They include governors of both parties, insurers, the hospital industry and patient advocates."

VIRGINIA GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES EXPRESS OPINION OF MEDICAID BLOCK GRANT PROPOSAL. The Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (3/12, Martz, 324K) reports GOP gubernatorial candidates in Virginia have embraced

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Medicaid block grants, while many budget leaders are wary of the option. The Times-Dispatch writes, "the prospect of a Medicaid block grant alarms leaders of the General Assembly money committees who fear it would expose Virginia to hundreds of millions, perhaps billions, of dollars in health care costs that the federal government would no longer share with the state." Both Democratic candidates agree the program would be a disaster for the state.

ACA MEDICAID EXPANSION HELPED NEW JERSEY SAVE MILLIONS. NJ Spotlight (3/13) reports an analysis demonstrated, "New Jersey has saved hundreds of millions of dollars on hospital support since the federal Affordable Care Act took full effect in 2014." Some state lawmakers are concerned that if the Medicaid expansion is done away with, it could send medical costs skyrocketing as people would likely make increased use of emergency departments.

FLORIDA LAWMAKERS WANT TO CHANGE MEDICAID SYSTEM. The Fort Myers (FL) News-Press (3/12, Glorioso, 221K) reports Florida lawmakers are considering removing insurance companies from their middleman position between patients and doctors and changing the way Medicaid serves poorer residents. "Florida House Republicans see an opportunity to influence federal policy regarding the Medicaid program, which eats up $25.8 billion of the state's $80 billion-plus budget every year. They argue that will help them overhaul an unsustainable health care system in Florida and ultimately curb costs. Democrats question whether Republicans can even come up with a plan given the federal climate, and they accuse the GOP of not being committed to helping the poor."

ADVOCACY GROUPS MOUNT OPPOSITION TO GOP HEALTHCARE PLAN. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (3/13, 493K) reports the GOP healthcare plan is making its way through congress and advocacy groups are mounting a charge against it. According to the article, "A host of advocacy groups, such as those representing hospitals, the AARP and disability groups, have come out against the bill, and some against the Medicaid overhaul in particular," because they fear the GOP plan would end "Medicare as we know it." Nancy Murray, president of The Arc of Greater Pittsburgh at ACHIEVA, said she was upset with the speed at which the legislation seemed to be moving because, "You just don't dismantle a good part of the health care system in a couple of weeks. That is what's happening. That's what is so frightening."

NEW JERSEY HOSPITALS FACE $1 BILLION SHORTFALL IF GOP HEALTHCARE PLAN PASSES. The Bergen (NJ) Record (3/13, Washburn) reports, "The federal expansion of Medicaid under Obamacare has been a runaway success in New Jersey – not only covering 552,000 residents over three years, but firming up the finances of the state's most vulnerable hospitals." The Record writes, "all that may unravel if the Republican effort to repeal that aspect of the Affordable Care Act...becomes law." Sean Hopkins, senior vice president of the New Jersey Hospital Association, told the Record, "Medicaid expansion has absolutely been positive for hospitals, and good for patients, too," but if the GOP efforts succeed, "We're looking at a $1 billion shortfall for hospitals." Hospital officials warn that if they lose said funding it could have a spillover effect on the economy.

MICHIGAN OFFICIAL EXPECTS STATE COSTS TO RISE IF MEDICAID EXPANSION IS FROZEN. The Detroit Free Press (3/12, Gray, 1.01M) considers the potential impact of the GOP bill on the "more than 650,000 low-income people in Michigan" who gained coverage as a result of the ACA's expansion of Medicaid. The Free Press says state legislative leaders "don't think there will be much of a change for the fiscal plan they're working on now, but there are some congressional Republicans in Washington who would like to see the Medicaid expansion end much sooner than 2020." Chris Priest, Medicaid director for the state's Department of Health and Human Services, said that regardless of when the expansion is frozen, "costs are likely to go up for the state"

Health & Medical News:

BABY BOXES HELP REDUCE SIDS OCCURRENCE. NBC Nightly News (3/12, story 7, 2:20, Snow, 16.61M) reported that efforts to educate parents have put sudden infant death syndrome "in steady decline." NBC adds that a baby box company is "offering boxes and supplies for free around the country" in an attempt to reduce the number further. The company "recommends boxes until babies can pull themselves up, usually around six months."

MORE THAN 66,000 CHILDREN YOUNGER THAN THREE GO TO ED ANNUALLY DUE TO ACCIDENTS INVOLVING NURSERY PRODUCTS, STUDY INDICATES. USA Today (3/13, May, 5.28M) reports research indicates that "more than 66,000 children younger than three go to the" emergency department (ED) "annually for accidents involving nursery products." The findings were published in Pediatrics.

FIRST-YEAR PHYSICIANS IN TRAINING WILL BE PERMITTED TO WORK SHIFTS LASTING AS LONG AS 24 HOURS. The New York Times (3/11, A17, Kolata, Hoffman, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reported that first-year physicians "in training will now be permitted to work shifts lasting as long as 24 hours, eight hours longer than the current limit, according to" the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. The Times added, "In setting the new standard, which goes into effect on July 1, officials at the" council "said...that they hoped to avoid confusion and disruptions in care that can result when a patient is handed off to one" physician "from another whose shift is ending."

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In “To Your Health,” the Washington Post (3/10, Bernstein, 11.43M) reported that the council “also said the longer shifts will improve the new doctors’ training by allowing them to follow their patients for more extended periods, especially in the critical hours after admission.” Additionally, “the council said...that under the amended standards, the physicians’ mental and physical health actually will be bolstered by requiring their supervisors to more closely monitor their well-being.”

The AP (3/10, Tanner) reported that the “80-hour per week limit for residents at all levels remains in place under the new rules.” The AP also points out that the Committee of Interns and Residents and the American Medical Student Association both oppose “the work-shift changes.” Also covering the story were the Los Angeles Times (3/10, Petersen, 4.52M), Reuters (3/10, Seaman), the NPR (3/10, Dwyer, 1.92M) “The Two-Way” blog, Forbes (3/10, Japsen, 15.17M), Fierce Healthcare (3/10, Finnegan, 147K), and the Philadelphia Inquirer (3/10, McCullough, 586K).

MEDICAL ETHICISTS WARN “RIGHT TO TRY” LAWS MAY HURT PATIENT HEALTH, FINANCES. The Los Angeles Daily News (3/12, Feibel, 315K) reports medical ethicists warn that “right to try” laws that help “dying people get easier access to experimental treatments” may “pose worrisome risks to the health and finances of vulnerable patients.” Opponents of the laws argue that “the FDA and the clinical trial process were put in place for a reason — not just to shut out would-be snake oil salesmen, but to ensure that manufacturers are producing a safe product and not cutting corners.” Whats more, a New York University study “looking for evidence of the laws’ usefulness” has not “found a single substantiated case of a patient getting a drug using a state law.”

NFL PLAYERS CLAIM IN LAWSUIT THAT TEAMS HAD THEM ABUSE PAIN MEDICATIONS TO STAY ON FIELD. In continuing coverage, CBS Evening News (3/10, story 8, 2:20, Pelley, 11.17M) reported that “eighteen hundred former NFL players” claim in a lawsuit that “their teams had them popping addictive painkillers to keep them from being sidelined by injuries.” The lawsuit is against all 32 NFL teams and claims that “doctors and trainers abused the use of powerful painkillers and anti-inflammatory drugs to keep players on the field.”

According to ABC World News Tonight (3/10, story 12, 0:25, Muir, 14.63M), the NFL “is pushing back...against allegations of widespread painkiller abuse,” saying that the claims are “meritless” and “simply wrong.”

Reuters (3/10, Fine) also provided coverage.

WPost: NFL Should Accept Reforms To Ensure Team Physicians Look After Player Health. In an editorial, the Washington Post (3/11, 11.43M) claims that NFL team physicians “engaged in questionable, and possibly illegal, use of prescription drugs to manage player pain,” which should raise questions about conflicts of interest. The Post concludes that “the recent disclosures of alleged abuses should prompt the league to accept the need for further reforms.”

COLUMN: SPERM COUNT AND SPERM QUALITY ARE BOTH IN DECLINE. Nicholas Kristof wrote in his column in the New York Times (3/12, SR9, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) that sperm count and sperm quality have both significantly declined over the past 75 years, according to scientific research. Dr. Andrea Gore, a professor of pharmacology at the University of Texas and the editor of the journal Endocrinology, said, “Semen quality and fertility in men have decreased. Not everyone who wants to reproduce will be able to. And the costs of male disorders to quality of life, and the economic burden to society, are inestimable.” Endocrine Society member Dr. Niels Erik Skakkebaek, a Danish fertility scholar, said, “I think we are at a turning point. It is a matter of whether we can sustain ourselves.”

ELDERLY PATIENTS TURNING TO MEDICAL MARIJUANA TO EASE PAIN. NBC Nightly News (3/11, story 9, 2:00, Diaz-Balart, 16.61M) reported the elderly are emerging as an “unlikely group” to benefit from medical marijuana. Correspondent Harry Smith said, “For this group of elderly Americans, using marijuana was definitely not on their bucket list.”

DEMOCRATIC LAWMAKERS HOPE DRUG REIMPORTATION BECOMES A REALITY UNDER TRUMP. The Washington Examiner (3/12, Yilek, 400K) reports lawmakers “have been trying for decades to make it legal for Americans to buy reimported drugs,” but reimportation “has remained elusive due to fervent opposition from the pharmaceutical industry and lingering concerns that the drugs people buy from Canada could actually come from other countries instead of from American manufacturers.” However, Democrats are “hoping new legislation will make the practice a reality,” especially given statements of support from President Trump.

TRUMP WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY LOWERING DRUG PRICES DUE TO COMPLEXITY OF HEALTHCARE SYSTEM, EXPERTS SAY. AFP (3/12, Olinga) reports “the question remains whether President Donald Trump and the Republican-led Congress can bring down skyrocketing drug prices.” Although Trump has “railed against the industry and vowed to bring prices down,” experts “say Trump will struggle to realize that goal due to a system that involves a complex web of players and incentives.”

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Global Health:

RIO DE JANEIRO STATE ANNOUNCES PLANS TO VACCINATE POPULATION AGAINST YELLOW FEVER. The AP (3/11) said the Brazilian state of Rio de Janeiro announced it will vaccinate its population against yellow fever "as a precaution amid Brazil's largest outbreak of the disease in years." The Health Ministry confirmed more than 100 of the 300 cases of yellow fever were lethal, although Rio state has not yet reported any cases. The World Health Organization recently expanded its vaccination recommendations to include parts of the state, which announced plans to reach 90 percent vaccination this year.

MEASLES OUTBREAK IN ROMANIA KILLS 17. The AP (3/10) reported 17 have died of a measles outbreak in Romania, while thousands more continue to fight the illness, Health Minister Florian Bodog said Friday. Bodog estimated nearly 3,400 people have contracted measles since September of last year, when the outbreak began. According to the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control, "the likelihood of exportation of measles (from Romania) cases is high," though most reported cases have been localized to western and southwestern Romania.

National News:

MCCAIN, OTHERS URGE TRUMP TO OFFER EVIDENCE OF WIRETAPPING CLAIM. Several legislators of both parties appeared on the Sunday morning political shows to urge President Trump to offer evidence of his claims of wiretapping. ABC World News Tonight (3/12, story 4, 0:30, Wright, 14.63M) reported that lawmakers are "pressing for answers" regarding President Trump's "unsubstantiated claims that President Obama bugged the phones in Trump Tower, part of a broad investigation into Russia role in the 2016 campaign." The CBS Weekend News (3/12, lead story, 2:10, Quijano) reported that Sens. Tom Cotton and John McCain, and House Intelligence Committee ranking member Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) all say they have seen no evidence to corroborate Trump's claim as "pressure mounts" for Trump "to drop" the allegation.

Bloomberg Politics (3/12, Brody, 201K) reports that lawmakers of both parties "said they still haven't seen evidence to support" the President's "unverified claim...but they expect the facts will soon emerge." The Christian Science Monitor (3/12, Hoover, 8.62M) similarly writes that a week after Trump "unleashed illegal wiretapping allegations" against Obama, "he has yet to provide evidence for his claims or withdraw them, leaving puzzled legislators and intelligence officials to piece together the scenario."

The AP (3/12, Riechmann) reports that McCain said Trump "must either come up with the evidence or retract his claim." The Washington Post (3/12, Snell, 11.43M) says McCain "is one of several top lawmakers in Congress to call on Trump to provide evidence of his unsubstantiated claim." McCain "avoided directly criticizing Trump for using Twitter to spread unverified information, but the senator said a serious charge, such as accusing a former president of illegal wiretapping, should not be handled lightly." Politico (3/12, McCaskill, 2.46M) briefly reports on McCain's remarks.

The Washington Times (3/12, Wolfgang, 272K) reports that Schiff said Trump "may have done irreparable harm to his own credibility." Schiff said on ABC's This Week (3/12, 6.61M), "I think there are one or two possibilities here: Either the President quite deliberately for some reason made up the charge, or perhaps, more disturbing, the President really believes this. ... If six months from now the President should say Iran is cheating on the nuclear agreement, if he's making it up, it's a real problem. If he's not making it up and it's true, it's a bigger problem. The question is, would people believe him? Would American people believe him? Would people around the world believe him? That has real world consequences."

Kellyanne Conway said on Fox News' MediaBuzz (3/12, 536K) that the President has "called upon the House and Senate Intelligence Committees to add this piece to the investigation to their existing investigation about Russia, and they have agreed to do that, and so we'll make a comment after those findings are complete."

Manu Raju said on CNN's Inside Politics (3/12, 303K), "What we have heard from sources is that [FBI Director] Comey was not happy with Trump's claim of being wiretapped." Raju added that Schiff said that "Comey would 'welcome' the opportunity to discuss this at the March 20 hearing. So clearly, that could be a hearing in which Comey embarrasses the President of the United States."

Conway Says Monitoring Of Trump Tower May Have Gone Beyond Wiretapping. The Bergen (NJ) Record (3/12, Kelly, 5.28M) reports that in a Sunday interview, Conway "suggested that the alleged monitoring of activities at Trump's campaign headquarters at Trump Tower in Manhattan may have involved far more than wiretapping." Conway said, "What I can say is there are many ways to surveil each other. You can surveil someone through their phones, certainly through

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their television sets – any number of ways." The Record says that while she "did not offer any evidence to back up her claim," her remarks "are significant – and potentially explosive – because they come amid a request by the House Intelligence Committee for the White House to turn over any evidence by Monday that the phones at Trump Tower were tapped."

Cummings Says Trump Should "Do Less Tweeting And Do More Leading." Politico (3/12, McCaskill, 2.46M) reports that House Oversight and Government Reform Committee ranking member Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD), appearing on ABC's This Week, said that he has advised the President to cut back on Twitter. Cummings said, "I just think that the President has to be – I've told him this, by the way – that he needs to be careful with what he tweets and what he says. And do less tweeting and do more leading."

KREMLIN SPOKESMAN: RUSSIA CONTACTED BOTH TRUMP, CLINTON CAMPAIGN ASSOCIATES. Asked on CNN's Fareed Zakaria GPS (3/12, Zakaria, 410K) if the Kremlin had "any collaboration or serious communication" with the Trump campaign, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said, "The answer is very simple: No. The fact that Russia is being demonized in that sense comes very strange to us. ... We never had, we do not have and we will not have any intention to interfere in someone's domestic affairs, especially in America's domestic affairs." Asked why then was the Russian ambassador "talking to so many of Donald Trump's associates," Peskov said, "This is his job. He was talking about bilateral relations. He was talking about what is going on in the United States, so we have a better understanding in Moscow."

The New York Post (3/12, Moore, 3.82M) reports that Peskov confirmed that Ambassador Sergey Kislyak "met with members of the Trump campaign during the election to discuss 'bilateral relations' – but he also contacted people linked to the Clinton camp." The Daily Caller (3/12, Bennett, 898K) reports that Peskov "took pains to state" that while President Vladimir Putin "did in fact have a preference for Donald Trump during the 2016 election cycle, he never was vocal about it, so as to avoid swaying the election." Politico (3/12, McCaskill, 2.46M) covers Peskov's remarks on CNN.

Cotton said on ABC's This Week (3/12, 6.61M), "Barack Obama's director of national intelligence said last weekend...he had seen no evidence of cooperation between any Trump associates and Russian officials. I don't think that got the attention it deserved. The director of national intelligence under Barack Obama would be in a much better position than any senator or congressman to know such things."

Chris Cillizza writes in his Washington Post (3/12, Cillizza, 11.43M) column that while Trump supporters see a "mainstream media" conspiracy against Trump, the President's opponents believe that "Russia has something on Trump. ... Conspiracy theories aren't dismissed; instead, they're taken as something close to fact. 'Prove that the conspiracy theory is wrong!' is now our default position as a society."

NYTimes Analysis: Russian Hacker Created Opportunity For Espionage. The New York Times (3/12, Schwirtz, Goldstein, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) profiles Evgeniy Bogachev, who to the FBI "is the most wanted cybercriminal in the world. ... For Russia, he is more than just a criminal. At one point, Mr. Bogachev had control over as many as a million computers in multiple countries, with possible access to everything from family vacation photographs and term papers to business proposals and highly confidential personal information." The Times writes that "for Russia's surveillance-obsessed intelligence community, Mr. Bogachev's exploits may have created an irresistible opportunity for espionage."

WSJournal: Selva Says US Knew Of Russian Missile Deployment. In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/12, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) writes Joint Chiefs of Staff Vice Chairman Gen. Paul Selva publicly confirmed last week before Congress that Russia's deployment of a land-based cruise missile violated the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. Former President Obama knew of the violation but failed to address it, the Journal writes, but the Pentagon's public confirmation suggests the current Administration is adopting a more skeptical, proactive approach to Russia's false promises.

UK Political Parties Advised To Gird Against Cyberattacks. Reuters (3/12, James) reports that the UK's National Cyber Security Centre has warned British political parties "to protect themselves against potential cyber attacks" in the wake of the "allegations that Russian hackers tried to influence last year's US presidential election."

BHARARA SAYS HE ASPIRED TO "ABSOLUTE INDEPENDENCE" AS US ATTORNEY. The AP (3/12, Neumeister) reports that Preet Bharara, who was fired Saturday as US attorney for the Southern District of New York, "says 'absolute independence' was his touchstone for over seven years as he battled public corruption." The New York Times (3/12, Weiser, Protess, Goldstein, Rashbaum, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) writes that throughout his tenure, Bharara "harped on" the theme that "politics and prosecution do not mix." Yet he now "finds himself on what appears to be the losing end of a quintessential political decision." The Times writes that though his tenure was "seemingly apolitical," his

"confrontation" with President Trump "could fuel talk that his political star is rising."

The New York Post (3/12, Golding, 3.82M) reports that Bharara also "likened his surprise ouster...to the 2014 shutdown of a state anti-corruption panel" by Gov. Andrew Cuomo, tweeting, "By the way, now I know what the Moreland Commission must have felt like." The comment "referenced the former state Commission to Investigate Public Corruption, a blue-ribbon panel that Cuomo created in 2013 under the state's Moreland Act before abruptly pulling the plug on it as part of a budget deal."

E.J. Dionne said on MSNBC's AM Joy (3/12), "You can pick fights with some people and get away with it. Bharara is somebody who will not go down quietly, who does have a lot of access to the press, who doesn't mind mixing it up with you. So they may have taken on yet another person...who is going to hit back and could hit back effectively."

Nia-Malika Henderson said on CNN's Inside Politics (3/12, 303K), "This is an Administration that seems to believe in the idea that there is this deep state, that there are all of these Obama holdovers that are essentially plotting against the Trump Administration, plotting against Donald Trump. ... I think the Trump supporters will look at this and say, 'Good for Donald Trump. He should be cleaning house. They should bring their own folks in.'"

White House Says Trump Called Bharara To Offer Good Wishes. The New York Times (3/12, Lichtblau, Rashbaum, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that the White House has "offered an explanation on Sunday for a mysterious phone call that President Trump placed" to Bharara on Friday, "saying the president was merely trying to extend his good wishes." Bharara said that he "was skeptical of the White House account, although he did not offer an alternative explanation." Reuters (3/12, Hosenball) reports that when the White House contacted him, Bharara said "he did not want to talk to Trump without the approval of his superiors," as is protocol.

Cummings Suggests Politics May Have Played Role In Dismissal. House Oversight and Government Reform Committee ranking Democrat Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD) said on ABC's This Week (3/12, 6.61M), "Certainly, the President has the opportunity and the right to fire US attorneys. But...not very long ago, the President was saying that he was going to keep the US attorney there in New York. And then, suddenly, he's, I guess, changed his mind. I'm just curious as to why that is. ... There is an air of distrust that has been brought on by President Trump himself." The Washington Times (3/12, Wolfgang, 272K) reports that Cummings questioned "whether politics led to the firing." The Hill (3/12, Savransky, 1.25M) also reports on Cummings' remarks.

O'Callaghan, Mukasey Mentioned As Possible Bharara Successors. The New York Post (3/12, Whitehouse, 3.82M) reports that Edward O'Callaghan, "a former federal prosecutor who assisted President Trump's transition team," is "in the running" to succeed Bharara. Attorney Marc Mukasey, son of former attorney general Michael Mukasey, has also been mentioned.

Daily Intelligencer: Murdoch May Be "Winner" In Bharara Firing. Gabriel Sherman of the Daily Intelligencer (NY) (3/12, 795K) writes that the "winner" in the Bharara dismissal may be Rupert Murdoch, who "has personally nudged [Fox News] in a more pro-Trump direction." Bharara's office "is in the middle of a high-profile federal investigation of Fox News. The probe, according to sources, is looking at a number of potential crimes, including whether Fox executives broke laws by allegedly obtaining journalists' phone records or committed mail and wire fraud by hiding financial settlements paid to women who accused Roger Ailes of sexual harassment."

Manhattan USA Also Refused To Step Down During Nixon's First Year. Benjamin Weiser of the New York Times (3/12, Weiser, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) examines a "Nixon-era parallel" to the Bharara firing: the initial refusal of Robert Morgenthau, his predecessor in the same office, to step down in 1969 when Richard Nixon took office. He ultimately resigned nearly a year later. Morgenthau, who is now 97, "said he had refused to resign as a matter of principle, fearing that the Nixon Justice Department would impose its views on law enforcement."

New Jersey US Attorney Surprised By Lack Of Transition Period. The Bergen (NJ) Record (3/12, Fallon) reports that Paul Fishman, who was US attorney for New Jersey until getting the order to resign, said Sunday that he had expected to be asked to depart "within a few months. Instead he only had a few hours on Friday evening to turn in his resignation." He said "A transition period would have been a lot better. I knew this job wasn't mine forever. It shouldn't be in any event, and the President has the power, authority, and opportunity to appoint US attorneys who would serve him and I fully expected that process would take place over a couple of months. I just didn't think we would be given seven to nine hours."

LEADING FISCAL CONSERVATIVES BACKING TRUMP INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN. The Washington Times (3/12, Miller, 272K) reports that President Trump's "plan for a $1 trillion program to rebuild America's roads, bridges, railways and airports has won early support from leading budget hawks and anti-tax conservatives because it is expected to be more about regulatory reform and alternative financing than a federal spending spree." Grover Norquist of Americans for

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Tax Reform described the infrastructure program "as part of the biggest reduction of regulations envisioned" since President Reagan, and Doug Sachtleben of the Club For Growth "spoke encouragingly about what Mr. Trump has signaled about the plan, such as the use of public-private partnerships."

NYTIMES A1 ANALYSIS: TRUMP AND FED MAY BE ON COLLISION COURSE. The New York Times (3/12, Appelbaum, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) writes on its front page that while for the White House, "the strong February jobs report was a cause for celebration – and a first step toward delivering on the president's promise of faster economic growth," for the Federal Reserve, "it was the final confirmation that the time had come to raise interest rates to prevent the United States economy from overheating." The Times says President Trump and Fed Chair Yellen "appear to be headed toward a collision, albeit in slow motion." The Fed "has all but announced that it will raise its benchmark interest rate" this week.

Robert Samuelson writes in his Washington Post (3/12, 11.43M) column that some economists think the Fed might be "oversensitive to inflation" and "should give the economy 'room to run' – meaning fewer interest-rate increases. Perhaps. But...once higher inflation captures popular psychology, it takes a crushing recession to purge it."

Mulvaney Says Job Creation Number Is Key Statistic. Asked about the President's previous rejection of jobs reports, OMB Director Mulvaney said on CNN's State Of The Union (3/12, 420K), "What you should really look at is the number of jobs created. We've thought for a long time that the Obama Administration was manipulating the numbers in terms of the number of people in the workforce to make the unemployment rate look smaller than it actually was." The New York Times (3/12, Thomas, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that many small business owners are feeling more confident with Trump in office.

Domenico Montanaro of NPR said on CNN's Inside Politics (3/12, 303K), "It is funny to hear Republicans now take credit for an economy that President Trump really hasn't had much of an impact on and he's talking about these very minor, very small deals that he's tried to make to keep a few hundred jobs here or 1,000 jobs there. Let's see over time where this kind of thing goes."

CONWAY: GOOD MEDIA RELATIONS ARE "A TWO-WAY STREET." Kellyanne Conway said on Fox News' MediaBuzz (3/12, 536K), "The President has made very clear that he would like to have a good relationship with the press. But it's a two-way street. We believe in a free and fair press but with a fair and free press comes responsibility and the responsibility is also to not be presumptively negative at every turn."

HUCKABEE SANDERS TAKING MORE PROMINENT ROLE IN DEFENDING TRUMP. The AP (3/12, Lucey, Thomas) reports that Principal White House Deputy Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders "has taken on a notably more prominent role" in recent weeks, "including on television and at White House press briefings. As White House press secretary Sean Spicer's public profile has fluctuated in recent weeks amid criticism of his performance, Sanders has increasingly become a chief defender" of President Trump "in some of his toughest moments."

PRUITT COULD REVERSE 2009 EPA CONCLUSION ON GREENHOUSE GAS IMPACT. The Hill (3/12, Cama, 1.25M) reports that EPA Administrator Pruitt "is fueling speculation that he could try to repeal the lynchpin of the federal government's climate change regulations." Should he reverse the EPA's 2009 "conclusion that greenhouse gases 'endanger both the public health and the public welfare of current and future generations,'" it would be easier to negate Obama-era regulations on power plants and vehicles.

UC San Diego May Speed Up Climate Data Preservation Plan. The Los Angeles Times (3/12, Robbins, Smith, 4.52M) reports, "UC San Diego may accelerate plans to preserve its climate data due to growing concerns among faculty members that the Trump administration could interfere with their work." Campus officials will discuss the notion later this month.

STOCKS IN FOR-PROFIT COLLEGES RISE DUE TO DELAY IN RULE ENFORCEMENT. The Wall Street Journal (3/12, Mitchell, Banerji, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports that shares in for-profit colleges are rising after the Education Department said last week that it will put off enforcing rules drafted by the Obama Administration that could have shut down many for-profit institutions due to high debt levels among former students.

TRUMP EXPECTED TO SEEK EXPANDED US SPACE POLICY. According to the Washington Post (3/11, Achenbach, 11.43M), despite a Republican-controlled Congress and White House and expectations President Trump wants to emulate President Kennedy's space ambitions, it is unclear how the public-sector space program will unfold. Trump met with SpaceX founder and Chief Engineer Elon Musk four times recently, but the Post says NASA astronauts taking the place of tourists on the 2018 SpaceX flight next year is unlikely because of political and practical impediments. The US space program does not face a similarly competitive atmosphere to that of the 1960s. "Space buff" Newt Gingrich told the

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Post in an email that the "key" to increased space exploration is getting away "from government monopoly" and maximizing "the inventive entrepreneurial spirit." He hopes Trump can "make American Space Great Again." While NASA's Space Launch System under development is "old-fashioned" and expensive as it is based on disposable parts, Musk and Blue Origin founder Jeff Bezos have focused on reusability.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS DEFACE CALIFORNIA TRUMP GOLF COURSE. The Washington Post (3/12, Holley, 11.43M) reports four members of a self-labeled "anonymous environmental activist collective" used gardening tools to carve "NO MORE TIGERS. NO MORE WOODS." onto the green of Trump National Golf Club in Rancho Palos Verdes, California early Sunday morning. The group sent a statement to the Post saying its act was retaliation against the Administration's "blatant disregard" for the environment. One member of the group told the Post the act "felt justified in many ways" because turning "a beautiful stretch of land into a playground for the privileged is an environmental crime in its own right." The Post begins the article with a one-minute video provided by the group.

ACLU LAUNCHES GRASSROOTS PEOPLEPOWER CAMPAIGN WITH RESISTANCE TRAINING. The Christian Science Monitor (3/12, Kauffman, 387K) reports the ACLU hosted "The Resistance Training" at the University of Miami's Watsco Center Saturday afternoon to launch its PeoplePower campaign. The Monitor says the ACLU's "first grassroots mobilization" represents "a distinct shift," as the group "has traditionally focused on courtroom litigation." Executive Director Anthony Romero said PeoplePower's priority issues are immigration, free speech and religious freedom, civil and reproductive rights, and LGBT rights. He said the ACLU will "do the work in the courts," but the Resistance Training on organized protest would empower the public to "do the work in the streets."

Dionne: Anti-Trump Forces Can Turn Early Victories Into Long-Term Success With Empathy. In a column for the Washington Post (3/12, 11.43M), E.J. Dionne Jr. writes that while many of the problems the Administration faces are of President Trump's own creation, his opponents have shown "their own capacity for resistance and political resilience" with "early victories" in the courts, town-hall meetings, and by putting attention on the potential "Russia connection." Citing Trump's under 50% approval ratings and unrest regarding the GOP healthcare bill, Dionne says liberals must "oppose stereotyping Trump's white working-class supporters" in order to harness their potential votes in the future. In the long term, "anti-Trump forces" must "empathize with, not mock, those who have been left out of" prosperity.

DONALD TRUMP JR. JOKES CRUZ NOW SPEAKS MORE WITH THE PRESIDENT THAN HE DOES. On ABC World News Tonight (3/12, story 5, 0:30, Jackson, 14.63M), Rebecca Jarvis reported, "President Trump's son [is] in the news after appearing at a GOP fundraiser in Texas last night with the President's former rival, Ted Cruz." ABC's David Wright added, "Who would have thought? Don Jr. is now in charge of the family business. Legally, he's not supposed to talk to his dad about that. Last night, he joked that Ted Cruz has more conversations with his father right now than he does."

NYTIMES A1: WITH TRUMP PRESIDENT, LIBERALS TURN TO TV FOR "SOLIDARITY AND RELIEF." The New York Times (3/12, A1, Grynbaum, Koblin, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports on its front page, "There is a new safe space for liberals in the age of President Trump: the television set. Left-leaning MSNBC, after flailing at the end of the Obama years, has edged CNN in prime time," while "Stephen Colbert's openly anti-Trump 'Late Show' is beating Jimmy Fallon's 'Tonight' for the first time." Meanwhile, "Bill Maher's HBO flock has grown nearly 50 percent since last year's presidential primaries, and 'The Daily Show' has registered its best ratings since Jon Stewart left in 2015." The Times says, "Traditional television" has seen its "audiences drift away for the better part of a decade. Now rattled liberals are surging back, seeking catharsis, solidarity and relief."

HBO TO MAKE MINISERIES ON 2016 RACE BASED ON UPCOMING HALPERIN-HEILEMANN BOOK. In a blog entry that appeared on the website of the Washington Post (3/9, 11.43M) this past Thursday, but runs in today's edition of the newspaper, Emily Heil pointed out that "HBO on Thursday announced plans to make a miniseries about the wild 2016 presidential race," which "will be based on Mark Halperin and John Heilemann's upcoming installment in their 'Game Change' book series chronicling the past three elections."

"SOURCES": POSSIBLE 2020 DEMOCRATIC HOPEFUL CUOMO HIRES PAIR OF FLORIDA FUNDRAISERS. Citing unnamed "sources," the New York Post (3/11, Short, 3.82M) reported that Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) "has hired two Florida fundraisers, a sign he's building a national network to launch a presidential bid." Those "consultants – one is former Hillary Clinton money man Jon Adrabi – will help plan events and build relationships with Democratic donors in the key swing state, sources said. 'Hiring out-of-state fundraising staff, particularly in a battleground state, opens up money spigots beyond what would normally be available and is a key first step to laying the groundwork for a run,' said one source, a Democratic operative." Cuomo "has repeatedly denied he wants to run for higher office and said he is focused on re-election to his third term in 2018."

KASICH SAYS "POLITICAL PARTIES ARE DISINTEGRATING BEFORE OUR VERY EYES." The Washington Times (3/12, Wolfgang, 272K) reports that during a Sunday appearance on NBC's "Meet the Press," Gov. John Kasich (R-OH)

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said “that both political parties are falling apart at the seams as Republicans and Democrats focus more on scoring political points than on helping Americans in need.” Said Kasich, “Look, I believe the political parties are disintegrating before our very eyes. I think more and more people across this country see no purpose for political parties.” Kasich “said the debate over health care reform has become so politicized that both sides have forgotten that their true goal should be taking care of citizens as best they can while also containing costs and adopting a more market-driven approach.”

SCHWARZENEGGER INDICATES HE HAS NO PLANS FOR A 2018 SENATE RUN. In a brief segment, ABC World News Tonight (3/12, story 13, 0:15, Jarvis, 14.63M) reported that ex-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (R-CA) says “he has no immediate plans to run for Senate. There were reports that” he “was thinking about a political comeback, including a possible Senate bid, but in a statement today, Schwarzenegger said he will focus on redistricting reform.”

Politico (3/12, Marinucci, 2.46M) said that it reported last week “that California Republicans were talking up the possibility of a Senate run by” Schwarzenegger – “possibly as an independent” – in 2018, when Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) faces reelection. However, Schwarzenegger wrote in a Sunday Facebook post, “I’m deeply flattered by all of the people who have approached me about running for Senate, but my mission right now is to bring sanity to Washington through redistricting reform like we passed here in California.” The Hill (3/12, Beavers, 1.25M) reported that Schwarzenegger’s “response to critical tweets from President Trump likely fed into the buzz about a” Senate bid.

SKIPPING FORUM, GOP HOPEFUL ACCUSES MODERATOR OF BEING “ANTI-TRUMP.” In a report on the special election to succeed ex-Rep. Mick Mulvaney (R-SC), who gave up his seat after being confirmed as President Trump’s new budget chief, the Columbia (SC) State (3/11, Marchant, 357K) said, “Several GOP candidates” took part in “a joint forum Wednesday in York County. But the biggest debate may be between the moderator and a candidate who didn’t show up.” The State said businessman Tom Mullikin (R) announced “he wouldn’t attend the” event “because it was moderated by Scott Huffmon, a Winthrop University professor who Mullikin accuses of being anti-Trump.” In a Facebook post, Mullikin wrote of Huffmon, “His outspoken opposition to President Trump’s candidacy and administration are well know and documented.” Mullikin included “screen grabs of tweets from Huffmon that were critical of Donald Trump.”

IN 2018 REELECTION RUN, FLAKE LIKELY TO FACE CHALLENGES FROM LEFT AND RIGHT. The Havasu (AZ) News-Herald (3/10, Kimbel-Sannit, 27K) reported that Sen. Jeff Flake (R-AZ) starts “the 2018 election cycle with $580,000 in the bank, a history of disagreeing with President Donald Trump – and a target on his back.” Political analysts “say Flake can expect serious opposition in his re-election bid from Republican and Democratic challengers alike.” While Trump’s numbers “in approval polls” are “lukewarm,” the President remains “relatively popular with Arizona Republicans, which could make for a difficult primary for Flake and force him to veer right. And if Flake survives the primary, Trump’s unpopularity with the rest of the electorate could cause problems in the midterm general election.”

GOP-ALIGNED GROUP OUT WITH ANOTHER AD ATTACKING OSSOFF IN PRICE SPECIAL. In a report on the April 18 special election to succeed ex-Rep. Tom Price (R-GA), who resigned from Congress after being confirmed as President Trump’s new HHS secretary, Roll Call (3/10, Pathé, 63K) said that Congressional Leadership Fund, a super PAC aligned with House GOP leadership, is out with “its second attack ad” targeting ex-congressional aide Jon Ossoff (D), “part of a previously announced $1.1. million investment in the district.” The ad knocks Ossoff “for ‘lying on his resume,’ questioning his honesty and preparedness for office. Like the first ad against him,” the new spot “features footage from his college days of Ossoff dressed up as the Star Wars character Han Solo.” Roll Call said that while President Donald Trump carried the “affluent, suburban” GA6 “by less than 2 points” in November’s election, “it’s a reliably Republican seat at the congressional level.”

Ossoff Says Special Election Will Be A Referendum On Trump. The Marietta (GA) Daily Journal (3/12, Catts, 81K) reports that during a Sunday candidates forum in Roswell, Ossoff and three other Democratic hopefuls agreed that the special election “will be the first in the nation to send a message on how the public views how it feels about” Trump’s leadership. Said Ossoff, “This is the first chance in the country for us to make a statement for what we stand for. … Like it or not, the eyes of the rest of the nation are on Georgia right now, because this is that first chance.” Ossoff is far and away the leading Democratic candidate running in the crowded jungle primary, which also includes 11 GOP hopefuls and a pair of independents. If no candidate tops 50% in the primary election, the top two vote-getters, regardless of party affiliation, will advance to a runoff.

UP FOR REELECTION, CASEY EMBRACES “THE TRUMP RESISTANCE.” The Philadelphia Inquirer (3/12, Tamari, 586K) reports that during “a friendly town hall meeting in Philadelphia,” Casey vowed “to ‘fight like hell’ against the Republican push to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, and urged voters to do the same.” The audience “cheered and held up signs reading ‘Agree’ as he spoke out on the battle over the health law often called Obamacare.” The event, Casey’s “first town hall in several years,” came as the Democrat prepares “for a potentially challenging re-election campaign next year, as activists on the left have surged to action in response to President Trump’s electoral victory.” The Inquirer adds that Casey, “long known as a soft-spoken moderate, has for some time now more forcefully embraced

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liberal positions, and has vocally and visibly opposed Trump. He stuck to that combative posture Sunday."

In a blog post on the website of the Philadelphia Daily News (3/12, Bunch, 219K), columnist Will Bunch also discussed Casey's appearance at the Philadelphia town hall, saying that "to the nearly 750 people who packed the dreary, barely lit" venue, "the mild-mannered" Democrat "was the political equivalent of a rock star" – one "who suddenly found himself at the top of the Billboard chart after years of playing obscure gigs." Recounting the audience's enthusiastic response, Bunch said, "It was a scene that would have been unimaginable as recently as six months ago, when a Trump presidency still seemed" remote, "and Casey – after a decade in Washington – had done little to shake a reputation as arguably America's dullest senator." Bunch added that "it's hard not to believe that Casey's alliance with the Trump resistance has strengthened his hand going into 2018."

Under the headline "Democrats' Mr. Nice Guy Finds His Inner Firebrand," Politico (3/12, Schor, 2.46M) reported that Casey "is known as easygoing and open to bipartisanship. But as the liberal base grows increasingly restive," he "is discovering his inner firebrand." Of Sunday's Philadelphia town hall event, Politico added, "From fights over health care to the Supreme Court, Casey signaled that he's allying with the millions of protesters who have flooded the streets to resist...Trump."

Casey: Trump Win In Blue States Poses Challenge For 2018 Democrat Incumbents. The Hill (3/12, Vladimirov, 1.25M) reported that Casey says Trump's win "in traditionally blue states during the 2016 election will be a challenge for Democrats like himself who are running for re-election in 2018. 'I think what happened in the election...is that Donald Trump carried Pennsylvania by a little more than 44,000 votes, mostly because we had a lot of Democrats that voted for Donald Trump,' Casey said in an interview with John Catsimatidis that aired Sunday on New York's AM 970." Casey added, "So that's a challenge for anyone like me who is a Democrat, especially if you're running in 2018."

MCCLATCHY ANALYSIS: SEVERAL DEMOCRATIC "RISING STARS TRAPPED IN TOUGH STATES." McClatchy (3/11, Roarty, 74K) reported that the Democratic Party's "young stars are stuck in Republican territory with nearly no route to national or even statewide office." For example, South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg (D), "declared by Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez to be the 'future of our party,'" resides in "a state President Donald Trump won by 19 percentage points and where Democrats hold only one statewide elected office." As another example, McClatchy says that ex-Missouri Secretary of State Jason Kander (D), who narrowly fell short in his 2016 bid to unseat Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO), is from "a state that went to Trump by nearly 20 points" in November's election. McClatchy said the list of Democratic "rising stars trapped in tough states...also includes young leaders such as Adam Edelen, Kentucky's former auditor of public accounts, and Julian and Joaquin Castro, the former secretary of housing and urban development and congressman from Texas, respectively."

MAN WHO CLIMBED WHITE HOUSE FENCE WAS CARRYING A LETTER FOR TRUMP, MACE. ABC World News Tonight (3/12, story 6, 1:35, Jarvis, 14.63M) correspondent Gloria Riviera reported 26-year-old Jonathan Tran, the California man scaled the White House fence and neared the South Portico Friday, was carrying a letter for President Trump that mentioned Russian hackers, two cans of mace, and one of the President's books, according to a court document. Tran allegedly told Secret Service agents he was "a friend of the President." Trump said the Secret Service "did a fantastic job," while former FBI agent Brad Garrett said, "You literally have to build a fence that people couldn't climb over" to prevent future incidents. According to CBS Weekend News (3/12, story 3, 2:00, Quijano) correspondent DeMarco Morgan, family members told reporters Tran was stressed out after being fired from an engineering job. Tran was charged Saturday with entering restricted grounds while carrying a dangerous weapon, and he is due in federal court Monday.

POLITICO MAG ANALYSIS: TRUMP'S NEW YORK APARTMENT ALIGNS WITH "DICTATOR CHIC." In Politico Magazine (3/12, York), "Dictators' Homes" author Peter York sets out 10 aesthetic rules that apply to the interior décor of dictators' residences, including projects that are "ludicrously overscaled" and feature items that are "brand spanking new" despite being inspired by 18th-century French opulence. Preferred materials include gold, glass, and marble. Art is not too old or new, portraits of the dictator are common, and heroic beasts with jeweled eyes abound. Upon first seeing images of President Trump's Manhattan home, York writes that he found it "familiar yet unfamiliar" because the décor seemed to align with the "dictator chic" aesthetic. The apartment's feel is "miles" from the quintessential American aesthetic expressed in Washington, D.C architecture that evokes "stability and trustworthiness" through its "restraint."

WSJOURNAL ANALYSIS: PENSION-RISK BUSINESS ON THE RISE. According to the Wall Street Journal (3/12, Scism, Subscription Publication, 6.37M), the pension-risk transfer business is growing as insurers take on companies' pension obligations to retirees. The Journal anticipates the business will change employers' pension management systems and provide a source of growth to the insurance industry. The prospect of higher interest rates will likely spur the phenomenon, according to Robin Diamonte, chief investment officer of United Technologies Corp., which signed a $775 million deal last year with Prudential Financial Inc. The Journal says Prudential has emerged as a leader in the business

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since its 2012 deal with GM. Some retirees worry the scenario will allow insurance companies to avoid full payout, and one former Verizon manager thinks retirees should receive a bonus to make up for the risk.

CITIES LOOK INTO POLICE OVERTIME AMID CONCERNS OF COST, OFFICERS' HEALTH. The Wall Street Journal (3/12, Calvert, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports police departments nationwide are looking into police overtime due to cost overruns and officer health and quality of health. Police Foundation President Jim Bueermann said overtime is always need to responded to crime spikes, and an Journal analysis of homicide data in the 35 largest cities since 1985 shows 27 of those cities saw per capita homicide rates rise since 2014. In Baltimore, where police overtime costs rose 88 percent from 2013 to 2016, Mayor Catherine Pugh called for an audit of overtime following an alleged overtime racket by seven officers. Policing experts say many departments resort to overtime because of recent waves of attrition, the difficulty of recruitment, and the high costs of training and benefits.

NEVADA CANNABIS CUP DRAWS 7,500 DESPITE US ATTORNEY'S THREAT. Politico Magazine (3/12, Higdon) reports the Cannabis Cup held on an Indian reservation an hour North of Las Vegas Saturday overcame the threat issued by Nevada US Attorney Daniel Bogden that "marijuana remains illegal under federal law." Vice President and Sales Director of Cannabiniers Jeffrey Paul noted "a reduction in the number of exhibitors and attendees," which organizers put at 7,500 instead of 10,000. Politico says the fact that six of the year's eight Cannabis Cups will be held within the US "clearly" shows "America is the center of the gravity of the marijuana industry." Politico said Democratic state Senator Tick Segerblom, a 69-year-old legislator has long pushed for legalization, "the real rock star" at he event. He sees the potential for tax revenue as justification for making Las Vegas "the marijuana capital of the world."

WPOST A1 ANALYSIS: POLICE TAKE ON SOCIAL WORK TACTICS TO FIGHT OPIOID EPIDEMIC. According to the Washington Post (3/12, A1, Zezima, 11.43M), the opioid epidemic is forcing law enforcement officers to adopt tactics more commonly used by social workers. Chillicothe, Ohio police Capt. Ron Meyers said punitive tactics no longer work in efforts to "stop the epidemic," and he participates in the Ross County Post Overdose Response Team that visits the home of each person who overdosed in the previous week. Meyers said the police also play a crucial role in bringing children present during an overdose to a safe location. Police say the epidemic has worsened with the spread of fentanyl and carfentanil, synthetic opioids. The Post says the narcotics can pose threats to the health of law enforcement officers, such as when 11 SWAT members in Hartford, Connecticut were hospitalized after exposure to fentanyl and heroin "atomized by a flash grenade."

NYTimes Profiles Ohio Farmer Who Worries His Third Child May Overdose, Lose Farm. The New York Times (3/12, Healy, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) profiles Roger Winemiller, a farmer from Clermont County, Ohio, who has lost two grown children in the past year to opioid overdoses. While his third child, 35-year-old Roger Winemiller, hopes to takeover the family farm one day, his father worries he too may overdose, which would defeat his goal "to keep the land intact." The Times reports the number of drug overdoses in the county an hour east of Cincinnati have almost tripled since 1999, and Fire Chief David Moulden said he feels it is a losing battle that breeds "hopelessness." One challenge the Winemillers, like many rural drug addicts, face is the distance to probation and counseling. The younger Winemiller's license has been revoked, so he cannot drive himself to treatment. The Times says Winemiller Sr., a supporter of President Trump, likes the President's "toughness," and since the death of his children, he has advocated for harsher penalties.

US CITIES PARTICIPATE IN "MEET A MUSLIM DAY." The CBS Weekend News (3/12, story 9, 2:20, Quijano) reported that Americans in 85 cities on Saturday participated in the first national "Meet a Muslim Day," with Muslims across the country trying "to fight the fear of Islam with friendly conversation."

Oregon Man Accused Of Hitting "Saddam Hussein-Looking" Restaurant Employee With Pipe. The Washington Post (3/12, Wootson, 11.43M) reports police arrested Jason Kendall for assault, unlawful use of a weapon, and intimidation after he walked into a Middle Eastern restaurant in Salem, Oregon on Saturday afternoon and beat a "Saddam Hussein-looking guy" in the head with a pipe, which Kendall called his "horn of Gabriel." Kendall assaulted the restaurant employee because he thought a woman was being held hostage due to "the type of shirt she was wearing" and because that is "what Arabs do," he told police and Fox affiliate KPTV. Kendall yelled, "Go back to your country, terrorist. Get out of America." Police Lt. Dave Okada told the Salem Statesman Journal police are investigating the incident as a possible hate crime.

NEW SURVEILLANCE FOOTAGE COULD CAST NEW LIGHT ON MICHAEL BROWN CASE. According to NBC Nightly News (3/12, story 4, 2:55, Snow, 16.61M) correspondent Morgan Radford, new surveillance footage regarding the shooting of Michael Brown was released as part of the documentary "Stranger Fruit." The documentary's footage, which comes from the same convenience store whose footage was used as evidence by police, shows Brown exchanging a bag of what appears to be marijuana for cigarillos with employees, which allegedly indicates he did not rob them. The St. Louis County Police Department released a statement regarding the video that indicated the authenticity of the video was in question and that "the incident is still irrelevant to our investigation." National Action Network President Rev. Al Sharpton

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said the footage shows "we were not told the whole story then."

The New York Post (3/12, Jaeger, 3.82M) reports filmmaker Jason Pollack believe the police's release of only selections of surveillance video "shows suppression of evidence," and Brown's mother Lezley McSpadden says the new footage "clarifies that there was an understanding." The New York Times (3/11, Smith, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports Jay Kanzler, the lawyer representing the convenience store and its employees, said the footage provides no proof of transaction or understanding and is unrelated to Brown's later visit.

CBS ANALYSIS: RECENT MURDERS OF LOUISIANA TRANSGENDER WOMEN PART OF "DISTURBING TREND." The CBS Weekend News (3/12, story 6, 1:45, Quijano) reported that "the recent murders of three transgender women in Louisiana are not linked, but their deaths are part of a disturbing trend." CBS (Champion) added that "seven trans-women have been killed nation-wide already this year," and noted that last year "a record 23 were killed, the majority black and Latino women." Beverly Tillery at the New York City Anti-Violence Project "tracks these cases and feels the political climate, including bathroom bills, are making the trans community less safe," saying that "discrimination often leaves trans women of color without jobs and living in dangerous neighborhoods," and noting that many states, including Louisiana, "don't even protect trans people under hate crime laws."

WPOST A1: GEORGIA TOWN OUTRAGED BY KKK BANNER. On its front page, the Washington Post (3/12, Snell, 11.43M) reports from Dahlonega, GA that about three weeks ago, town residents began buzzing about "a large rectangular banner was screwed tight into the cracked wood siding of a long-vacant building on East Main Street," reading, "Historic Ku Klux Klan Meeting Hall." The banner "had a cartoonish drawing of a white-sheeted person raising a hand." The Post adds that "what happened next would become one more pocket of America dealing with a disturbing incident at a time when hate crimes have been on the rise and new brands of white nationalism have been making a comeback across the country." The Post details how town officials and residents removed the banner, and how the incident sparked a discussion about what the town really stood for. The Post also notes other recent similar incidents of racist symbolism across the nation.

HISTORIAN: ANDREW JACKSON'S LEGACY, GOOD AND BAD, A REMINDER THAT "HISTORY IS COMPLICATED." The Tennessean (3/11, Brands, 407K) prints an essay written for the USA Today Network in which University of Texas-Austin American history professor H.W. Brands writes that Andrew Jackson's faults are so well remembered "because his achievements were so profound." While Brands does not seek to "whitewash" Jackson's reputation, the historian says that Jackson's significant achievements of expanding democracy by allowing almost all white men to vote and success as a military leader are often disregarded because contemporary Americans regard widespread democracy and American military might as inevitable. Brands writes that while reprehensible, Jackson's slave-holding practice and attitude toward American Indians were commonplace among early American leaders, and they contributed to his prominent position that made his achievements possible. While each generation should "choose the heroes it feels comfortable with," Brand says Jackson's case shows that "history is complicated."

MATTHEWS: LEGISLATORS SHOULD FUND KIPP DC'S SUCCESSFUL URBAN TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM. In a column for the Washington Post (3/12, Mathews, 11.43M), Jay Matthews writes that lawmakers should fund KIPP's Capital Teaching Residency program because it is the "most promising solution" nationwide to producing the "well-trained, creative teachers" that are crucial to the success of urban schools. The residents are paid to work as teaching assistants in DC schools for a year while taking training courses that include "a balance of classroom culture and management, child development, pedagogy and content coursework," according to KIPP DC Executive Director Susan Schaeffler. Schaeffler says the program is crucial to training a new crop of "high-quality, diverse talent for all D.C. schools," instead of taking qualified teachers from other needy urban schools.

WPOST: PENTAGON MUST ACT AGAINST "DEEP-SEATED ISSUES" REFLECTED IN MARINE PHOTO SCANDAL. In an editorial, the Washington Post (3/12, 11.43M) writes the participation of Marines and veterans in the photo scandal "cannot be minimized or excused." While the investigation the Defense Department ordered is "encouraging," it is "insufficient" to address the "aberrant, if not criminal behavior," and the Post says the military must hold those responsible to account because the scandal reveals "deep-seated issues in the military." The Marine leadership should engage in "some real soul-searching," and the Pentagon should "finally" end sexist treatment of women.

WPOST: VATICAN LACKS ACCOUNTABILITY IN REFORM EFFORTS ON SEXUAL ABUSE. The Washington Post (3/12, 11.43M) editorializes that the resignation of the second victim, Marie Collins, this month from the Vatican panel commissioned by Pope Francis in 2014 to address sexual abuse by clergymen is "a measure of the Holy See's resistance to change." The pope's public denunciation of abuse and expression of sympathy for victims are "unmatched by institutional transformation." The Post cites Collins' statement following her departure that even minor recommendations for reform have been ignored by Church officials. While Cardinal Donald Wuerl of Washington told Post editors and reporters this month that public discipline of negligent bishops and abusive clergymen was "secondary" to reforms, the

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Post writes that such accountability is "central."

ALTMAN OFFERS ADVICE ON HOW DEMOCRATIC PARTY CAN MOUNT COMEBACK. In a Wall Street Journal (3/12, Altman, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) op-ed, Roger C. Altman, a veteran of nine Democratic presidential campaigns, writes that if Democrats want to mount a comeback, the party first needs a complete overhaul. With that in mid, Altman highlights four steps he says are needed for Democrats to bounce back: 1) The party needs an influx of young and diverse members in its leadership. 2) Democrats need to craft an economic message that appeals more to the middle class. 3) The party needs a strategy to reverse gerrymandering orchestrated by Republicans in key battleground states. 4) Rather than look to Congress for a 2020 Democratic presidential nominee, Democrats should instead focus on their crop of governors for the party's next standard-bearer.

NYTIMES BLASTS ADMINISTRATION ON WITHHOLDING FUNDS FOR CALIFORNIA COMMUTER RAIL. In an editorial, the New York Times (3/13, Board, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) writes President Trump's promised effort to improve public works "is off to a terrible start," with his Department of Transportation "sabotaging an important commuter rail project in California" by withholding $647 million in federal grants. The Times speculates that Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao could be acting in the stead of the state's GOP congressmen, who oppose the project in the belief it will help a separate project: high speed rail. The Times writes that the move sends a negative message on the Administration's commitment to investing in infrastructure, concluding, "not only is Mr. Trump not uniquely qualified to fix the country's infrastructure, but he seems wholly unsuited to the task."

TRUMP-RELATED CONSULTANTS PROFILED. In an "editorial observer" column in the New York Times (3/13, Subscription Publication, 13.9M), Elizabeth Williamson profiles Avenue Strategies, a firm started for former Trump campaign manager, C orey Lewandowski and former Trump senior adviser Barry Bennett, two of the many "Trump-related advisers, lawyers, or former campaign hands [who] have opened or joined a host of lobbying and consulting businesses." The two advise clients on how they can take actions that make the President look good so as to avoid his criticism on Twitter, "like paying a squeegee-wielding panhandler not to touch your car." Williamson concludes that, to Trump, "there appears to be little difference" between hiring American workers and "public relations tricks."

BLOW: TRUMP "A PARASITE" ON AMERICA. Charles M. Blow writes in his column in the New York Times (3/13, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) that President Trump remains the "dangerous and unpredictable, gauche and greedy, temperamentally unsuited and emotionally unsound" person he was before he took office. His inventing and repeating lies has hurt both his own and the country's credibility, "and when he's not making explosive charges, he's taking destructive actions." Blow criticizes "Trumpcare" as being "more expensive and cover fewer people," as well having "some people currently in need of care to extend their lives would" losing that care. Meanwhile, "this president and his family are burning through taxpayer funds likes it is Monopoly money," appearing "to view the Treasury as a personal piggy bank and the presidency as a part-time job." Blow concludes, "America elected a parasite."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Man Without An ISIS Plan."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (3/12, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) says that if President Trump "has decided on a new plan for defeating ISIS, it isn't obvious." While missions set in motion by President Obama "have achieved some tactical successes, they point to a deepening American military involvement in both countries" and the question is whether Trump "will continue, or accelerate, that trend." The Times argues that during the campaign, Trump "derided Mr. Obama's anti-ISIS strategy as a disaster, though offering none of his own," but now "he shouldn't ignore the progress that has been made."

"A Silicon Valley Train Gets Stuck." In an editorial, the New York Times (3/13, Board, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) writes President Trump's promised effort to improve public works "is off to a terrible start," with his Department of Transportation "sabotaging an important commuter rail project in California" by withholding $647 million in federal grants. The Times speculates that Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao could be acting in the stead of the state's GOP congressmen, who oppose the project in the belief it will help a separate project: high speed rail. The Times writes that the move sends a negative message on the Administration's commitment to investing in infrastructure, concluding, "not only is Mr. Trump not uniquely qualified to fix the country's infrastructure, but he seems wholly unsuited to the task."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"The Marines' Nude Photo Scandal Is A Sorely Needed Wake-Up Call."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (3/12, 11.43M) writes the participation of Marines and veterans in the photo scandal "cannot be minimized or excused." While the investigation the Defense Department ordered is "encouraging," it is "insufficient" to address the "aberrant, if not criminal behavior," and the Post says the military must hold those responsible to account because the scandal reveals "deep-seated issues in the military." The Marine leadership should engage in "some real soul-searching," and the Pentagon should "finally" end sexist treatment of women.

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"The Vatican Drags Its Feet On Clergy Sex Abuse." The Washington Post (3/12, 11.43M) editorializes that the resignation of the second victim, Marie Collins, this month from the Vatican panel commissioned by Pope Francis in 2014 to address sexual abuse by clergymen is "a measure of the Holy See's resistance to change." The pope's public denunciation of abuse and expression of sympathy for victims are "unmatched by institutional transformation." The Post cites Collins' statement following her departure that even minor recommendations for reform have been ignored by Church officials. While Cardinal Donald Wuerl of Washington told Post editors and reporters this month that public discipline of negligent bishops and abusive clergymen was "secondary" to reforms, the Post writes that such accountability is "central."

"A Smart Corporate Tax Reform Plan Worth Trump's Attention." The Washington Post (3/12, 11.43M) editorializes in favor of "the innovative corporate-tax-reform plan by Alan Viard of the American Enterprise Institute and Eric Toder of the Urban Institute, which would substantially cut the corporate tax rate, offset by higher taxes on dividends and capital gains for individuals." The plan overcomes the current system's incentives for companies "to move overseas, either in actuality or in the sense of locating profits abroad. A low 15 percent rate would not only encourage American firms to stay home, but induce non-American companies to relocate."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"A Doctor To Heal The FDA."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/12, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) praises FDA Commissioner-designate Scott Gottlieb as a fine choice for the difficult job, a pragmatist with a background at both the FDA and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The Journal says Gottlieb understands the problems of the FDA and has the mindset to tackle them.

"Russia's Arms Treaty Violation." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/12, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) writes Joint Chiefs of Staff Vice Chairman Gen. Paul Selva publicly confirmed last week before Congress that Russia's deployment of a land-based cruise missile violated the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. Former President Obama knew of the violation but failed to address it, the Journal writes, but the Pentagon's public confirmation suggests the current Administration is adopting a more skeptical, proactive approach to Russia's false promises.

"Crime And Immigration." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/12, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) disagrees with President Trump's decision to create an immigration-crime victims unit at the Department of Justice. Citing various studies that found the crime rates of immigrants in metropolitan areas were lower than those of native-born Americans, the Journal argues that the new unit proposed by Trump is unnecessary. The Journal adds that the data indicates the Trump Administration – by keeping its focus on immigrants who commit serious crimes, rather than all undocumented immigrants – would be able to keep Americans safer.

The Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Investors Ready For Week Of Events That Could Rattle Markets
Prosecutor's Probes Likely To Continue After His Exit
Credit Reports To Exclude Certain Negative Data, Boosting FICO Scores
Your Pension Check May Soon Be Coming From An Insurance Company

New York Times:
Trump Wants Faster Growth. The Fed Isn't So Sure.
Russian Espionage Piggybacks On A Cybercriminal's Hacking
Trump Lets Key Offices Gather Dust Amid 'Slowest Transition In Decades'
Why One School Lives As Another Dies In The Same Building
2 Of A Farmer's 3 Children Overdosed. What Of The Third — And The Land?
For Solace And Solidarity In The Trump Age, Liberals Turn The TV BACK On

Washington Post:
Growing Opioid Crisis Transforms Role Of Police
Rhetoric Heating Up In Turkey Over The 'Executive Presidency'
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Historic Cuts In Trump Budget
Ryan Defends Health Act Revisions

Financial Times:
Modi Tightens Grip With Uttar Pradesh Poll Victory

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Washington Times:
Activist Groups Find Little To Like In GOP Obamacare Replacement
Trump's Charm: Health Care Fix To Test President's Power Of Persuasion
Trump Looks To Ease Tensions With Germany's Merkel
Iran Deploys Jamming Device To Counter Drones
McCain Predicts 'There's A Lot More Shoes To Drop' On Trump-Russia Connection

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Healthcare Reform Plan; Trump-Russia Connection Investigation; Trump-Family; White House Perimeter Breach; Hoverboard Fire; Jewish Community Center Threats; Abduction Attempt; Magician Returns To Show; Home Network Security; Maryland Home Fire; Schwarzenegger No Senate Bid; Houston Gas Price; Joni Sledge Dies; Baby With Glasses.
CBS: Trump-Obama Wiretap Claim; Healthcare Reform Plan; White House Perimeter Breach; Severe Weather; Iraq-Mosul Assault; Louisiana Transgender Women Murders; Italy-Cannabis Decontamination; Iraq-US Drones; Meet A Muslim Day.
NBC: Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Healthcare Reform Plan; Ferguson Shooting New Video; Hoverboard Fire; Netherlands Election; Sudden Infant Death Syndrome; South Korean President Impeached; Joe Biden-Cancer Moonshot; Iowa Public Radio.

Network TV At A Glance:
Weather – 8 minutes, 15 seconds
Healthcare Reform Plan – 6 minutes, 40 seconds
Hoverboard Fire – 3 minutes, 45 seconds
White House Perimeter Breach – 3 minutes, 35 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Severe Weather; German Chancellor Visit; Healthcare Reform Plan; Labor Secretary Confirmation Hearing; Men's College Basketball.
CBS: Healthcare Reform Plan; Trump-Obama Wiretap Claim; Severe Weather; Wall Street News.
FOX: Trump-Obama Wiretap Claim; Healthcare Reform Plan; Severe Weather.
NPR: Trump-Obama Wiretap Claim; Healthcare Reform Plan; Severe Weather; Gasoline Price; Netherlands-Turkey Diplomatic Feud; Men's College Basketball; Box Office News.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.
No late-night talk shows aired last night.

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TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2017 7:30 AM EST

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+ Politico: Trump Staying Within "The Presidential Bubble."
+ WPost: Trump, Bannon Shaking Capital "With A New Vocabulary."
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+ In 2017 Governor's Races, Candidates Seek "To Capitalize On Lessons Learned From Trump."
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+ WSJournal: Kennedy's New Racial Standard Has No Constitutional Basis.
+ NYTimes: Florida GOP's Enhanced "Stand Your Ground" Bill Is Dangerous.

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LAST LAUGHS:
+ Late Night Political Humor.

Leading the News:

TWO HOUSE COMMITTEES APPROVE GOP'S ACA REPLACEMENT LEGISLATION. This morning, there is heavy print and online coverage of the fact that on Thursday, two House committees approved legislation which aims to replace the Affordable Care Act. Various outlets characterize the move as an initial victory for Republicans who have vowed to repeal the ACA.

The Washington Post (3/9, A1, Eilperin, Debonis, Viebeck, 11.43M) reports on its front page that the proposal to replace the Affordable Care Act "claimed its first major victories Thursday amid a backlash that both Republican leaders and President Trump spent the day trying to tamp down." The piece adds that "the plan emerged from two key House committees Thursday, and House Speaker Paul D. Ryan (R-Wis.), its top booster, insisted that the pending legislation represents the 'only chance we're going to get' to fulfill the GOP's long-standing promise to undo the Affordable Care Act."

On its front page, the Wall Street Journal (3/9, A1, Armour, Hackman, Rubin, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports that on Thursday afternoon, the House Energy and Commerce Committee also approved the American Health Care Act following 27 hours of debate. The measure was passed along party lines, with all Republicans on the panel voting for the bill, while all Democrats voted against it. Early on Thursday morning, the House Ways and Means Committee had also approved ACA replacement legislation along party lines. The paper says this gave congressional Republicans an early win in their efforts to replace the ACA.

USA Today (3/9, Kelly, 5.28M) reports that both committees approved the AHCA "without significant amendments after marathon debates." The piece says House GOP leaders warned members that "any major changes to the proposed GOP health care bill will prevent its passage in the Senate and kill their best shot at ending Obamacare."

The AP (3/9, Werner, Fram) reports that this approval allowed GOP leaders to jump over their "first big hurdles in the House," and it gave them "fresh momentum despite cries of protest from right, left and center." The article explains that the AHCA, which is "strongly supported by President Donald Trump, would replace the tax penalties for the uninsured under Obama's Affordable Care Act with a conservative blueprint likely to cover far fewer people but, Republicans hope,

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increase choice." According to the piece, "angry" Democrats charged that "Republicans were acting in the dead of night to rip insurance coverage from poor Americans," yet GOP leaders "sounded increasingly confident that, after seven years of" attempting to repeal the ACA, "they might finally be able to overcome their own deep divisions and deliver a bill to Trump to sign."

The Washington Times (3/9, Howell, 272K) reports the House Energy and Commerce Committee's approval by a vote of 31-23 "cleared the way for [the] House Budget Committee to enroll twin health bills into a unified plan that can avoid a Democratic filibuster in the Senate." House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) praised the move, saying, "We promised to repeal and replace Obamacare, and now we are one step closer to giving families relief from this collapsing law. ... That means we are one step closer to going from a government-centered system to a patient-centered system, where you have lower costs, more choices, and greater control over your care."

Reuters (3/9, Cornwell, Abutaleb) reports that despite these approvals, GOP leaders still face opposition to the AHCA "from conservatives within their own ranks who say the bill, which would create a system of tax credits to coax people to buy private insurance on the open market, is not radical enough." Meanwhile, Democrats are criticizing the measure "as a gift to the rich and say informed debate on the plan is impossible without knowing its cost."

Also covering the story are Politico (3/9, Cancryn, 2.46M), The Hill (3/9, Hellmann, 1.25M), the Christian Science Monitor (3/9, Iaconangelo, 387K), U.S. News & World Report (3/9, Leonard, 1.02M), the New York Daily News (3/9, Cullen, 4.45M), Vox (3/9, Golshan, 1.15M), Washington Examiner (3/9, Cunningham, 400K), and Congressional Quarterly (3/9, Siddons, Subscription Publication, 967).

TRUMP URGING CONSERVATIVES TO SUPPORT ACA REPLACEMENT LEGISLATION, WILLING TO OFFER DEALS. The CBS Evening News (3/9, story 5, 2:30, Pelley, 11.17M) reported that on Thursday, "President Trump said, 'Despite what you hear in the press, healthcare is coming along great.'" CBS added that what consumers have "heard in the press is that AARP and the American Medical Association are against the Republican replacement for Obamacare, and so are conservative Republican senators who say the House bill should be scrapped."

ABC World News Tonight (3/9, story 6, 3:05, Muir, 14.63M) reported that Trump is "giving the hard sell behind-the-scenes to the Republican plan to replace Obamacare now, and tweeting that healthcare is coming along great." Yet, "he faces a divided Republican party on this, and Democrats who now argue millions will lose their coverage."

On its front page, the New York Times (3/9, A1, Haberman, Pear, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that after a slow start, President Trump "is now marshaling the full power of his office to win over holdout conservatives and waffling senators to support the House Republicans' replacement for the Affordable Care Act." The President says he fully supports "the bill to scotch President Barack Obama's signature domestic achievement, but he is open to negotiations on the details." By taking this course of action, "Mr. Trump is plunging personally into his first major legislative fight, getting behind a bill that has been denounced by many health care providers and scorned by his base on the right."

USA Today (3/9, Collins, 5.28M) reports that if Trump succeeds in convincing his party to unite "behind the Republican plan to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, it might just be his best deal yet." Trump and "his administration have kicked off 'a full-court press' to get skeptical conservative lawmakers and advocacy groups to a 'yes' on the health care plan that was released by House Republican leadership Monday night." On Thursday, he met with the leaders of conservative groups which have all expressed opposition to the GOP's ACA replacement plan.

The Los Angeles Times (3/9, Bierman, Mascaro, 4.52M) reports that Trump is aware of the high stakes involved, therefore, he "is engaging in the complex effort to change the health system, albeit cautiously after the tumult that grew out of his early actions on immigration and other issues." The article adds, "Selling the healthcare bill, which has already met sharp resistance within his party, will present the stiffest test yet of his pledge to play the deal-maker."

On its website, CNN (3/9, Collinson, Murray, 29.79M) reports the White House believes "it can bring around skeptics of the bill in the House and the Senate – one reason why Trump is stepping up his engagement, with high profile meetings with leading GOP figures in the debate." A senior Administration official said, "He gets the complexity of this. ... It's a sell for him." The official added, "I think he's willing to cut deals." The article points out that passage of ACA repeal legislation "would be a 'symbolic' victory for the President and a way to deliver on a key campaign promise Trump made to his faithful band of political supporters," the official said.

Politico (3/9, Bade, Everett, 2.46M) reports that Trump's initial attempts "to court conservatives opposed to the GOP's Obamacare replacement is backfiring in Congress – emboldening the far-right to demand changes that could repel centrists critical to its passage." Although Trump has said he supports the legislation, "he's also suggested he's open to 'negotiations,'" and these "mixed signals have allowed hard-line conservatives and leadership to hear what they want to

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hear. Each side is taking Trump's words and arguing he's in their corner."

Reuters (3/9, Holland, Oliphant, Stephenson) reports that in embarking on this effort to cajole lawmakers and groups opposed to the ACA replacement proposal to instead support it, "Trump faces a test of credibility for the voters that catapulted him into office: How does a celebrity outsider, the CEO president, cut deals in Washington?"

Meanwhile, a separate Politico (3/9, Isenstadt, 2.46M) article reports that the White House is urging "political supporters across the nation to pressure congressional Republicans to support President Donald Trump's health care overhaul." White House political director Bill Stepien told supporters on Thursday, "To continue the progress that's being made – specifically on the court, and specifically on Obamacare – [Trump] really needs your help. ... We need to do this as a team."

Salon (3/9, Rozsa, 564K) also covers the story.

The Secretary in the News:

PENCE, PRICE MEETING WITH GOP SENATORS TO DISCUSS ACA REPLACEMENT MEASURE. The Hill (3/9, Carney, 1.25M) reports in its "Floor Action" blog that Vice President Pence met with "GOP senators amid growing skepticism over the House bill to repeal and replace ObamaCare." On Thursday morning, Pence met with "Republican Sens. Pat Roberts (Kansas), Rob Portman (Ohio) and John Thune (S.D.)...to discuss the plan, which has White House support but has been slammed by key GOP lawmakers." Portman said he spoke "with Pence and Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price about ObamaCare's Medicaid expansion, a central concern for a handful of moderate lawmakers."

Meanwhile, the Washington Examiner (3/9, Morrongiello, 400K) reports that the White House has "invited a handful of social conservative groups to a 'listening session' on Friday to discuss concerns they have about the possible use of taxpayer money for abortions under the Republican healthcare bill." Vice President Pence is expected to preside over the discussion.

VICE PRESIDENT, HHS SECRETARY MEET WITH SEN. PORTMAN TO DISCUSS HEALTHCARE BILL. The Dayton (OH) Daily News (3/9, Wehrman, 181K) reports Vice President Mike Pence and Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price met with Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH) Thursday morning to talk about the House Republicans' healthcare bill. The article points out that Portman and other Republican Senators recently wrote a letter to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) "saying they worry the Feb. 10 draft of the bill did not do enough to protect those in Medicaid expansion programs or provide the necessary flexibility for the states."

WHITE HOUSE RELUCTANT TO CALL ACA REPLACEMENT PROPOSAL "TRUMPCARE." On its website, CNN (3/9, Lee, 29.79M) reports in continuing coverage that since its release earlier this week, House GOP leaders' ACA replacement proposal "has drawn a flood of opposition from lawmakers and a range of health care leaders and industry stakeholders, including major doctors and hospital groups." The article says that although "the bill's writers and the White House confidently insist that the plan will pass, they have been far less eager to put their names on it." White House officials said it should not be called "Trumpcare," and HHS Secretary Tom Price stated, "I prefer to call it Patient Care. This is about patients, at the end of the day."

TRUMP REPORTEDLY SAID GOP WILL UNVEIL ANOTHER HEALTHCARE BILL NEXT WEEK. The Washington Examiner (3/9, Westwood, Morrongiello, 400K) reports that according to unnamed sources, President Trump told a group of conservatives on Thursday that they should "expect another companion healthcare bill to hit the House as early as next week." The measure "would differ from the plan presently working its way through the House in that it would not proceed through budget reconciliation and would therefore require cloture in the Senate." The article points out that according to HHS Secretary Tom Price, the second phase of Republicans' ACA repeal and replace strategy "will focus on 'regulatory modification,' and the third will involve the introduction of additional legislation at some point in the future."

AMA, OTHER GROUPS EXPRESS OPPOSITION TO ACA REPLACEMENT PROPOSAL. In continuing coverage, CBS News (3/9, Shabad, 4.4M) reports on its website that major health advocacy groups which "played an influential role in the passage of Obamacare have come out against the legislation House Republicans rolled out Monday evening to repeal and replace the healthcare law." For instance, on Wednesday, the American Medical Association wrote "to congressional leaders, arguing that the plan would have 'an adverse impact on patients and the health of the nation' and the organization cannot support the current measure." AMA chief executive James L. Madara, MD, stated, "More than 20 million Americans currently have health care coverage due to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and among the AMA's highest priorities for on-going health system reform efforts is to ensure that these individuals maintain that coverage. While we agree that there are problems with the ACA that must be addressed, we cannot support the AHCA as drafted

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because of the expected decline in health insurance coverage and the potential harm it would cause to vulnerable patient populations."

NPR (3/9, Naylor, 1.92M) also reports on AMA's comments, and adds that on Wednesday, HHS Secretary Tom Price, who has been promoting the new legislation, "said the administration will be looking at Affordable Care Act regulations 'and make certain that if they help patients, then we need to continue them. If they harm patients or increase costs, then obviously they need to be addressed.'"

FATE OF ACA, GOP REPLACEMENT LEGISLATION MAY REST WITH CBO. Politico (3/10, Pradhan, 2.46M) reports the Affordable Care Act's fate may rest with "a number-crunching Republican appointee whose bottom line might single-handedly blow up the GOP quest to repeal and replace it." The article says two years ago, Rep. Tom Price (R-GA), who is now HHS Secretary, and another top Republican in Congress, "handpicked" Congressional Budget Office Director Keith Hall "to lead a nonpartisan office that will soon release its estimate of how many Americans the Republican health care bill will cover, and whether it shrinks or balloons the federal deficit." The piece points out that given the dissension among Republicans over the ACA replacement proposal, "the CBO assessment will matter."

HHS DROPS PLANS FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT SHELTER IN ARKANSAS. The Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette (3/9, Besson, 54K) reports the US Department of Health and Human Services announced it will no longer consider using the former Ouachita Job Corps Center to house minors apprehended by authorities after illegally entering the country. The property, currently owned by the US Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, could require at least $2 million to refurbish for new use by the Arkansas National Guard, which has expressed interest in the property. Both US Rep. Bruce Westerman and US Sen. Tom Cotton opposed HHS' proposal for the facility, "cit[ing] new Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price as a contributing factor to the agency's about-face."

OPINION: FDA IN A NO-WIN SITUATION REGARDING SAFETY REGULATION. Forbes (3/9, 15.17M) contributor Judy Stone writes that the Food and Drug Administration "is damned if it does or doesn't regulate drug safety." According to Stone, "thalidomide, Medtronic's problems, and now Hyland's teething tablets illustrate dangerous safety concerns ranging from 'natural; homeopathic products to drugs, to devices, and why we need stronger safety protections by the FDA, rather than the buyer beware free-for-all favored by Tom Price and Donald Trump."

Zika Virus News:

ZIKA INFECTION MAY BE LINKED TO CERTAIN HEART PROBLEMS, STUDY SUGGESTS. The Wall Street Journal (3/9, McKay, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports that research to be presented at the American College of Cardiology's Annual Scientific Session suggests that Zika infection may be linked to certain heart problems.

The AP (3/9, Marchione) reports the findings were "discussed...on an American College of Cardiology press call." Researchers "studied nine patients, ages 30 to 64, treated at the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Caracas who developed heart symptoms such as palpitations, shortness of breath and fatigue an average of 10 days after typical Zika symptoms began."

TIME (3/9, Sifferlin, 6.98M) reports that the researchers "found that eight of the people had developed a heart rhythm issue, and six had evidence of heart failure. "

HHS in the News:

SCIENTISTS ONE-THIRD OF THE WAY TO SYNTHESIZING COMPLETE YEAST GENOME. The Washington Post (3/9, Kaplan, 11.43M) reports scientists believe they are "one-third of the way to synthesizing the complete genome of baker's yeast," moving them one step closer to "creating the first 'designer' complex cell." The researchers detail their work in seven studies (3/10, 410K) published Thursday in the journal Science, "describ[ing] how they built six of the 16 chromosomes required for the yeast Saccharomyces cerevisiae, altering the genetic material to edit out some genes and write in new characteristics." The article notes that Francis Collins, head of the National Institutes of Health, told The Washington Post last year that "whole-genome, whole-organism synthesis projects extend far beyond current scientific capabilities, and immediately raise numerous ethical and philosophical red flags."

BIOTECH COMPANIES "UNFAZED" BY CHANGE IN H-1B VISA PROCESS. STAT (3/9, Swetlitz) reports that health-related companies appear largely "unfazed" about the potential disruption of the H-1B visa process that allows them to pay a special fee for foreign employees to receive visas to work in the US in 15 days rather than months. The Department of Homeland Security temporarily suspended the program as part of a larger set of immigration-related policies. STAT says Federal data show "dozens of employees at companies like AstraZeneca, Genentech, and Medtronic" have

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benefited from the program, but response to the change was muted from those companies. The National Institute of Health and the Food and Drug Administration also have used H-1B visas, but they declined comment. Some hospitals also use H-1B visas.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS' HEALTHCARE BILL WOULD CUT NEARLY $1 BILLION FROM PUBLIC HEALTH FUND UNDER CDC. CNN (3/9, Marsh, Wallace, 29.79M) reports on its website that the House Republicans' healthcare bill would reduce funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Prevention and Public Health Fund by nearly $1 billion. The article reports that public health advocates are concerned about public health programs losing funding, but some have criticized the Prevention and Public Health Fund for funding massages and Zumba classes.

The AP (3/9, Stobbe) reports Kathy Harben, a spokeswoman for the CDC, said, "Until we know more about the final budget, we can't say how we'll be affected." The Sacramento (CA) Bee (3/9, Caiola, 574K) also covers the story.

HHS OFFICIAL CRITICIZES REPUBLICANS' HEALTHCARE BILL ON TWITTER. In continuing coverage, Fox News (3/9, Berger, 11.07M) reports on its website that Andrey Ostrovsky, the chief medical officer of the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services, tweeted on Wednesday, "Despite political messaging from others at HHS, I align with the experts from @aafp @AmerAcadPeds @AmerMedicalAssn in opposition to #AHCA." The article explains that Ostrovsky was referring to medical groups, including the American Medical Association, who have criticized the bill.

On its website, CNBC (3/9, Mangan, 2.17M) reports that some have called Ostrovsky a "hero" for publicly opposing the bill while working under the Trump Administration. Also covering the story are Politico (3/9, Diamond, 2.46M) and CNN (3/9, Schleifer, 29.79M).

PROMETHAZINE CODEINE SYRUP INCREASING IN POPULARITY AMONG HIP-HOP COMMUNITY. Bloomberg News (3/9, Bella, 2.41M) reports on the popularity of promethazine codeine cough syrup among the hip-hop community. Bloomberg says the "rising visibility of promethazine codeine syrup also made the pharmaceutical companies that manufacture and sell it part of some communities' everyday vernacular." Bloomberg notes that "bottles of promethazine codeine cough syrup produced by Hi-Tech Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Wockhardt Ltd. subsidiary Morton Grove Pharmaceuticals Inc. sell on the streets of Houston for $750 to $1,000 a pint, say the users, dealers, and experts who were interviewed for this story." In 2013, the National Institute on Drug Abuse "said promethazine codeine cough syrup had become 'increasingly popular among youth in several areas of the country.'" The story says although promethazine codeine has been a substance abuse trend for over 20 years, "pharmaceutical companies have rarely acknowledged, let alone taken steps to combat, the illegal market."

FDA SEEKING PUBLIC INPUT FOR MEANING OF THE WORD "HEALTHY." STAT (3/9, Kaplan) reports the Food and Drug Administration held a public meeting on Thursday about the meaning of the word "healthy." So far, the agency has received public comments from 870 individuals on the subject. According to STAT, a "perusal of the public comments filed with FDA showed that many Americans stood up for healthy fats, such as those found in nuts and salmon, and that most letter-writers were concerned about sugar."

CMS NOMINEE ADVANCED AFTER CLEARING PROCEDURAL HURDLE. The Hill (3/9, Carney, 1.25M) reports in its "Floor Action" blog, "The Senate is advancing Seema Verma, President Trump's nominee to lead the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Senators voted 54-44 Thursday on her nomination, which needed only a simple majority to overcome the initial procedural hurdle." Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) said Verma would be "invaluable" to replacing the ACA. Congressional Quarterly (3/9, Young, Subscription Publication, 967) reports a final confirmation vote has been scheduled for Monday evening.

COMPANY SEEKS FDA APPROVAL FOR VIDEO GAME DEVICE TO TREAT AMBLYOPIA. Forbes (3/9, 15.17M) contributor Bruce Y. Lee writes that Amblyotech is seeking FDA approval for its video game device to treat amblyopia, or "lazy eye." Amblyotech developed the Amblyopad device, which aims to try amblyopia with video games made by the company Ubisoft. The article notes that amblyopia affects 3% of children, according to the National Eye Institute.

Health Reform:

TRUMP INSISTS GOP IS MAKING PROGRESS ON HEALTHCARE. Politico (3/9, Nelson, 2.46M) says that on Thursday, President Trump urged Americans "to ignore media reports of dissension among Republicans on the health care legislation intended to repeal and replace Obamacare, telling them that the policy 'will end in a beautiful picture!'" He tweeted, "Despite what you hear in the press, healthcare is coming along great. ... We are talking to many groups and it will end in a beautiful picture!"

The New York Daily News (3/9, Joseph, 4.45M) reports, however, that Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR), "one of Trump's fiercest

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Senate allies, doesn't agree," and he called "for Republicans to 'start over' on the bill." Cotton is warning that Congress will not approve the current bill. He tweeted, "House health-care bill can't pass Senate w/o major changes. To my friends in House: pause, start over. Get it right, don't get it fast."

Also covering the story are the New York Post (3/10, Fredericks, 3.82M), The Hill (3/9, Fabian, 1.25M) and the Washington Examiner (3/9, Pappas, 400K).

WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS INSIST ACA REPLACEMENT BILL WILL BE SUBMITTED TO TRUMP FOR HIS SIGNATURE. The Washington Times (3/9, Boyer, 272K) reports that on Thursday, White House officials "pushed back...against lawmakers' objections to legislation to replace Obamacare, saying President Trump expects to sign the new bill into law." White House press secretary Sean Spicer said, "This bill will land on the president's desk. He will sign it."

Politico (3/9, Nelson, 2.46M) also covers the story.

TRUMP WOULD BLAME DEMOCRATS IF GOP EFFORTS TO OVERHAUL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM FAIL. On its website, CNBC (3/9, Pramuk, 2.17M) says that President Trump "reportedly knows where he will pin the blame if the Republican health-care plan goes awry." According to CNN, Trump said on Wednesday that if GOP efforts to overhaul the US healthcare system fail, "he will let the Affordable Care Act (ACA) sputter and blame Democrats."

Politico (3/8, Dawsey, Bade, 2.46M) reports that Trump made the comments during a private meeting with conservatives in the Oval Office. During the event, "Trump sold Paul Ryan's health care bill as strong and necessary," yet "minutes later, his top aides offered some willingness to consider changing some of the core provisions, even as Trump himself suggested a fallback position – that they could try again in two years, and Obamacare will fail on its own, leaving Democrats to take the blame."

The Hill (3/9, Savransky, 1.25M) also covers the story.

ANALYSIS: DIVISION AMONG REPUBLICANS COULD DERAIL ACA REPEAL EFFORTS. The New York Times (3/9, Peters, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that as the House considers how to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, "a familiar array of interest groups with deep pockets, incensed talk radio hosts and online agitators is again assuming its posture of aggression toward the House Republican leadership." The article says "groups backed by the billionaire brothers Charles and David Koch and other powerful players on the right, such as Club for Growth and Heritage Action for America, have come out quickly and strongly against" the American Health Care Act, House GOP leaders' proposal to replace the ACA. Some conservative activists say they "feel lied to," and others are demanding that Republicans keep their promise and completely repeal the healthcare law. The article says this "displeasure is forcing an uncomfortable reckoning in the Republican Party much earlier and in a much more disruptive way than many think is constructive."

The Wall Street Journal (3/9, Armour, Hughes, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports that conservative GOP lawmakers such as Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC) are revolting against the party leadership over the healthcare proposal. The Journal says this dissension could derail one of the GOP's main goals, that is, repealing and replacing the ACA. The article adds that according to one House member, the leadership was surprised by the level of opposition displayed by conservative members. They had thought no GOP lawmaker would want to go on record as opposing ACA repeal efforts.

CONSERVATIVE GROUP ENDORSES MEDICAID CHANGES TO ACA REPLACEMENT BILL. The Washington Times (3/9, Howell, 272K) reports that on Thursday, a powerful "bloc of House conservatives backed two proposed changes to the Obamacare replacement plan...saying it could soften their general opposition to the broader GOP proposal." The article says the Republican Study Committee "wants to freeze Medicaid enrollment under Obamacare's generous funding rates at the end of this year," instead of waiting until 2020. The group also supported "a proposal by Rep. Morgan Griffith, Virginia Republican, to institute work requirements for able-bodied, childless adults on Medicaid."

Politico (3/9, Haberkorn, Bade, 2.46M) and the Washington Examiner (3/9, Cunningham, 400K) also cover the story.

LAWMAKERS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE WORRIED ABOUT ACA REPLACEMENT PROPOSAL. The New York Daily News (3/9, Slattery, 4.45M) reports that congressional Democrats and Republicans have voiced concerns about the ACA replacement bill unveiled by House GOP leaders on Monday. The article says opponents "from either side of the aisle have blasted the just drafted proposal as President Trump, House Speaker Paul Ryan, and others in the GOP leadership in both houses hope to get the ball rolling on their promise to repeal and replace" the ACA.

COMMENTATOR SAYS ACA REPLACEMENT BILL "WON'T EVEN GET A VOTE." The Hill (3/9, Concha, 1.25M)

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reports that according to political commentator Bill Kristol, the ACA replacement bill put forward by House GOP leaders "won't even get a vote." He said during an interview on Thursday, "It's going to fall apart. ... There will not be a vote for it."

PELOSI ACCUSES GOP LAWMAKERS OF BEING "AFRAID OF THE FACTS." The Hill (3/9, Lillis, 1.25M) reports that according to House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), House GOP lawmakers "scrambling to advance their ObamaCare repeal plan are 'always afraid of the facts.'" Pelosi said, "Republicans are racing this bill forward before the CBO can truly expose the...catastrophic consequences of their health bill." She added, "They don't want the American people to see the facts. They're always afraid of the facts. It's just a remarkable thing."

PELOSI BLAMES REPUBLICANS FOR SOME OF ACA'S WOES. The Washington Examiner (3/9, Ferrechio, 400K) reports that on Thursday, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) "blamed Republicans for painting a negative picture of Obamacare, which she said led to a muddled implementation of the law." She pointed out, for instance, that enrollment in ACA plans for 2017 "suffered, because 'people were deterred by the negative misrepresentations Republicans put out about it.'"

PENCE SAYS ACA REPLACEMENT BILL WILL BE COMPLETED BY SPRING. On its website, Fox News (3/9, 11.07M) reports that during an interview with Fox News, Vice President Mike Pence outlined "an ambitious timetable for the GOP's ObamaCare replacement legislation...telling 'Special Report with Bret Baier' that the measure would 'be done by this spring.'" Pence said, "President Donald Trump is a man of his word. ... He decided the day after the election that...the first priority of the Congress when they came back was to keep his word to repeal and replace ObamaCare, and we're going to make sure it happens."

RYAN MAKES CASE FOR ACA REPEAL, REPLACEMENT DURING PRESENTATION. NBC Nightly News (3/9, story 2, 2:05, Pelley, 16.61M) reported that millions of Americans are wondering "what will happen to their insurance" if the Affordable Care Act is repealed. In the meantime, House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) is "trying to beat back a revolt from within his own party."

The Washington Post (3/9, Bump, 11.43M) reports that on Thursday, Ryan used a presentation to make the case that Republicans should support the ACA replacement proposal, while briefing discussing "the economic problems at the heart of the existing health-care structure." He criticized the ACA, arguing that it is forcing younger, healthy people to pay for older, sicker ones. The article points out, however, that health coverage "is always about those who don't need insurance at the moment paying into the insurance pool for those who do. It's how insurance works."

The Washington Times (3/9, Dinan, 272K) reports Ryan discussed "the failures of Obamacare, which for those who have to buy coverage on the health exchanges has meant soaring premiums and fewer choices." He argued that ACA marketplaces are in a death spiral, and pointed out that "Republicans could have allowed that to play out, which would have meant devastating changes to health insurance across the board." However, "the GOP is going to step in now to try to rescue it before a collapse."

Politico (3/9, Cheney, 2.46M) reports that Ryan said "Republicans in Congress are facing their last, best chance to end Obamacare." He stated that the ACA replacement proposal "is the closest we will ever get to repealing and replacing Obamacare."

Also covering the story are The Hill (3/9, Wong, 1.25M), Politico (3/9, 2.46M), NPR (3/9, Detrow, 1.92M), the Huffington Post (3/9, Papenfuss, 237K), and the Washington Examiner (3/9, Ferrechio, 400K).

RYAN SAYS TAX CREDITS IN ACA REPLACEMENT PROPOSAL ARE NOT EQUIVALENT TO "ENTITLEMENT." The Hill (3/9, Marcos, 1.25M) reports in its "Floor Action" blog that on Thursday, House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) "sought to push back against criticism from the right that the GOP leadership's healthcare bill amounts to another 'entitlement' program like ObamaCare." During an interview, Ryan maintained that "replacing the 2010 law's subsidies to help low-income people buy health insurance with tax credits was not the same as directly giving people federal aid." He insisted, "Letting people keep more of their own money and doing what they want with it is not an entitlement."

GOP LAWMAKER SAYS HOUSE MEMBERS SHOULD HAVE BEEN GIVEN MORE TIME TO MULL ACA REPLACEMENT LEGISLATION. The Hill (3/9, Savransky, 1.25M) reports that on Thursday, Rep. Steve King (R-IA) said he believes "there should have been more time for lawmakers to 'digest' the GOP's plan to repeal and replace ObamaCare." He stated that "we should have had more time to digest it. I'd rather see it out there for a week or 10 days before they go to committee to mark it up."

MCCONNELL SAYS GOP MUST DELIVER ON PROMISES TO REPEAL ACA. Politico (3/9, Nelson, 2.46M) reports that on Thursday, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) said "his message to Republicans skeptical of the

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legislation introduced by House leadership to repeal and replace Obamacare is that 'we need to deliver' because 'we're in the outcome business now.'" He added that GOP lawmakers "are now in a position" to keep their promises to repeal the ACA.

Meanwhile, The Hill (3/9, Carney, 1.25M) reports in its "Floor Action" blog that McConnell also said senators will be able to make changes to ACA replacement legislation unveiled by House GOP leaders. He stated, "We'll be in a reconciliation mode and as you know there's a vote-a-rama. ... So there's going to be plenty of opportunity for senators in both parties to change this bill."

The Washington Examiner (3/9, Crabtree, 400K) also covers the story.

MCCARTHY URGES CONGRESSIONAL LAWMAKERS TO SUPPORT ACA REPLACEMENT BILL. The Hill (3/9, Beavers, 1.25M) reports that on Thursday, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) defended the GOP's ACA replacement plan, "saying 'everybody should get on board.'" He stated, "The president supports this plan, working for this plan. I think everybody should get on board."

RAND PAUL UNVEILS ALTERNATIVE TO HOUSE ACA REPLACEMENT MEASURE. The Hill (3/9, Carney, 1.25M) reports in its "Floor Action" blog that Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) "is pushing an alternative ObamaCare repeal bill amid growing opposition to the House GOP leadership's plan." The piece says Paul's plan "would effectively separate repeal of ObamaCare from replacement," yet this "move could alienate a group of centrist Republicans who want, at a minimum, the key details of replacement nailed down before they vote to repeal."

Newsweek (3/9, Gorman, 862K) also covers the story.

SEN. COTTON WARNS ACA REPLACEMENT BILL WILL FAIL IN THE SENATE WITHOUT SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES. The Washington Post (3/9, Blake, 11.43M) reports that on Thursday, Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR) advised caution with respect to the GOP's ACA replacement bill. The article says he waved "a giant metaphorical stop sign – before 6 a.m."

On its website, CNBC (3/9, Mangan, 2.17M) reports Cotton "warned that a Republican proposal to repeal and replace Obamacare would be defeated in the Senate if it is not significantly changed." Indeed, he "urged GOP leaders in the House of Representatives to slow down in their replacement effort, and 'start over' on their bill, known as the American Health Care Act."

The Hill (3/9, Hellmann, 1.25M) and the Washington Examiner (3/9, Kasperowicz, 400K) also cover the story.

CONSERVATIVES IN THE SENATE WANT TO BE ABLE TO MAKE CHANGES TO ACA REPLACEMENT BILL. Politico (3/9, Schor, Haberkorn, 2.46M) reports House GOP "leaders narrowly tailored their Obamacare repeal bill to avoid violating Senate rules, but conservatives are pushing back with advice of their own: Tear up the rule-book." The article says that on Thursday, more and more conservative members "urged GOP leaders to push the limits of how much of the health law they can reshape under a powerful procedural maneuver known as budget reconciliation – and to overrule the Senate parliamentarian if she doesn't decide in their favor."

Congressional Quarterly (3/9, Lesniewski, Subscription Publication, 967) also reports that GOP "senators are increasingly talking about needing to amend the House's health care law replacement bill."

WHITE HOUSE QUESTIONING CBO'S CREDIBILITY AS GOP AWAITS SCORE ON ACA REPLACEMENT LEGISLATION. The Washington Post (3/8, Tumulty, Ehrenfreund, 11.43M) reports that two House committees have approved House GOP leaders' ACA replacement legislation "without the benefit of an objective estimate of its impact from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) – a reckless move, critics say," given the impact this could have on tens of millions of Americans, as well as the healthcare industry. Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX) said, "Health care is too important, it impacts too many lives, to have a health-care bill jammed though in the same manner as President Trump's immigration order. ... What this bill needs is some extreme vetting." The article points out that even though CBO has not yet released its findings, "the White House has launched a preemptive attack on the agency's credibility, saying its estimates of the effects of the Affordable Care Act were off the mark."

The New York Times (3/9, Rappeport, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that "Capitol Hill's official scorekeeper," the CBO, "is coming under intense fire" from the Trump Administration. The CBO is due to release its estimates of the impact of the ACA replacement bill, but in the meantime, the White House is challenging its credibility. Sean Spicer, the White House press secretary, said on Wednesday, "If you're looking to the C.B.O. for accuracy, you're looking in the wrong place."

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The Hill (3/9, Lane, 1.25M) reports that the CBO's "scores of legislation are often considered make-or-break, with both parties pointing to them as indicators of how a bill would affect the federal budget and the economy."

Meanwhile, the Washington Examiner (3/9, Wegmann, 400K) reports that House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) "slammed Republicans for trying to overhaul the nation's healthcare system without a good estimate of what that might cost." She argued that this is "not just irresponsible," but also "hypocritical." The article says several conservatives agree with Pelosi about the necessity of waiting for a CBO score before proceeding.

CRUZ WANTS PENCE TO EXPAND HOUSE ACA REPLACEMENT BILL. The Hill (3/9, Bolton, 1.25M) reports Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) wants Vice President Pence to "exert his power over the Senate to significantly expand the scope of the House healthcare reform bill." According to Cruz, "Pence, who by virtue of his office also serves as president of the Senate, should be prepared to overrule the Senate parliamentarian to bulk up the controversial health measure."

STATE OFFICIALS WARN MILLIONS MAY LOSE COVERAGE IF GOP'S ACA REPLACEMENT BILL IS PASSED. The Hill (3/9, Wilson, 1.25M) reports both Democratic and Republican governors and state executive officers "are warning Congress that millions will lose healthcare coverage if the House GOP's proposal to replace ObamaCare becomes law." Nearly all of these lawmakers are from states which expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. The officials say their state budgets will not be able to handle the additional costs if federal Medicaid funds were cut.

WARREN SLAMS GOP'S ACA REPLACEMENT PROPOSAL. The Hill (3/9, Vladimirov, 1.25M) reports that on Thursday, Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) "blasted the GOP's healthcare plan, urging lawmakers to drop the legislation aimed at replacing the Affordable Care Act." Warren tweeted, "A health care bill that destroys care & affordable coverage for millions – seriously? What planet are these guys living on?!"

SEN. ALEXANDER CALLS GOP'S ACA REPLACEMENT PROPOSAL A GOOD BEGINNING. USA Today (3/9, Collins, 5.28M) reports that Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN), chairman of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, said House GOP leaders' ACA replacement bill is "a good start toward repealing and replacing the reforms enacted under former President Barack Obama, but he's not yet ready to commit to voting for the package." He stated, "Let's wait to see what comes out of the House." The article points out that GOP leaders may bypass Alexander's committee and send the bill straight to the floor. Alexander said he has no issues with that plan.

REP. SHIMKUS QUESTIONS WHY MEN SHOULD PAY FOR PRENATAL COVERAGE. The Washington Post (3/9, Viebeck, 11.43M) reports Rep. John Shimkus (R-IL) during the House Energy and Commerce Committee's debate over the Affordable Care Act replacement legislation questioned why men should have to pay for prenatal care, in response to a question about his objections to the ACA's requirements for health insurance plans. Although "the moment is starting to circulate on social media, along with criticism of Shimkus," the article points out that the question is "common among opponents of the ACA."

REPUBLICANS COULD USE BUDGET RECONCILIATION TO REPEAL "SOME OF OBAMACARE," BUT NOT ALL. The Washington Post (3/9, Phillips, 11.43M) "The Fix" blog reports that Congressional Republicans are debating whether to use "a special budget rule called reconciliation" to "undo some of Obamacare with a simple majority vote in both chambers, or undo all of it and face a 60-vote majority threshold" in the Senate. The article explains that "if a policy directly affects the nation's economic bottom line, you can use reconciliation to pass said policy with a simple majority," but "if a policy doesn't directly affect the nation's budget, you have to follow the regular rules for passing legislation."

In a separate article, the Washington Post (3/9, Binder, 11.43M) "Monkey Cage" blog reports Republicans have "put on a legislative straitjacket by committing themselves to using reconciliation" to pass budget resolutions. The article explains that if Republicans try to use reconciliation to pass healthcare reform, then that could delay a planned budget resolution dealing with tax reform being passed by reconciliation at the same time. The article reports that "there is only one track leaving the station, and only one reconciliation train fits on it at a time."

SOME FORMER OBAMA ADVISERS SAY REPUBLICANS SHOULD HAVE KNOWN HEALTHCARE REFORM WOULD BE COMPLICATED. On its website, NBC News (3/9, Seitz-Wald, 2.67M) reports some of former President Barack Obama's advisers who worked on the Affordable Care Act have suggested that President Donald Trump and Congressional Republicans should not be surprised by the complexity of healthcare reform. For example, Obama adviser Neera Tanden said, "Health care is hard. Governing is hard. And Republicans are now living with the fruits of never putting forward a plan and making promises they can't keep." Jonathan Gruber, an MIT economist who helped design the ACA, said, "They (Republicans) have spent years trying to demonize Obamacare and say there was something better, but there was nothing better. ... It's overall a sad story. I don't think anybody can feel good about this."

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CURRENT DEBATE OVER HOUSE REPUBLICANS' HEALTHCARE BILL SIMILAR TO DEBATE PRECEDING PASSAGE OF ACA. On its website, CNN (3/9, Krieg, 29.79M) reports there are many parallels between the drafting and passage of the Affordable Care Act and the current debate over the House Republicans' healthcare bill. For example, the article reports that former President Obama distanced himself from the drafting of the ACA at first, similar to how President Trump is distancing himself from the current drafting process.

AMERICAN ACTION NETWORK LAUNCHES AD CAMPAIGN IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE REPUBLICANS' HEALTHCARE BILL. The Hill (3/9, Marcos, 1.25M) reports the American Action Network, which is allied with House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) and other Republican leaders in the House, "is launching a six-figure television ad campaign urging conservative lawmakers to support the party's proposal to repeal and replace" the ACA. The campaign will run the ads "in 30 House districts, mostly represented by members of the hard-right Freedom Caucus."

The Washington Post (3/9, Debonis, 11.43M) "Power Post" blog reports, "The ads, set to run for two weeks, make the case that the GOP bill is a true conservative alternative to the ACA, not a watered-down version of it."

The Washington Examiner (3/9, Drucker, 400K) reports the ads "casts the choice before conservatives as one in which they're either with Trump or against him." The article lists the Representatives from the districts where the ads will be broadcast.

Priorities USA To Launch Digital Ad Campaign Against Republicans' ACA Replacement Plan. The Hill (3/9, Kamisar, 1.25M) reports Priorities USA, a Democratic super PAC, is launching "a new digital ad campaign that blasts the GOP's ObamaCare replacement plan." The campaign is targeting "both millennials and those over 50-years-old who voted for President Trump with ads that say both groups are being left behind by the party's plan."

SEN. KING SAYS HEALTHCARE BILL WOULD "HAMMER" MAINE. The Hill (3/9, Bolton, 1.25M) reports Sen. Angus King (I-ME) is urging Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) to oppose the House Republicans' healthcare bill, arguing that it would be bad for their state. King said, "If you were designing a bill to hammer my state, it would be this bill."

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE TO TRAVEL TO KENTUCKY TO PROMOTE HOUSE REPUBLICANS' HEALTHCARE BILL. USA Today (3/9, Groppe, 5.28M) reports Vice President Mike Pence will travel to Louisville, KY this week to promote the House Republicans' healthcare bill along with Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin (R). The article points out that Pence has been promoting the bill in "multiple media appearances and meeting with lawmakers."

The Hill (3/9, Fabian, 1.25M) reports that Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) has criticized the bill. The Washington Examiner (3/9, Morrongiello, 400K) reports Sen. Paul recently said, "Obamacare Lite, Paul Ryan's plan, just changes it so you have to pay a penalty to the insurance companies. I consider that to still be a mandate that isn't consistent with those of us who want less government involvement." The Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (3/9, Sayers, 328K) also covers the story.

REPUBLICANS' ACA REPLACEMENT PLAN WOULD HELP SOME MIDDLE-CLASS RESIDENTS OF CENTRAL NEW YORK WHILE HURTING SOME POORER RESIDENTS. The Syracuse (NY) Post-Standard (3/9, Mulder, 531K) reports the Republican ACA replacement plan would help middle-class residents of central New York, while hurting poorer residents of the area, according to an analysis conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation. The article explains that some wealthier people would receive tax credits under the Republican plan, while some poorer people would receive lesser subsidies under the Republican plan.

CLEVELAND CLINIC CEO SAYS HEALTHCARE BILL NEEDS TO BE SCORED BY CBO BEFORE DEBATE CAN MOVE FORWARD. On its website, CNBC (3/9, Belvedere, 2.17M) reports that Dr. Toby Cosgrove, the CEO of the Cleveland Clinic and an adviser to President Trump, said on "Squawk Box" on Thursday that the CBO needs to score the Republican healthcare proposal before the potential impact of the bill can be fully understood. Cosgrove also said that neither repealing the ACA without a replacement nor implementing a single-payer healthcare system are politically viable at this time. The article includes a video clip of Cosgrove being interviewed about the bill on the program.

REP. MARSHALL FACING CRITICISM FOR COMMENT SOME PEOPLE "JUST DON'T WANT" HEALTHCARE. The Washington Post (3/9, Phillips, 11.43M) reports Rep. Roger Marshall (R-KS) is facing criticism for his recent comment that poor people "just don't want health care and aren't going to take care of themselves." Marshall has since said that he did not mean to suggest that poor people take healthcare for granted.

COLORADO'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION CONCERNED ABOUT HOUSE REPUBLICANS' HEALTHCARE BILL. The Denver Post (3/9, Matthews, 778K) reports Republican and Democratic members of Colorado's Congressional delegation have concerns with the House Republicans' healthcare bill. The article quotes several members of the state's Congressional delegation commenting on the bill, with some voicing concerns and others harshly criticizing it.

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SEN. SANDERS CRITICIZES REPUBLICAN HEALTHCARE BILL. VTDigger (VT) (3/9, Craven, 1K) reports Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) said that the Republican healthcare bill would "throw millions of people off their health insurance, make coverage more expensive for the elderly, the sick and the poor and destroy Medicaid as we know it in order to give massive tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans." Sanders added, "We must fight back and work to defend and improve the Affordable Care Act, not destroy it."

ACA ALTERNATIVE COULD UNDERMINE OPIOID TREATMENT. USA Today (3/9, Shesgreen, Demio, 5.28M) reports, "Advocates for drug addiction services say the House Republican health care proposal could dramatically shrink access to treatment at a time when the country remains in the grip of an opioid epidemic." The article explains, "Nearly 30 percent of those who got coverage through the Medicaid expansion suffer from a mental disease or an addiction to substances, such as opioids or alcohol, according to the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration."

The Washington Post (3/9, Ingraham, 11.43M) reports the ACA alternative would remove the requirement to offer substance abuse and mental-health coverage which 1.3 million Americans are currently using. The Post writes that those services have been classified as "essential benefits" under the ACA's Medicaid expansion. During a House Energy and Commerce Committee, Rep. Joe Kennedy (D-MA) received clarification that the law does indeed remove the classification of the services as essential.

REPUBLICANS CHARGED WITH HYPOCRISY OVER EXPEDIENCY WITH ACA REPLACEMENT. The Washington Post (3/9, Blake, 11.43M) reports Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT) is accusing his fellow Republicans of being hypocrites for trying to rush through an alternative to the ACA. Lee explained that Republicans pushed their bill through two separate committees in under three days and did it without obtaining a CBO score. The Post writes that the GOP is undertaking a much quicker timeline than the Democrats used when passing the ACA, which took over a year to pass. The Post points out that Republicans are engaging in a bit of revisionist history, but are correctly citing the infamous line from then Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) who stated, "pass the [health care] bill so that you can find out what's in it."

REP. SMITH ARGUES TANNING BED TAX UNFAIRLY TARGETS WOMEN. The Huffington Post (3/9, Shapiro, 237K) reports Rep. Jason Smith (R-MO) said on Wednesday that the "tanning tax" hurts American women. Smith said, "What I found on Google is roughly 80 percent of who's taxed is women." Rep. Sander Levin (D-MI) echoed concerns expressed by the American Academy of Dermatology highlighting the link between indoor tanning and skin cancer. The Post writes that Smith responded to the concerns by stating, "If you look at the number one cause of skin cancer, it's not tanning beds. It's the sun. So why have [Democrats] not proposed a tax on the sun instead of tanning beds?"

The New York Times (3/9, Goodnough, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports the tanning industry is cheering the repeal of the 10 percent tax on their services, which they claim has forced thousands of salons out of business. The CDC reports that indoor tanning among high school students has dropped from 15.6 percent in 2009 to 7.3 percent in 2015, and industry group The American Suntanning Association reports that the number of tanning salons in the US has dropped by nearly half.

MEDICAL AND PHYSICIAN GROUPS OPPOSE ACA ALTERNATIVE. The Atlantic (3/9, Hamblin, 21.27M) reports the American Nurses Association, American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Family Physicians, Association of American Medical Colleges, American Hospital Association, and Children's Hospital Association have all come out in opposition to the GOP's alternative to the ACA. The AMA criticized the phasing out of the Medicaid expansion and the elimination of subsidies for low-income Americans. The Atlantic writes, "On Wednesday, the insurance-industry group America's Health Insurance Plans did caution Republicans against paring down Medicaid. Though competition imposed by the ACA has not benefited the bottom lines of some insurers, Medicaid expansion has."

AHIP OPPOSES ACA ALTERNATIVE. The Atlantic (3/9, Hamblin, 21.27M) reports the American Nurses Association, American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Family Physicians, Association of American Medical Colleges, American Hospital Association, and Children's Hospital Association have all come out in opposition to the GOP's alternative to the ACA. The AMA criticized the phasing out of the Medicaid expansion and the elimination of subsidies for low-income Americans. The Atlantic writes, "On Wednesday, the insurance-industry group America's Health Insurance Plans did caution Republicans against paring down Medicaid. Though competition imposed by the ACA has not benefited the bottom lines of some insurers, Medicaid expansion has."

VERMONT HEALTH SERVICES SECRETARY OPPOSES GOP ALTERNATIVE TO THE ACA. The AP (3/9) reports, Vermont Health Services Secretary Al Gobeille has come out against the GOP alternative to the ACA. The AP writes about Gobeille's concern saying, "the plan that would eliminate federal subsidies for health insurance premiums and replace them with tax credits could make insurance more expensive."

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CBO UNDER FIRE FROM LAWMAKERS SUPPORTING ACA ALTERNATIVE. CNN Money (3/9, Luhby, 3.59M) reports, "Lawmakers are calling out that the agency repeatedly overestimated how many people would gain coverage on the Obamacare exchanges. Republicans want to downplay the score of their bill, which is expected to show that millions could wind up uninsured." CNN writes that in 2010 the CBO estimated that 21 million would obtain coverage by 2016, which was off by a few million. However, CNN points out, "the agency was much closer to the mark on Obamacare's overall impact on coverage."

MITT ROMNEY'S FORMER POLICY DIRECTOR SUPPORTS ACA ALTERNATIVE. Vox (3/9, Klein, 1.15M) reports Lanhee Chen, former Mitt Romney policy director, called the GOP alternative to the ACA a good start and a step in the right direction. Chen said that the legislation takes a huge step to simplify the entire system, and he supports the use of tax credits that are based on age.

ACA ALTERNATIVE EXPECTED TO CREATE WINNERS AND LOSERS IN FLORIDA. The Miami Herald (3/9, Chang, 856K) reports, "For most of the estimated 1.7 million Floridians enrolled in an Affordable Care Act plan, the House Republican proposal to repeal and replace the health law known as Obamacare will change the financial aid they receive to pay their monthly premiums beginning in 2020." Referencing an analysis of the bill from the Kaiser Family Foundation, the Herald writes that older and lower income Floridians will "fare worse under the AHCA than they did under Obamacare...while those who are younger, with higher incomes and who live in urban areas will be better off."

REPUBLICAN LAWMAKERS IN CALIFORNIA REMAINING QUIET ON ACA ALTERNATIVE. The Los Angeles Times (3/9, Wire, 4.52M) reports, "Many of California's congressional Republicans represent districts with a large number of people who have insurance under Obamacare, and they're taking a cautious approach to the House Republican plan to replace the healthcare law." The Times points out, "Reps. Jeff Denham (R-Turlock), Tom McClintock (R-Elk Grove), David Valadao (R-Hanford), Doug LeMalfa (R-Richvale), Paul Cook (R-Yucca Valley) and Dana Rohrabacher (R-Costa Mesa) have all taken the wait-and-see approach, declining to say much beyond that they're still weighing the bill."

TWO HOUSE MEMBERS FROM GEORGIA OPPOSE CURRENT ACA ALTERNATIVE. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (3/9, Hallerman, 1.41M) reports, "Georgia Republicans are sharply divided over the GOP proposal to replace the Affordable Care Act that's galloping through the U.S. House of Representatives." Two GOP lawmakers from Georgia said they will not support the ACA alternative in its current form. The Journal-Constitution writes Georgia Republican Reps. Barry Loudermilk and Jody Hice said the measure leaves in place too many components of the Affordable Care Act. Loudermilk told reporters, "In Georgia we took a stand and said we weren't going to expand the Medicaid rolls, we took the lumps. And yet (the bill) is going to reward the states that didn't by allowing them to continue to expand Medicaid, which further increases the rolls and the costs of this."

VERMONT INSURER, HOSPITALS OPPOSE ACA REPLACEMENT BILL. VTDigger (VT) (3/9, Mansfield, 1K) reports, "Vermont's largest insurance company and the association representing all of the state's hospitals are coming out against a Republican proposal in Congress that would repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare." Don George, CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont told reporters on Thursday he doesn't "see anything good. ... It's nothing we can support." CEO of the Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems Jeff Tieman urged lawmakers to tweak the law as opposed to abandoning it altogether.

CNN: WHITE HOUSE SECRETLY PUSHING FOR EARLIER PHASE-OUT OF MEDICAID EXPANSION. The Hill (3/9, Vladimirov, 1.25M) reports, "President Trump's administration is privately supporting an earlier rollback of ObamaCare's Medicaid expansion than what is outlined in GOP leadership's healthcare plan, CNN reported Thursday." The Hill writes, "A Republican congressional aide told CNN that the move to alter the rollback date would severely diminish the bill's chances of success in the Senate." CNN (3/9, Diamond, 29.79M) reports ending the Medicaid expansion early would "likely infuriate Republican governors in states that accepted federal funds for the expansion, who face the prospect of many people losing coverage they gained under Obamacare." The change of position comes as members of the Republican Study Committee have endorsed two amendments aimed at ending the expansion early.

SPEAKER RYAN PLANS SECOND ROUND OF HEALTHCARE LEGISLATION OUTSIDE RECONCILIATION RULES. Politico (3/9, Bade, 2.46M) reports, "House Republicans will vote on a second health care bill the week they vote to repeal Obamacare, Speaker Paul Ryan told Sean Hannity Thursday afternoon." Ryan did not divulge many of the details about the second round of legislation, but he did state that the Senate rule prevented the second round of legislation from being included in the first round of fast-tracked legislation.

CUOMO CALLS GOP REPLACEMENT LEGISLATION A DIRECT ASSAULT ON NEW YORK VALUES. The New York Daily News (3/9, Lovett, 4.45M) reports, "The controversial House GOP plan to repeal and replace Obamacare would jeopardize the insurance coverage of more than 1 million New Yorkers and cost the state and its hospitals $2.4 billion a year once fully phased-in, Gov. Cuomo said Thursday." Cuomo said, "Health care is a human right, not a luxury," and he

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claimed the replacement efforts are a "direct assault on New York values" due to provisions that would defund Planned Parenthood.

REP. JORDAN URGES LAWMAKERS TO SUPPORT HIS LEGISLATION SIMILAR TO THE 2015 REPEAL OF THE ACA. CNN (3/9, Squitieri, 29.79M) reports, "After meeting with President Donald Trump on Thursday, Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, said he does not believe the House proposal to repeal and replace Obamacare has enough votes to pass." Jordan has urged President Trump to follow through on his campaign promise to repeal the ACA, and Jordan urged fellow lawmakers to support the 2015 repeal language that he reintroduced on Wednesday.

REP. LABRADOR DISAPPOINTED IN ACA ALTERNATIVE FOR NOT GOING FAR ENOUGH. The Hill (3/9, Vladimirov, 1.25M) reports, "Rep. Raúl Labrador (R-ID) voiced his opposition to GOP leadership's plan to repeal and replace ObamaCare Thursday, saying that it doesn't go far enough." Labrador points to the first line of the ACA alternative as evidence that the legislation does not go far enough. The first line of the bill states that the legislation will amend the ACA, not repeal it. Labrador said, "I am just surprised and disappointed that our leadership has decided to just go a tenth of the way as opposed to all the way."

HARTFORD HEALTHCARE CEO SAYS GOP HEALTHCARE BILL "HAS SIGNIFICANT FLAWS." The Hartford (CT) Courant (3/9, Blair, 445K) reports CEO of Hartford HealthCare Elliot Joseph said the ACA alternative "has significant flaws and unanswered questions," and its lack of a score by the Congressional Budget Office is "troubling." Joseph was very concerned over the changes to Medicaid funding for states and urged lawmakers to consider the real people behind the statistics. He also pointed out that if the Medicaid funding is stripped, individuals will be less likely to receive preventative care and will be sicker when they inevitably have to use the emergency room, which would create higher costs and sicker individuals.

HOSPITAL LEADERS IN ILLINOIS OPPOSE ACA ALTERNATIVE. The Springfield (IL) State Journal-Register (3/9, Olsen, 158K) reports, "Hospital industry leaders in Springfield and statewide said Thursday they oppose the Affordable Care Act replacement being debated in Congress because it likely would result in hundreds of thousands of Illinoisans losing insurance coverage." President and CEO of the Illinois Health and Hospital Association AJ Wilhelmi said the GOP alternative to the ACA would "result in significant federal funding cuts" for the state's Medicaid program. Wilhelmi argued in his statement that flexibility can only be achieved when the measures the GOP hopes to put in place are funded properly.

RICHER AMERICANS ARE SKIRTING ACA TAXES BY MOVING INVESTMENTS TO UNTAXED AREAS. The Washington Post (3/9, Ehrenfreund, 11.43M) reports, "Wealthy Americans appear to have found a way to get around one of the taxes they are supposed to be paying under Obamacare, according to federal data." The Joint Committee on Taxation published data on Tuesday demonstrating the surcharge on profits from richer Americans' investments have produced less revenue than predicted because people have shifted their investments into areas that are not subjected to the tax. The committee reports that repealing the tax on investment will cost the federal government $158 billion.

FREEDOM CAUCUS MEMBERS GOING OVER SPEAKER RYAN'S HEAD TO EXPRESS CONCERNS WITH ACA ALTERNATIVE. The Huffington Post (3/9, Fuller, 237K) reports, "Leaders of the conservative House Freedom Caucus, unhappy with the Republican health care legislation being rushed through the House by Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.), are taking their concerns directly to President Donald Trump." Chair of the Freedom Caucus Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC) and former chair Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH) spent Thursday afternoon at the White House in meetings with Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney and President Trump. The Reps. told reporters they met for "hours" discussing their concerns, the future, and amendments to the GOP alternative to the ACA. The Post writes that President Trump is "working with the Freedom Caucus to push the legislation farther to the right. And Ryan is left to wonder what his bill will look like when they're done."

ARTICLE CHALLENGES TRUMP'S EXPECTATION THAT DEMOCRATS WILL BE BLAMED FOR ACA FAILURE. An analysis at the Washington Post (3/9, Bump, 11.43M) says President Trump's back up plan if the GOP alternative falls through is to blame the Democrats, but that plan may not be as successful as he assumes. The article explains that Trumps argument that Democrats will own the failure of the ACA "shows that he still doesn't really get it." The Post writes that if the ACA fails before 2018, there is only a risk that some of the blame will go to Republicans, which can severely undermine their electoral success in 2018.

ACA ALTERNATIVE MAY IMPACT INSURERS' PROFITS. Modern Healthcare (3/9, Livingston, Subscription Publication, 241K) reports the ACA alternative could result in four to six million Americans losing insurance, which means insurers may lose out on extra profits. Modern Healthcare explains one reason for the impact is the fact that some states "contract private insurers to provide coverage to Medicaid beneficiaries. That gives insurers more patients and a more predictable stream of revenue."

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COMMENTARY CONSIDERS ACA. Several outlets offer opinions on health reform.

Paul Krugman, in his column in the New York Times (3/10, Subscription Publication, 13.9M), calls the GOP healthcare plan, which he refers to as Trumpcare, "almost surreal" in its "awfulness." The "half-baked plan that accepts the logic and broad outline of the Affordable Care Act while catastrophically weakening key provisions," almost guaranteeing "a death spiral of soaring premiums and collapsing coverage." Krugman attributes this to GOP policy-making and policy analysis having become worthless, as "facts and serious analysis are the modern right's enemies." Additionally, the GOP was unable to keep itself from seeking "to comfort the comfortable and afflict the afflicted." When the GOP promised to supplant the ACA with something better and President Trump promised "great health care" for everyone, Krugman concludes, they were "all lying, all along – and they still are."

David Brooks, in his column in the New York Times (3/10, Subscription Publication, 13.9M), writes that a new set of problems have overshadowed yesterday's concerns about universal healthcare and the size of government: those with fewer skills are seeking stagnating wages and fewer jobs, the social fabric is disintegrating, and there is growing distrust in major institutions. While President Trump "exploited these crises," his Administration's healthcare approach shows "that he has no positive agenda for addressing them." Should the healthcare plan pass, "it will probably lead to immense pain and disruption" as it makes the crises worse. Brooks concludes that "the social fabric, the safety net and the human capital sources just aren't strong enough" to leave people on their own, so, "if you want to preserve the market, you have to have a strong state that enables people to thrive in it."

Ohio Gov. John Kasich, in an op-ed in the New York Times (3/10, Kasich, Subscription Publication, 13.9M), expresses his opposition to the ACA and support for replacing it "with more conservative, market-driven reforms that actually control health care costs," but warns the GOP against taking "the same unilateral path" that lead to the passage of the ACA. Kasich argues that "meaningful change happens only with bipartisan support" and any "responsible, and necessary, repeal and replacement of Obamacare must balance cost and coverage." He calls for preserving coverage for those who have it while achieving "savings with badly needed Medicaid reforms" and stabilizing insurance markets. Kasich call for Congress to draw on the experience of states, such as Ohio, that "have reformed Medicaid programs to control costs while covering more people, proving that coverage and cost containment can be achieved together."

In the Washington Post (3/9, 11.43M) "Right Turn" blog, contributor Jennifer Rubin writes that "if you had to craft a bill that would be worse for more poor, vulnerable people you would be hard pressed to come up with something" as bad as "the GOP's American Health Care Act (or Trumpcare or whatever you want to call it)." Rubin argues that "we should be spending money, when we spend it, on the weakest, the poorest and the most vulnerable," but that Republicans are determined "to do the opposite and then to lard on big tax cuts for the rich."

David Leonhardt writes in his column in the New York Times (3/9, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) that "the Republican health care bill is, in no small measure, a tax cut for the wealthy." Leonhardt argues that the bill would force seniors to pay more for health insurance, while reducing healthcare coverage for many people with low incomes and disabilities, in order to generate large savings for the highest-earning Americans.

Avik Roy, the president of the Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity, writes in an opinion piece in the Washington Post (3/9, 11.43M) that Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) and other conservatives who claim to be against government assistance for healthcare are not campaigning against Medicare. Roy argues that few will take Paul and other conservatives seriously when they claim to be against government subsidies for healthcare, unless they also take a stance against Medicare, otherwise it will appear they are only "against subsidies for the poor."

David Horsey writes in his "Top of the Ticket" column in the Los Angeles Times (3/9, 4.52M) that the House Republicans' healthcare bill "is already in political trouble because it neither repeals nor replaces." Horsey argues that the bill retains some aspects of the Affordable Care Act, which "infuriates hard-line conservative members of Congress," and the bill also fails to "really replace the ACA's approach to healthcare with an improved system," which "is anathema to moderate Republicans and pretty much all Democrats."

Richard Eskow, a senior fellow with the Campaign for America's Future, writes in an opinion piece in the Huffington Post (3/9, 237K) that the House Republicans' healthcare bill is "a disaster for the health of the American people," and that the bill's true aim is "to increase inequality and make the rich even richer than they've become in the last few decades." Eskow argues that the bill amounts to "a wealth grab, on behalf of the already-wealthy," and would result in "an average tax break of $7 million per year" for the "400 highest-earning households" in the US.

In an opinion piece, Vox (3/9, 1.15M) senior editor Sarah Kliff writes that Republicans are rushing to pass the healthcare bill in the House before the CBO can fully assess the bill. Kliff argues that Republicans are deliberately rushing the bill,

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because they don't want to know what it will do, which she describes as "a strategy for political wins, not good policy."

In the Washington Post (3/9, 11.43M) "Plum Line" blog, contributor Greg Sargent writes that if the House Republicans' healthcare bill fails, then President Trump and Republicans may turn to their backup plan of letting Obamacare fail and blaming it on the Democrats. Sargent argues that under their backup plan, Republicans could continue claiming that the law is failing without repealing or replacing it and taking responsibility for the consequences of doing that.

In an opinion piece, the Washington Examiner (3/9, 400K) politics editor W. James Antle III writes that the country is uniting against Republicans, because "conservatives believe their party's congressional leaders have sold out," while "non-conservatives think they are dangerously right-wing." Antle argues that conservatives think the Republicans' healthcare bill is creating a new entitlement, while non-conservatives think the bill would reduce the social safety net.

Pascal-Emmanuel Gobry, a fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center, writes in an opinion piece in The Week (3/9, 2.41M) that progressives should support Republican efforts to reform Medicaid, because the program "is a disaster." Gobry argues that research has shown that Medicaid beneficiaries do not have better health outcomes than those without health insurance, so progressives should support efforts to reform the program.

In an opinion piece, The Week (3/9, 2.41M) economics and business correspondent Jeff Spross writes that Republicans are trying to get rid of Medicaid. Spross argues that the Republicans' ACA replacement plan would results in big cuts to Medicaid benefits, making the program less effective and potentially small enough so that they "can drag it into the bathroom and drown it in the bathtub."

In an opinion piece, Forbes (3/9, 15.17M) contributor Emily Willingham writes that changing Medicaid to a block grant program would threaten the healthcare of people with disabilities, particularly those with autism. Willingham argues that if Medicaid was changed to a block grant program, then states could decide what to cover and they may choose to end coverage for behavioral health services, which benefit many people with autism.

Dr. Ford Vox, a specialist in rehabilitation medicine, writes in an opinion piece for CNN (3/7, 29.79M) that the House Republicans' healthcare bill fails to live up to promises made by President Donald Trump during his campaign and since taking office. Vox argues that the bill does not align with the five principles outlined by Trump during the speech he made to Congress last week.

Steffie Woolhandler and David Himmelstein, co-founders of the Physicians for a National Health Program, write in an open letter to President Donald Trump published in the Huffington Post (3/9, 237K) that the President promised to replace the ACA "with something great that would provide Americans with universal coverage and lower deductibles and copayments." Woolhandler and Himmelstein request an opportunity to meet with Trump in order "to explain why single-payer, Medicare for all, is a great solution that will meet your stated goals."

Douglas B. Jacobs, a resident physician at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, writes in an opinion piece in the Washington Post (3/9, 11.43M) that he recently had a patient talk with him about the possibility of losing his insurance coverage if the Affordable Care Act is repealed. Jacobs argues that his patient "deserves better."

Jim Mangia, the President of St. John's Well Child and Family Center, writes in an opinion piece in the Huffington Post (3/9, 237K) that up to 10 million people who gained healthcare coverage under the Affordable Care Act could lose it under the American Health Care Act, or "Trumpcare," according to "some initial estimates." Mangia urges those in the Los Angeles area to take part in a planned march in support of the Affordable Care Act on March 23, which will be the seventh anniversary of the law's signing.

Gerald Kominsky, the director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, writes in an opinion piece in the Sacramento (CA) Bee (3/9, 574K) that the House Republicans' healthcare bill "is a public health disaster" and "a potential political disaster for the Republican Party." Kominsky argues that multiple groups of Republicans in Congress have criticized the bill, but that Republicans are rushing "to fulfill a key campaign promise" with a plan that "seems to be a kind of doomsday clock."

Taylor Lincoln, the research director of Public Citizen's Congress Watch division, writes in an opinion piece in the Huffington Post (3/9, 237K) that Republicans claim HR 1215, a bill that would cap damages for medical malpractice claims and make it more difficult to bring such lawsuits, would reduce healthcare costs. Lincoln argues that proponents of the bill are wrong, because "liability accounts for no more than one-half of 1 percent of health care costs – and that share is trending downward."

Jonathan Gruber, an economics professor at MIT who worked as a consultant on the ACA, writes in an opinion piece in

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U.S. News & World Report (3/9, 1.02M) that Republicans are acting like "the Grinch," but stealing healthcare instead of Christmas. Gruber argues that Republicans "have decided to sneak in and take away" healthcare coverage from people who gained it under the ACA, "just so that the richest Americans can get a tax break."

Andy Slavitt, the former head of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, writes in an opinion piece in Politico Magazine (3/9) that the proposed American Health Care Act "would raise health-care costs and reduce coverage for millions of Americans." Slavitt argues that Americans should instead support reforming the Affordable Care Act by making changes that could garner bipartisan support.

The Economist (3/10, 7.8M) says earlier this week, House GOP leaders unveiled the American Health Care Act (AHCA), which aims to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. The piece adds that it remains unclear what impact the AHCA will have on coverage or on the national deficit, given that the Congressional Budget Office has yet to score it. The Economist points out that GOP lawmakers believe the AHCA "is clearing up a mess," however, "in insurance markets, even the smallest changes can have huge effects."

Charley Grant writes in his column at the Wall Street Journal (3/9, Grant, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) that government action to rein in the price of prescription drugs could seriously harm the pharmaceutical industry. Reps. Elijah Cummings (D-MD) Peter Welch (D-VT) plan to introduce legislation which would allow Medicare to negotiate with drug companies over the prices they pay. The Journal writes that the proposal is popular with an overwhelming majority of Americans, but it may face opposition from Republicans.

Catherine Rampell writes in an opinion piece for the Washington Post (3/9, Rampell, 11.43M) that "Republicans' 'health care' bill is not really about health care. It's not about improving access to health insurance, or reducing premiums, or making sure you get to keep your doctor if you like your doctor. And it's certainly not about preventing people from dying in the streets." Rampell argues the legislation is merely about giving hundreds of billions of dollars in tax cuts. As evidence for her claims, Rampell points to the lack of support the legislation is receiving from medical and physician groups.

In his column for the Washington Post (3/9, Robinson, 11.43M) Eugene Robinson writes, "It's time to put an end to the myth that Republicans believe in fiscal responsibility. Saving taxpayer dollars takes a back seat to the ideological imperative of blaming and shaming the poor." Robinson argues the GOP abandoned its fiscal responsibility platform when it began pushing the ACA alternative before the bill received a CBO score. Robinson explains the ACA alternative, "means a windfall for those who are older and well-to-do. In essence, the plan would expand government assistance to encompass many who don't really need it – in order to avoid targeting help toward those who do." Robinson concludes by arguing it is Democrats who have been fiscally responsible, pointing to President Trump's proposed trillion dollar infrastructure project and former President Bush's expenditures on war in Iraq.

Douglas Holtz-Eakin writes in the Washington Post (3/9, Holtz-Eakin, 11.43M) that the GOP's ACA alternative is "a clear step forward on health-care policy." Holtz-Eakin argues that the legislation is not finalized, but rather a draft piece of legislation that lawmakers can build upon. The nonpartisan Center for Health and Economy, of which Holtz-Eakin is a member, argues that the GOP proposal will reduce federal spending by $170 billion over 10 years.

Jennifer Rubin writes for the Washington Post (3/9, Rubin, 11.43M) in its "Right Turn" blog that GOP members could make a political decision to oppose the GOP alternative to the ACA and come out of the debate ahead. Rubin argues that by opposing the GOP plan they could receive praise from more hardline members of their party and prevent a Democratic opponent from being able to blame them for dismantling key aspects of the ACA. Rubin points to the fact that the GOP plan, as it stands now, is unlikely to pass the Senate, and therefore, it would make sense for them to use such a reality as cover for their decision.

Associate professor of health policy and economics at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health Benjamin Sommers writes in a guest column for the Washington Post (3/9, 11.43M) that the fine print of the ACA alternative takes "a more insidious approach to gutting the Medicaid expansion." Sommers argues that the provision of the ACA alternative that prevents people from reenrolling in Medicaid if they drop out for more than one month is a way to thin out the Medicaid rolls. Sommers points out, "One study of Medicaid data found that the average enrollee receives Medicaid coverage for only 78 percent of the year, and this figure drops to 68 percent when focusing just on non-elderly, non-disabled adults, the main beneficiaries of the ACA expansion." Therefore, Sommers concludes, "under the GOP bill, the majority of the Medicaid expansion population under the ACA would likely become ineligible for the current level of federal funding in less than two years."

In an opinion piece for the Wall Street Journal (3/9, Strassel, Subscription Publication, 6.37M), Kimberley Strassel writes that many conservative groups have come out to oppose the ACA alternative because it does not fulfill the promise Republicans made during their campaigns. Groups such as the Club for Growth believe the GOP has made a tactical

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error in not pushing for a categorical repeal of the ACA, instead catering to the more moderate wing of the party. Strassell concludes that if more hardline conservatives are willing to strike a deal on an ACA alternative, members of the GOP leadership and the President should begin the process of finding an amicable solution.

Donald Lambro writes for the Washington Times (3/9, Lambro, 272K) that "Repealing and replacing Obamacare was always going to be a messy, combative, internecine battle. And that's what it has become." Lambro argues the ACA alternative has "a lot of good things in it," but GOP lawmakers need to slow what he sees as a rush to pass the legislation. Lambro points to the fact that the legislation has yet to be scored by the CBO as evidence that the GOP is not passing the legislation properly, and continues that the GOP should not be surprised that many medical and physician groups have come out against the legislation because it was drafted behind closed doors without any input from them.

President of the American Association of Mature Citizens Dan Weber writes for the Washington Times (3/9, Weber, 272K) in an opinion piece that the GOP alternative to the ACA "represents a crucial first step toward crafting a health care system that respects a robust marketplace while still looking after our most vulnerable citizens." Weber argues the legislation is "hardly perfect," but the GOP leadership have "cobbled together a valiant effort in spite of opposition not just from Democrats but from some in their own party. And the new, dynamic administration is on their side." Weber concludes, "The time for action is now. We may not have the luxury of such a golden opportunity as this. If Obamacare is repealed now, its damage to the American economy and health care system can be mitigated before it threatens the next generation."

The Dallas Morning News (3/9, 1.12M) editorializes that the GOP must release figures showing how many Americans would lose health insurance if their ACA alternative is passed, because "Americans' health, their lives and their finances, are at stake." The Morning News argues "No one in charge in Washington seems much to care about" the impact the legislation will have on Americans, because they are pressing forward without the bill receiving a score from the CBO. The Morning News is concerned that instead of an individual mandate, the GOP has opted for a surcharge which only goes to benefit the insurance companies as opposed to the US treasury. The piece concludes that the GOP is not doing itself any favors by pushing the legislation so quickly without answering certain key questions about its impact.

In an editorial, the Washington Examiner (3/9, 400K) says the GOP alternative to the ACA doesn't accomplish the key goal lawmakers made during election season, "which is to end distortions that prop up the employer-based health insurance system over the individual market." The Examiner argues the current system is unfair to those who buy their insurance on the private market as opposed to getting it through one's employer, arguing for an end to the tax exemptions for employer-based coverage.

William J. Arnone And Benjamin W. Veghte write for The Hill (3/9, 1.25M) in its "Pundits Blog" that most Americans agree Social Security and Medicare will require major changes in the future. The writers advocate for an "evidence-based" approach to the reform efforts because "These programs are too important to Americans' economic and health security to be restructured on the basis of misinformation or myths."

Katherine Restrepo writes in a column for Forbes (3/9, 15.17M) that the ACA alternative "actually entices non-expansion states like North Carolina to expand program eligibility to working childless adults by 2020." Restrepo argues that under the legislative text of the ACA alternative "North Carolina hospitals will initially foot the Medicaid bill, and then get their money back."

Terry Stone And Tracy Watts write for The Hill (3/9, 1.25M) in its "Pundits Blog" that the debate over the ACA alternative misses a huge issue: "the cost and inefficiency of our healthcare system." The writers argue "it is important to remember the critical role that employers play in our health system. Approximately 177 million Americans receive health coverage through an employer. That's 16 times the number of people who obtain coverage through the ACA exchanges." Therefore, lawmakers should "view this health reform 'reboot' as an opportunity to partner with American businesses to address the underlying causes of healthcare cost growth. In so doing, they could drive higher quality, lower costs, and better outcomes for all Americans."

The Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (3/9, 324K) editorializes "a divided nation has come together at last. Everybody hates their health-care plan," and the ACA alternative's "deficiencies overwhelm its merits." The Times-Dispatch argues the biggest flaw with the alternative is "the focus on health-care coverage rather than actual medical care." The Times-Dispatch states, "One possible solution would involve scrapping the proposal and starting fresh. But congressional Republicans already have had seven years to come up with a better idea. This might be the best they can do."

Robert Hockett writes in a piece for Forbes (3/9, 15.17M) that "What Congressmen like Mr. Ryan do not yet seem to 'get' is that programs like Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare, and 'Obamacare' are prerequisites to a dynamic and efficient national economy." Hockett argues that healthcare needs to allow people some form of security, and locking their extra

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finances in a health savings account does not offer them the ability to take "entrepreneurial risks." Therefore, Hockett concludes, "guaranteeing every citizen health insurance would enable every citizen to move freely anywhere in the nation that they'd be needed, and that eliminating the need for individuals to 'self-insure' would open the door to literally millions – in fact, scores of millions – of new entrepreneurial investments."

In an opinion piece for the Chicago Tribune (3/9, 2.54M), Eric Zorn writes, "health insurance is more like a legal pyramid scheme. New investors – the young and robust – buy in today in anticipation of returns in the future." Zorn calls the current healthcare system "a terrible deal."

A Bloomberg View (3/9, 125K) editorial defends the CBO saying, "For more than four decades, the nonpartisan agency has applied its expertise to congressional legislation, estimating the costs of bills and resolutions, and the intended and unintended impact on spending and revenue." The piece argues that the criticism of the CBO is "as short-sighted as it is misguided," because they offer an invaluable service to member of Congress, and the CBO often rather pretty accurate in its estimations.

In an opinion piece for Bloomberg View (3/9, 125K), Jonathan Bernstein writes that Trump will receive the blame if the ACA fails because it is incumbents who get the blame when things go wrong, even if it is not their fault. Bloomberg criticizes President Trump for "giving away the game by saying publicly that he'll allow the health care system of the United States to just fail." Bloomberg concludes, "If Trump really believes he can deliberately inflict damage on voters (or refrain from available action to prevent damage, which amounts to the same thing) and successfully put the blame on his predecessor? That could be one of the most dangerous things about him."

In an opinion piece for Bloomberg View (3/9, 125K), Megan McArdle writes, "Some forms of government policy are built of political concrete. Once done, they cannot be renovated, added to or even destroyed without immense cost." McArdle argues that the ACA has been concreted into the government, and as a result, the GOP must decide whether to destroy the program altogether or to let the structure fall under its own weight. McArdle concludes, "If Republicans cannot get up the will to bear those costs, then they should do nothing, and start preparing their rebuilding strategy while they wait for the flaws in Obamacare's structure to bring down the individual market on its own."

Healthcare News:

HOUSE ADVANCES TORT REFORM MEASURES. The Washington Post (3/9, Kindy, 11.43M) reports in a front-page that a series of bills being advanced by House Republicans would implement tort reforms "long sought by doctors and U.S. corporations, including a cap on some medical malpractice awards and new roadblocks for classes of people seeking to sue jointly to address harm." The House on Thursday "narrowly passed two of the four measures among party lines" – the Innocent Party Protection Act which "would shift some claims to the federal system from state courts, which tend to be more sympathetic to plaintiffs," and the Fairness in Class Action Litigation Act which "would permit class-action lawsuits to proceed in federal court only if every person in the class had 'an injury of the same type and scope.'" The House is expected to take up the Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act on Friday. That measure "would require federal judges to sanction attorneys whose claims are later found frivolous."

UTAH SENATE APPROVES BILL REQUIRING DOCTORS TELL WOMEN DRUG-INDUCED ABORTIONS CAN BE STOPPED. The AP (3/9) reports the Utah Senate has approved legislation which would require doctors to inform female patients "that medication-induced abortions can be halted after taking just one of two pills, despite some saying there's little evidence to back up that idea." The article notes, "The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has said that there is no medically accepted evidence that a drug-induced abortion can be interrupted."

OPINION: ADMINISTRATION SHOULD DEFUND PLANNED PARENTHOOD IMMEDIATELY. In a piece for the Washington Times (3/9, 272K), columnist Kelly Riddell writes that Planned Parenthood's response to President Trump's proposal that the organization cease its abortion services in order to continue receiving Federal funds is "mind-boggling." Planned Parenthood is already prohibited from using "taxpayer funds" to provide abortions under the Hyde Amendment, but Riddell argues Cecile Richards, the organization's president, proved the prohibition to be a "farce" through her response to the President. Riddell concludes that Planned Parenthood is "an abortion provider. Period," and urges the Administration to "federally defund" it.

Food & Import Safety:

CDC INVESTIGATING MULTISTATE LISTERIA OUTBREAK CONNECTED TO RAW MILK CHEESES. Reuters (3/9) reports the CDC is looking into a multistate outbreak of listeriosis connected to soft raw milk cheese products from Vulto Creamery that resulted in two deaths. With related hospitalizations in Connecticut, Florida, New York, and Vermont, the

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CDC is recommending "that restaurants do not serve and retailers do not sell recalled soft raw milk cheeses made by Vulto Creamery."

CNN (3/9, Scutti, 29.79M), STAT (3/9, Thielking), and NBC News (3/10, Fox, 2.67M) also provide coverage.

SOME EXPERTS CONCERNED REPORTS ABOUT PESTICIDES IN PRODUCE COULD SEND CONSUMERS MIXED MESSAGES. Bloomberg News (3/9, Shanker, 2.41M) reports the Environmental Working Group's annual "Clean Fifteen" and "Dirty Dozen" produce lists, which ranks produce according to their pesticide contents, may be oversimplifying a complex nutritional topic and could be sending mixed signals when other experts are simply trying to encourage people to eat more produce in general. One critic of the EWG's reports, Boise State University assistant professor Cynthia Curl, concedes that the reports may have some value for those looking to consume fewer pesticides for whatever reason, but she went on to say, "We know so much about the health benefits of eating fruits and vegetables and there's so much uncertainty about levels of residues. ... I never want my work to be interpreted as we shouldn't eat fruits and vegetables because we can't afford organic."

CNN (3/8, Gatewood, 29.79M) provided coverage of the reports themselves. This year, strawberries once again ranked at the top of the "Dirty Dozen" list, while sweet corn and avocados topped the "Clean Fifteen" list. According to EWG senior analyst Sonya Lunder, "Eating plenty of fruits and vegetables is essential no matter how they're grown, but for the items with the heaviest pesticide loads, we urge shoppers to buy organic. If you can't buy organic, the Shopper's Guide will steer you to conventionally grown produce that is the lowest in pesticides."

EVANGER'S RECALLS TWO MORE DOG FOOD PRODUCTS OVER LETHAL CONTAMINATION WORRIES. USA Today (3/9, Meyer, 5.28M) reports pet food supplier Evanger's is adding two additional products to its recall of canned dog food over fears it could be contaminated with pentobarbital; in the instances where contamination did take place, five dogs fell ill and one died. The FDA detected the chemical in two cans of Evanger's dog food, and "its inspection of the meat supplier's facilities found that there 'appear to have systems in place to ensure that euthanized animals are segregated from animal protein going for animal food use.'"

USDA INVESTIGATES BIRD FLU OUTBREAKS, CONSIDERS FUNDING REQUIREMENTS. The AP (3/9, Karnowski) reports the US Department of Agriculture confirmed H7N9, a highly pathogenic, North American strain of bird flu, was detected in a flock of 73,500 chickens in Lincoln County, TN. The agency "stressed that it was not the same H7N9 virus of Chinese lineage that has sickened poultry and people in Asia, nor is it related to the virus that caused the 2015 U.S. outbreak." The chickens, which supply Tyson Foods Inc., were killed to prevent the spread of the virus. The USDA also confirmed a flock of 84,000 turkeys near Barron, WI carried the low pathogenic H5N2 virus, which the agency explained differs from the highly pathogenic H5N2 virus that struck the Midwest in 2015.

Reuters (3/9, Weinraub) reports the USDA estimated it has $80 million to $90 million in funding remaining from 2015's outbreaks to address any new appearances of the virus, according to Jack Shere, the agency's chief veterinary officer. Congress must approve an appeal from the USDA if the agency requires additional funding to fight the disease.

Nutrition & Obesity:

INDUSTRY TRACKER: AMERICANS DRANK MORE WATER THAN SODA IN 2016. The CBS Evening News (3/9, story 10, 0:20, Pelley, 11.17M) reported an industry research group announced on Thursday that "the average American drank more than 39 gallons of bottled water" in 2016, "compared to 38.5 gallons of soda." Both the Wall Street Journal (3/9, Maloney, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) and Reuters (3/9, Banerjee) note that the shift comes amid concerns over the health effects of sugary beverages. Additional coverage is also provided by NBC Nightly News (3/9, story 10, 0:20, Pelley, 16.61M).

Medicare:

NONPROFIT PUSHING FOR MEDICARE TO COVER DENTAL BENEFITS. Kaiser Health News (3/6, Galewitz, 2K) reported the nonprofit Santa Fe Group is pushing for Medicare to include better dental coverage citing research that poor oral health "can exacerbate health problems such as diabetes and heart disease, leading to costlier bills for Medicare." The group includes "academics, dental industry executives and former government officials" and is aiming to build "public demand for a Medicare dental benefit so that every major presidential candidate will support it the next time around."

SOUTH FLORIDA EYE PHYSICIAN ACCUSED OF DEFRAUDING MEDICARE OF $105 MILLION. Bloomberg Politics (3/9, Nesmith, Voreacos, 201K) reports major donor to Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ) Salomon Melgen is under scrutiny for claims that he defrauded Medicare of $105 million through four South Florida eye clinics. Bloomberg writes,

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"Prosecutors say he also falsely diagnosed patients and violated complex regulations on multiple dosing from single vials of an eye medicine, Lucentis." Melgen's attorneys claimed that prosecutors have cherry picked 30 cases from the over 2,300 patients he treats who are covered by Medicare. The AP (3/9, Spencer) reports the alleged fraud took place between 2008 and 2013. Prosecutors told the jury, "This highly trained, Harvard and Yale educated specialist would falsely diagnose patients to justify injecting eyes that did not need it and lied to Medicare about it."

Medicaid & CHIP:

220,000 IOWANS IMPACTED BY MERCY HEALTH NETWORK DISPUTE. The Des Moines (IA) Register (3/9, 377K) reports, "More than 220,000 poor or disabled Iowans could lose access to one of the state's largest hospital-and-clinic systems because of a payment dispute with a Medicaid management company." The Mercy Health Network is the organization affected by the dispute, and they currently run hospitals in 12 cities, as well as 200 clinics. Mercy Health Network Vice President Janell Pittman said, "Our original agreement with AmeriHealth-Caritas was negotiated in good faith less than a year ago. ... MHN is disappointed that AmeriHealth-Caritas has chosen to terminate the contract so quickly."

OREGON PHYSICIANS URGE STATE COMMISSION TO APPROVE USE OF 3-D MAMMOGRAPHY MACHINES FOR MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT. The Bend (OR) Bulletin (3/9, Bannow, 96K) reports all of Central Oregon's imaging providers have switched to 3-D mammography machines after the federal government approved their usage. The Bulletin writes, "At its meeting Thursday, the commission that decides what OHP covers may vote on whether the program will pay for 3-D mammography for women ages 40 to 74 with an average breast cancer risk. The program for low-income individuals currently covers 2-D mammography for that population." Physicians in Oregon point to studies demonstrating the effectiveness of 3-D machines as reasons for the need to cover the procedures, and they also pointed to claims that the switch could save the state $8.14 per scan.

MEDICAID EXPANSION ADVOCATES IN IDAHO URGE LAWMAKERS TO PUSH FOR THE PROGRAM. The Idaho Statesman (3/9, Dentzer, 197K) reports, "Close the Gap Idaho called a late-session rally Thursday to urge Idaho legislators to act on Medicaid expansion to help people without health insurance, arguing that the GOP-backed health care bill now advancing in Washington, D.C., has removed any remaining reason for Idaho to delay." Under the ACA alternative, states that do not expand Medicaid would have to compete for a share of $10 billion over the course of five years, and the funding would be based on population size of the state. The Statesman writes, "The committee voted to send the bill to the Senate amending order for revisions on the Senate floor."

AHIP GRAPHIC DEMONSTRATES WHY PRIVATE SECTOR INSURANCE IS MORE COSTLY THAN MEDICARE OR MEDICAID. The Huffington Post (3/9, Marans, 237K) reports, "America's Health Insurance Plans...published an infographic this month breaking down how the industry spends every dollar it receives in premiums," but the infographic "inadvertently helps explain why commercial health insurance is a bad deal." The Post continues, "The comparison shows that expanding Medicare to cover the entire population... would significantly reduce health care costs by eliminating a whole lot of expenses that aren't related to medical care. That's in part because Medicare does not have to advertise its services, make a profit for investors, or reward its executives with multi-million-dollar compensation packages, as private insurers do."

ROSENDALE URGING FEDERAL LAWMAKERS TO BLOCK GRANT MEDICAID FUNDING TO INCREASE STATE CONTROL. The Montana Standard (3/9, Michels, 36K) reports Montana's Commissioner of Security and Insurance Matt Rosendale is pushing for the federal government to block grant Medicaid funding to the states in an effort to give them more control over how they spend the money. Rosendale told members of the a state working group on Thursday they need to draft legislation to address the changing nature of the Medicaid funding mechanism, but Democratic Gov. Steve Bullock told reporters on Thursday he doesn't want lawmakers to rush to draft legislation in response to federal legislation that has yet to pass.

Health & Medical News:

LITIGATION IS NEW TACTIC IN OPIOID CRISIS. NBC Nightly News (3/9, story 7, 3:20, Pelley, 16.61M) reported that the city of Everett, WA "has filed a lawsuit for the maker of Oxycontin, claiming the company is largely to blame for the number of drug addicts dying on the streets." NBC (Gosk) added that the city, "a proud working class town north of Seattle," is, "like so many places," being "crushed under the opioid epidemic," with "homeless addicts in doorways" and "overdoses in bars." According to NBC, "Fed up and desperate for more resources, Mayor Ray Stephanson and his city have launched an unprecedented fight against Purdue Pharma, the company that has made billions off opioid Oxycontin." The lawsuit "alleges Purdue supplied Oxycontin to obviously suspicious physicians and pharmacies, accusing the company for blind eye to illegal drug trafficking." The city wants Purdue "to pay tens of millions of dollars to help expand

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the medical wing at the county jail for addicts going through withdrawal" and other services.

The Washington Post (3/9, Higham, Bernstein, 11.43M) reports that "a new legal front is opening in the war against the nation's opioid crisis as attorneys begin to pursue major corporations that distribute prescription painkillers," seeking "billions of dollars in reimbursements for the devastation the drugs have caused in communities across the country." Attorneys in West Virginia, "which has the highest opioid overdose rate in the nation, filed federal lawsuits Thursday on behalf of two counties against some of the nation's largest drug distribution companies," and "a dozen attorneys general in hard-hit states are considering similar suits against many of the same companies. 'The purpose of these lawsuits is to make the economic cost of willfully violating the law so significant that we force the wholesalers to abide by the law,' said Paul Farrell Jr., who filed the lawsuits in West Virginia and plans to file lawsuits on behalf of five other counties in the state next week."

NBC News (3/10, Gosk, Douglas, 2.67M) also covers the story on its website.

STUDY FINDS TWO TESTS ARE PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE AT DETERMINING CAUSE OF A STILLBIRTH. The New York Times (3/10, A24, Saint Louis, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports, "A rigorous study released on Thursday found that two tests are particularly effective in determining the cause of a stillbirth." Investigators found that "an examination of the placenta helped find a cause in about two-thirds of stillbirths, and a fetal autopsy helped in roughly 40 percent of cases." According to the Times, "the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has long recommended a slew of possible tests after stillbirths, but this study, published in the journal Obstetrics and Gynecology, is the first nationwide attempt to calculate the relative utility of each." The Times also points out that the stillbirth cases studied "are part of second analysis of a study by the Stillbirth Collaborative Research Network, a group funded by the National Institutes of Health."

TECHNOLOGIST LARRY SMARR CREATES 3D MODEL OF ABDOMEN FOR COLON SURGERY. The San Diego Union-Tribune (3/8, Sisson, 496K) reports Larry Smarr, a "noted UC San Diego technologist," gave his surgical team "a three-dimensional model of his abdomen days before he underwent colon surgery," helping "to avoid a complication that his surgeon said would have required more incisions and at least 30 extra minutes of him being under anesthesia." Smarr believes the model "has application far beyond his own body," as 3D imaging "remains rare for many abdominal procedures and especially for the colon." The article notes that Dr. Judy Yee, chair of the American College of Radiology's Colon Cancer Committee, "has her own lab where she can make similar 3D images for colon and other abdominal surgeries" has said more could be done to make 3D imaging available to the masses.

OPINION: HIGH DRUG COSTS ONE OF THE "MOST PRESSING ISSUES" IN THE US. Patricia A. Maryland, President of Healthcare Operations and COO for Ascension Healthcare, writes in The Hill's (3/9, 1.25M) "Pundits Blog" that "the problem of rising prescription drug prices is one of the most pressing issues facing Americans today" and applauds President Trump for his commitment to addressing the issue. Maryland states that Ascension "look[s] forward to working with the administration and Congress to place patients first, protect them from out-of-control spending and improve the quality of life for all Americans."

MASSACHUSETTS JUDGE CONSIDERS STALLED RIGHT-TO-DIE LAWSUIT. Reuters (3/9, Raymond) reports Massachusetts Superior Court Judge Mary Ames heard arguments Wednesday over "a lawsuit seeking an order that the state's murder and manslaughter laws do not apply to physicians who offer lethal medications to terminally ill patients," which is currently blocked from proceeding. Although Ames did not make a ruling on whether to dismiss the suit, "she called the issues 'important' and said the case was headed to a higher court no matter how she ruled."

SALK INSTITUTE'S ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH BLOCKED BY FEDERAL MARIJUANA REGISTRATION RULE. CNBC (3/9, Kramer, 2.17M) reports Salk Institute researchers face a "major hurdle" in continuing their work on the use of marijuana extracts to treat Alzheimer's disease: Salk is funded by the National Institutes of Health, part of the US Department of Health and Human Services, meaning the lab "must abide by federal law, which prohibits it from having any unapproved strains of cannabis in its facility without the proper registration." The researchers sent in a Schedule I registration application in December, but "are still waiting for approval, with their research at a standstill."

HEARING SCHEDULED FOR BILL TO DECRIMINALIZE "LOW-LEVEL MARIJUANA POSSESSION." The Houston Chronicle (3/9, Ramirez, 1.91M) reports a hearing has been scheduled at the Texas State Capitol for House Bill 81, which aims to "decriminalize the use and possession of small quantities of marijuana" by making it a misdemeanor. The legislation will be argued before the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee on March 13.

TEXAS BILL WOULD PROHIBIT HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS FROM SERVING PATIENTS ALCOHOL. The Dallas Morning News (3/9, Rice, 1.12M) reports Texas state representatives on Thursday reviewed the proposed Senate Bill 404, which would "prohibit health care providers from offering alcoholic beverages" to patients "and penalize them for

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doing so." State legislators called the practice "appalling" and "irresponsible."

LAWSUITS ACCUSE DRUG DISTRIBUTORS OF CREATING PUBLIC HEALTH HAZARD WITH OPIOID MEDICATIONS IN WEST VIRGINIA. The Washington Post (3/9, Higham, Bernstein, 11.43M) reports that attorneys in West Virginia "filed federal lawsuits Thursday on behalf of two counties against some of the nation's largest drug distribution companies." The lawsuits, "among the first of their kind in the country," claim that the companies created "a hazard to public health and safety by shipping inordinate amounts of opioids into the state in violation of West Virginia law."

JOHNSON & JOHNSON LITIGATION LOSSES RISK ENCOURAGING MORE LAWSUITS, EXPERTS SAY. Bloomberg News (3/9, Fisk, Feeley, 2.41M) reports Johnson & Johnson "was hit with six of the seven largest product-defect verdicts of 2016, and 2017 could also wind up costing the company hundreds of millions of dollars, if not more." Experts say the "real danger isn't the losses" but that "more bad verdicts could encourage others to file, raising the costs of fighting and settling."

PROPUBLICA LOOKS INTO MEDICAL SUPPLIES THAT HOSPITALS "WASTE." In a 2,500-word article, ProPublica (3/9, Allen, 30K) reports on the medical supplies that hospitals "waste." The article focuses on Elizabeth McLellan, who runs a nonprofit called Partners for World Health, which ships medical products discarded by US hospitals to countries in need of such supplies. ProPublica points out that "in 2012 the National Academy of Medicine estimated the US health care system squandered $765 billion a year, more than the entire budget of the Defense Department." U.S. News & World Report (3/9, Mirza, 1.02M) discusses the ProPublica article.

CERTAIN MEDICATIONS TO HALT HAIR LOSS COULD INCREASE RISK OF ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION, STUDY SUGGESTS. STAT (3/9, Swetlitz) reports a study suggests "men who take a popular class of drugs to combat hair loss or prostate shrinkage may be at a small increased risk for long-lasting erectile dysfunction if they take the drug for a long time." Investigators "found that, among men who did not have prostate disease, those taking either" finasteride or dutasteride "for more than 208.5 days, or about seven months, had a statistically significant higher chance of developing 'persistent erectile dysfunction,'" although the "rate of persistent erectile dysfunction in both group was still quite low." The study, funded in part by the NIH, was published in PeerJ.

Global Health:

STUDY FINDS HIGH MORTALITY RATES AMONG AFRICAN KIDNEY DIALYSIS PATIENTS WHO CEASE TREATMENT. Reuters (3/9, Cohen) reports a study (2/17, 5K) published in Lancet Global Health by kidney specialists from Switzerland, Cameroon, Ghana, Senegal, and South Africa reviewed a collection of 68 previous studies that cover approximately 25,000 adults and 800 children. Researchers determined 59 percent of adults and 49 percent of children "stopped life-saving dialysis treatments for financial reasons, despite needing to continue"; and "96 percent of adults and 95 percent of children" who needed to continue treatment but could not died. The study authors wrote that the "prohibitive" and "catastrophic" dialysis costs "likely plunge families further into poverty," causing healthcare workers to question the ethics of offering the treatment to patients who cannot afford it. An accompanying editorial (2/17, Okpechi, 5K) by Dr. Ikechi G. Okpechi called the study results "alarming and outrageous," and warned that "countries in sub-Saharan Africa should stop burying their heads in the sand and realize that the burden of (end-stage kidney disease) will worsen and every small step taken in the right direction now will help to save lives in the future."

GERMANY ATTRACTS DROVES OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS FROM THE BALKANS. Reuters (3/9, Sito-Sucic) reports nurses from the Balkans are seeking employment in Germany as their countries continue to struggle to recover "from a decade of political and economic turmoil in the 1990s." Germany currently has vacancies for "10,000 nurses and 2,000 doctors, with some 40,000 registered doctors due to retire by 2021." Zoran Savic, the president of Serbia's medical workers' trade union, said, "We are losing our best experts."

JAPAN PROPOSES "STRICTEST-EVER" SMOKING LEGISLATION. AFP (3/9, Beade) reports Japan is looking to pass "its strictest-ever smoking laws" as Tokyo gears up to host "millions of visitors for the 2020 Olympics," but the legislation is facing "strong opposition" from "the country's powerful tobacco lobby." The proposed law would "ban smoking in many restaurants, as well as public facilities," and would establish a 300,000 yen ($2,600) penalty for violations. The article notes that "the proposals, unveiled last week, have already been watered down from an initial push for a broad ban on indoor smoking" in response to tobacco industry pushback.

ROMANIA PLANS TO OVERHAUL STRUGGLING MEDICAL PROFESSION. Reuters (3/9, Campeanu) reports Romania's loss of medical professionals to other European nations after joining the European Union has brought about "dire" consequences. Although pay has risen in recent years and the Romanian health ministry established a multi-year plan that will renovate the medical profession by offering more opportunities and subsidies for physicians who work in

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remote areas, the European Commission said last month that "the system suffers from inefficiencies, limited accessibility, and corruption."

EUROPEAN PHARMACEUTICALS WARN THAT PHYSICIANS SHOULD CONSIDER CIRCUMSTANCES OF PATIENT BEFORE SWITCHING TO BIOSIMILARS. Reuters (3/9, Hirschler) reports that European pharmaceutical companies, who are "faced with increasing competition from" biosimilars, warned physicians on Thursday "to take care when switching patients from an established product to" a biosimilar version. In an joint statement, three industry associations said physicians "should look at the circumstances of each individual patient before switching them from established drugs to cheaper biosimilars."

FUKUSHIMA MEDICAL UNIVERSITY EXAMINES THYROID CANCER AMONG CHILDREN IN THE REGION. The AP (3/9, Yamaguchi) reports a health survey conducted by Fukushima Medical University found "185 cases of malignant or suspected thyroid cancer in children" in the region, which was struck by a nuclear disaster in 2011. Additional thyroid screenings are being done in phases on nearly 380,000 people who were aged 18 or younger and in Fukushima at the time of the nuclear meltdown. Experts have not linked the meltdown to the increased reports of thyroid cancer cases, but "said more thyroid cancer cases were found because of the blanket screening."

National News:

TRUMP VOWS TO EASE REGULATIONS ON COMMUNITY BANKERS. Reuters (3/9, Lawder) reports that during a meeting with community bankers Thursday, President Trump promised "to strip away some Dodd-Frank financial regulations and ensure they can continue giving small businesses access to capital." Trump, who was joined at the meeting by National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn and Treasury Secretary Mnuchin, said, "Nearly half of all private-sector workers are employed by small businesses. We must ensure access to capital to small businesses and for small businesses to grow. Community banks are the backbone of small business in America." According to Chesapeake Financial Shares Inc Chairman and CEO Jeffrey Szyperski, who attended the meeting, the bankers "emphasized the need for 'tailoring regulations to fit the size and complexity of banks.'" The Washington Post (3/9, Merle, 11.43M) says Trump "pledg[ed] to ease regulations the industry says has stifled its growth," telling the bankers, "You'll be able to loan. You'll be able to be safe. You'll be able to provide the jobs that we want and also create great businesses."

CNBC (3/9, Fox, 2.17M) reported on its website that Sound Community Bank and Sound Financial Bancorp CEO Laurie Stewart told CNBC Thursday that "banking regulations are hurting community banks and the small businesses they support," but she is "optimistic President Donald Trump and his team will work toward easing some of those restrictions." Stewart said Trump "was 'very interested' in listening to issues that are impeding banks and their ability to lend."

Eamon Javers said on CNBC's Closing Bell (3/9, 142K) that Trump "took a bunch of ideas from the community bankers on banking deregulation. He turned to" Mnuchin and Cohn "and he asked them, 'Can we get this done in six months?' They told him, I'm told, 'We'll do our best,' and the President turned to them very directly and said, 'You have to do better than that. I want this done in six months.'" CNBC (3/9, Javers, 2.17M) reported on its website that White House officials "also told the bankers that they are close to making a selection for the community bank seat on the Federal Reserve Board and close to nominating a person to serve as comptroller of the currency."

SPICER: "WE'RE NOT AWARE" IF TRUMP IS UNDER INVESTIGATION OVER RUSSIA TIES. The CBS Evening News (3/9, story 3, 2:05, Pelley, 11.17M) reported that "the FBI has been investigating communications between [Trump] campaign officials and Russian operatives. No one has been charged with a crime." CBS' Margaret Brennan: "Press Secretary Sean Spicer said that the White House is still not sure whether or not the President is under investigation." Spicer: "I'm not aware of it. But that's not point that we're not aware of anything." Brennan: "So you've never been told by the Justice Department that there is no investigation?" Spicer: "No." Brennan: "So there might be one. You just don't know." Spicer: "Right, I said we're not aware and I'm not aware." Brennan: "The Justice Department said they never gave you the assurances that you gave us." Spicer: "No, the assurance I gave you, Margaret, was that I'm not aware. if somebody asks me if I'm aware of something and I say no, the answer is no." The New York Times (3/9, Lichtblau, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that the Justice Department "declined to confirm statements" from the White House on Wednesday that the President "was not the target of a counterintelligence investigation."

Appearing on Fox News' Special Report (3/9, 1.53M), Vice President Pence was asked if he is concerned about reports of connections between Trump campaign officials and Russia. Pence began by voicing confidence in "the bipartisan congressional committees that are examining information," before adding, "When [former DNI Clapper] said just a week ago that in the report he prepared by the end of the year, there was no evidence of collusion between Russian officials and our campaign, I think that speaks with great authority."

Sen. Chris Coons said on MSNBC's MTP Daily (3/9), "I think this is a critical investigation for the defense of our

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democracy. ... There are a lot of concerning allegations of or evidence of some ties between the Trump campaign team and Russia, but there is no hard evidence or proof yet. That doesn't mean that it doesn't exist. And in order for us to get to the bottom of this, in order for us to resolve this cloud that's hanging over the Trump Administration, I think it is important that it be fully, fairly and promptly investigated."

Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-CA) said on CNN's The Lead (3/9, 320K), "Certainly, right now this investigation has put a lot of dots up that continue to get connected." He said the public is asking "what were the personal, financial, and campaign ties that the President and his team had with Russia and we wanted to piece those together in an unclassified way so the public could follow along and also see the influence that has taken place."

FBI Investigating Russian Bank's Ties To Trump Organization. Pamela Brown reported on CNN's Situation Room (3/9, 554K) that the "FBI's counterintelligence team – the same one looking into Russia's suspected interference in the 2016 election – is still examining" a "computer connection between the Trump organization and a Russian bank called Alpha Bank," according to "several sources familiar with the probe." Brown says the server is the same one mentioned in a Breitbart article "that a White House official said sparked Trump's series of tweets last Saturday accusing investigators of tapping his phone." However, Brown said there is no FISA warrant on that server.

Smoking Gun: Stone Was In Contact With Guccifer 2.0. The Smoking Gun (3/6, Bastone, 17K) reported earlier this week that Roger Stone, "a longtime confidante and political consultant for Donald Trump," was in contact with Guccifer 2.0, a "Russian hacking group that US intelligence officials have accused of illegally breaching the Democratic National Committee's computer system and the e-mail accounts of Hillary Clinton campaign officials in a bid to aid Trump." The contact came via private direct messages on Twitter, according to a source. The 6,100-word piece details the contact as well as Stone's long and controversial career as a GOP operative.

Schiff Wants Dossier Author To Appear Before House Intelligence Committee. The Washington Times (3/9, Blake, 272K) reports that House Intelligence Committee ranking Democrat Rep. Adam Schiff said the panel will seek testimony from Christopher Steele, the "former British intelligence official attributed with assembling the scandalous dossier devoted to" President Trump that was published online in January. Schiff told MSNBC, "I'll certainly be requesting his testimony. And if there's an issue about whether he is willing to come before the committee, I can say I am more than willing to go to him, and I know there are other members of the committee that would join me in that."

The Washington Post (3/9, Phillips, 11.43M) reports that Rep. Maxine Waters told MSNBC on Thursday that she "is sure that some of the more salacious allegations" in the dossier are true. She said, "We already know that the part about the coverage that they have on him with sex actions is supposed to be true. They have said that that's absolutely true." The Post writes, "It's not clear who 'they' or 'them' are."

ACLU Files Ethics Complaint Against Sessions Over "False Statements." BuzzFeed (3/9, Geidner, 6.47M) reports that the ACLU has filed an ethics complaint against Attorney General Sessions, "asking the Alabama Bar to 'determine whether he violated the Alabama Rules of Professional Conduct' in his sworn testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee regarding his contact with Russian officials." The complaint alleges, "Mr. Sessions made false statements during sworn testimony on January 10, 2017, and in a subsequent written response to questions on January 17, 2017."

Page Profiled. The AP (3/9, Pace) has a feature on Carter Page, the "little-known former investment banker and foreign policy adviser" to Trump whose contact with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyac and travel to Russia is now playing a key role in the Russia probe.

COMEY DISCUSSES TRUMP'S WIRETAPPING CLAIMS WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS. ABC World News Tonight (3/9, story 2, 3:10, Muir, 14.63M) reported on the "late-day visit to Capitol Hill" by FBI Director Comey, "who is under mounting pressure from key lawmakers who want to know, is there any evidence at all that President Obama wiretapped Trump Tower before the election, as President Trump has claimed?" Sen. John McCain: "I think the President of the United States stated categorically that Trump Tower was wiretapped. He should come forward with the information that led him to that conclusion." ABC's Mary Bruce: "Less than 24 hours ago, two senators sent a letter to the Justice Department demanding the FBI produce any evidence that might exist. ... Privately, the FBI Director has unsuccessfully implored the Justice Department to refute the President's claims."

NBC Nightly News (3/9, story 3, 0:30, Holt, 16.61M) said in a brief item that "a congressional source says the Director was there to provide an update on the subject of Trump Tower. It comes after President Trump accused former President Obama of having Trump Tower wiretapped. Neither President Trump or his White House team have provided any evidence." The CBS Evening News (3/9, story 2, 0:30, Pelley, 11.17M) said in a brief report that the President "has been holed up in the White House all week, not taking one question there reporters since he accused President Obama of wiretapping his phones." Politico (3/9, Wright, 2.46M) reports that Comey met with "the so-called 'Gang of Eight,' the top

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Republicans and Democrats in the House and Senate, plus the chairmen and ranking Democrats on both chambers' intelligence committees."

Politico (3/9, Dawsey, Wright, 2.46M) writes that "calling for investigations has become a preferred tactic of the Trump administration as it seeks to change the subject, deflect the president's unproven claims, or muddy the waters when facing criticism. But even some Republican allies are questioning the wisdom of the kneejerk reaction," saying that such probes "could backfire by exposing all sorts of other untoward allegations and by giving Democrats a tool with which to bludgeon the White House."

Pence: Administration Wants To Be Respectful Of Congressional Committees. Appearing on Fox News Special Report (3/9, 1.53M), Vice President Pence said, "I think we will let the congressional committees review it. Those are knowable answers and the bipartisan congressional committees can review the facts. ... [The Administration wants] to be very respectful of the process and ensuring that our congressional committees have the latitude get the information they need to get to the bottom of those allegations and other allegations that have been raised."

Jake Tapper said on CNN's The Lead (3/9, 320K), "Every credible person with access to intelligence says this did not happen, or they have seen no evidence that it happened. And not even the Vice President will say that he believes it happened. No one from the President's team says the charge is true. No one says, 'I believe the President.' And these are people who are paid to believe the President."

Democrats Criticize Trump's Claim. Sen. Bernie Sanders said on CNN's Situation Room (3/9, 554K), "Every other day, President Trump says something which is totally preposterous. ... I think this just adds to a lot of the delusional statements that we hear from President Trump."

House Intelligence Committee ranking member Rep. Adam Schiff said on CNN's Anderson Cooper 360 (3/9, 686K), "I can only say I have really no idea what caused President Trump to assert that his predecessor was engaged in that type of criminality. It seems completely divorced from reality."

Rep. Elijah Cummings said on MSNBC's Morning Joe (3/9, 270K), "I think that was an inappropriate comment. I don't believe it and I think he should retract it but it's a little late for that."

PRUITT: CO2 NOT A "PRIMARY CONTRIBUTOR" TO GLOBAL WARMING. Coverage of EPA Administrator Pruitt's comments in an interview with CNBC's Squawk Box during which he claimed that carbon dioxide is not the "primary contributor" to global warming is almost universally negative, saying his statement is at odds with scientific consensus on the matter as well as the EPA's own website.

The AP (3/9, Daly) reports that Pruitt "said measuring the effect of human activity on the climate is 'very challenging' and that 'there's tremendous disagreement about the degree of impact' of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases." Pruitt added, "So, no, I would not agree that (carbon dioxide) is a primary contributor to the global warming that we see." The AP says that view "is at odds with mainstream climate science, including NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration," and adds that environmental groups "seized on Pruitt's comments as evidence he is unfit for the office he holds."

In a brief report, ABC World News Tonight (3/9, story 7, 0:35, Muir, 14.63M) described Pruitt as "challenging the widely-held belief that carbon dioxide from human activity is a major cause of climate change" and "disputing the consensus of most of the scientists around the world, and the EPA itself under several Administrations now." On the CBS Evening News (3/9, story 6, 1:55, Pelley, 11.17M), Chip Reid said Pruitt "dropped a verbal bomb on the environmental community," while Reuters (3/9, Chiacu, Volcovici) calls Pruitt "a climate change denier" and reports that scientists criticized his statement, "saying it ignores a large body of evidence collected over decades that shows fossil fuel burning as the main factor in climate change."

The Washington Post (3/9, Mooney, 11.43M) calls the comment one of Pruitt's "strongest statements yet rejecting the science of human-caused climate change." The Post adds that the statements "fly in the face of the international scientific consensus on climate change" and contradict the EPA's "Climate Change" website, which states: "Research indicates that natural causes do not explain most observed warming, especially warming since the mid-20th Century. Rather, it is extremely likely that human activities have been the dominant cause of that warming." The New York Times (3/9, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) likewise says Pruitt's statement is "at odds with the global scientific consensus on climate change" and may "put him in conflict with laws and regulations his agency is charged with enforcing."

Noting that Pruitt's agency in 2009 determined "that carbon dioxide and five other greenhouse gasses are a threat to

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public health," the New York Post (3/9, Moore, 3.82M) reports that Pruitt "suggested Congress should take another look at" the finding. Said Pruitt, "I think all those things need to be addressed as we go forward but not least of which is the response by the legislative branch with respect to the issue."

In an analysis for the Washington Post (3/9, Bump, 11.43M), Philip Bump calls the exchange during the CNBC interview "truly remarkable," and argues that there is a "real risk" that "a Pruitt-led EPA will bury accurate information about the link between carbon dioxide emissions and warming for the benefit of the American fossil fuel industry." A Washington Post (3/9, 11.43M) editorial says Pruitt's statement does not represent "'skepticism,' a term that implies reasonable doubt in the face of inadequate information." Rather, it is "denial of a scientific consensus built on ample evidence that gets stronger every year, and it is denial of Mr. Pruitt's essential responsibilities as the nation's chief environmental watchdog."

On CNN's Situation Room (3/9, 554K), Sen. Bernie Sanders called Pruitt's comments "pathetic. The debate is over." Sanders added that the fact that the head of the EPA "denies that in the face of overwhelming scientific evidence is not only sad but a threat to the well-being of this country and the world."

Head Of EPA's Office Of Environmental Justice Resigns. The Washington Post (3/9, Dennis, 11.43M) reports that Mustafa Ali, the head of the EPA's office of environmental justice has resigned "as the White House is seeking to close his office." In a letter to Pruitt, Ali wrote "that a recent budget proposal to end its work would harm the people who most rely on the EPA."

TRUMP TO SPEAK AT NASHVILLE RALLY NEXT WEDNESDAY. The Tennessean (3/9, Rau, Garrison, 407K) reports that President Trump will speak at a rally in Nashville next Wednesday. The Tennessean calls the visit to Nashville "a natural fit in the wake of the president's promise of a 'full-court press' on behalf of Republican-backed legislation to repeal and replace Obamacare." Politico (3/9, McCaskill, 2.46M) reported the event "will be his second rally as president. Trump's first return to the campaign trail came about a month into his presidency at a hangar in Melbourne, Florida."

ASSANGE BLASTS CIA, PLEDGES TO RELEASE AGENCY CODE TO TECH COMPANIES. NBC Nightly News (3/9, lead story, 2:45, Holt, 16.61M) reported that on Thursday, WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange commented on Tuesday's release of stolen documents, saying the CIA has "lost control of its entire cyber weapons arsenal," and that he received the stolen documents "from a former government contractor working for the CIA." Assange called this alleged leak "a historic act of devastating incompetence." Former CIA Director Leon Panetta said, "There are tools so we that can be able to pinpoint who might have been responsible. If I was the individual involved, I'd worry a great deal about the fact that ultimately, they're going to be found out." However, Panetta also said it was risky to trust contractors with sensitive information.

ABC World News Tonight (3/9, story 3, 2:35, Muir, 14.63M) explained that 8,700 pages documents leaked Tuesday "reveal how the CIA can remotely turn iPhones, iPads, even Samsung TVs into secret listening devices," and "Assange said he would provide manufacturers with the CIA's technical details." ABC quoted President Trump's previous statements praising WikiLeaks; Trump said, "It's been amazing what's coming out on WikiLeaks." Meanwhile, ABC reported the "FBI says they have narrowed it down to people who had access to a secret network used only by American spies, and there is no indication that the leak was done by Russia or any other foreign government."

The CBS Evening News (3/9, story 4, 2:05, Pelley, 11.17M) reported Assange "spoke via streaming video from Ecuador's embassy in London where he has been living as a fugitive from justice since 2012." CBS added, "In a nearly hour-long presentation" Assange "railed against the CIA for failing to protect its secret cyber espionage tools." Meanwhile, in a statement Thursday, CIA Spokesman Jonathan Liu "said that Assange was not a bastion of truth and integrity." The Wall Street Journal (3/9, McMillan, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports the CIA appeared to justify its hacking tools, as the agency stated, "It is the CIA's job to be innovative, cutting-edge, and the first line of defense in protecting this country form enemies abroad."

The Washington Post (3/9, Nakashima, Dwoskin, Barrett, 11.43M) quotes Assange as saying "We have decided to work with" technology firms affected, "to give them some exclusive access to the additional technical details we have so that fixes can be developed and pushed out, so that people can be secured." USA Today (3/9, Bacon, 5.28M) cites WikiLeaks as stating the CIA hacking division involved "more than 5,000 registered users and had produced more than a thousand hacking systems, trojans, viruses, and other 'weaponized' malware."

In its coverage, the AP (3/9) highlights how the leak "sets up a potential conflict between Silicon Valley firms eager to protect their products and an agency stung by the radical transparency group's disclosures."

Trump Did Not Answer Question On WikiLeaks' Release Of CIA Documents. USA Today (3/9, Jackson, 5.28M) reports that on Thursday, President Trump "just smiled when asked about" WikiLeaks' "claim it is putting out documents

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on how the spy agency can hack into everyday devices."

Buchanan: WikiLeaks' Data Release Raises Doubts Over Hacking Attribution, But Not That Russia Hacked DNC. Harvard Belfer Center postdoctoral fellow Ben Buchanan writes in the Washington Post (3/9, 11.43M) on "UMBRAGE," a program that the released documents suggest the CIA uses to maintain "a substantial library of attack techniques 'stolen' from malware produced in other states," as a way to "misdirect attribution" of a break-in. Buchanan calls this "more evidence that the CIA tries to mislead forensic analysts." The op-ed says this revelation underscores the difficulty of knowing anything for certain in the fields of cybersecurity and intelligence. Yet, Buchanan argues that "a full pattern of evidence emerge[d] with only one clear conclusion:" that Russia is responsible for the DNC hacks.

WikiLeaks Said To Have Conducted "Another Shrewd Misinformation Campaign." University of North Carolina Associate Professor Zeynep Tufekci, in an op-ed in the New York Times (3/9, Subscription Publication, 13.9M), writes that, despite media accounts, the CIA tools revealed by WikiLeaks do not allow snooping on encrypted message apps such as Signal and WhatsApp or "include the ability to bypass such encrypted apps." Instead, using "mostly known methods," the CIA has to target and infect a specific phone. Tufekci criticizes "yet another shrewd misinformation campaign orchestrated by WikiLeaks" in which it generates media hype by releasing a large number of documents and "sensationalize the material with misleading news releases and tweets."

DEMOCRATIC GROUP LAUNCHING ADS ON SOCIAL MEDIA TARGETING TRUMP'S JOBS RECORD. McClatchy (3/9, Roarty, 74K) reported that American Bridge, "a Democratic group that specializes in research on Republican candidates," today "will launch an online campaign to draw attention to the number of jobs that have been lost in specific political battleground states during President Donald Trump's presidency." The release of the group's ads coincides with the "day the U.S. government releases jobs data for the first full month of Trump's administration." The spots "will appear on social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter in six states: Georgia, Florida, Ohio, Indiana, Virginia, and New Jersey."

CRUZ: FAMILY "HAD A VERY NICE EVENING" WITH TRUMP, FIRST LADY AT WHITE HOUSE. USA Today (3/9, Estepa, 5.28M) reported that President Trump, Sen. Ted Cruz, "and their families had dinner on Wednesday night" at the White House, "and signs point to it going well." Speaking on Thursday with reporters, Cruz said, "It was a social evening," adding, "We had a very nice evening with the president and first lady, with Heidi and the girls." USA Today pointed out that Cruz and Trump, during the 2016 GOP presidential primary, were bitter rivals.

HOUSE OVERSIGHT PANEL: TRUMP'S TWITTER USE COULD VIOLATE FEDERAL RECORD-KEEPING LAWS. The Washington Times (3/9, Dinan, 272K) reports that President Trump's "prolific" use of Twitter "may now cause another headache for the White House," as leaders of the House Oversight Committee on Thursday said "he may be breaking federal record-keeping laws if he's not preserving all of his Twitter messages. In a letter to the White House," Rep. Jason Chaffetz, chair of the panel, and Rep. Elijah Cummings, the committee's ranking Democrat, "demanded to know whether Mr. Trump's long-standing personal account, @RealDonaldTrump, and the official White House account, @POTUS, are being archived properly. 'It has been reported...that President Trump has deleted tweets, and if those tweets were not archived it could pose a violation of the Presidential Records Act,' the congressmen said."

CIVIL ENGINEERS GRADE US INFRASTRUCTURE "D+." The Wall Street Journal (3/9, McWhirter, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports that the "Infrastructure Report Card" issued by the American Society of Civil Engineers every four years says US infrastructure has narrowly maintained a grade of "D+" and predicts that some $4.590 trillion will be required over the next decade to bring the nation's infrastructure to a safe, functioning level. The Washington Post (3/9, Halsey, 11.43M) says ASCE President Norma Jean Mattei "said lawmakers should raise the federal gas tax by 25 cents and index it to inflation."

State GOP Lawmakers Say They Can't Rely On Trump Plan To Deliver Infrastructure Funds. Bloomberg Business (3/9, Recht, 2.41M) reports that GOP leaders in "at least six states" say "they can't count on President Donald Trump's $1 trillion infrastructure plan to deliver what they need," and are "pushing to raise gasoline taxes or other fees to pay for upgrading roads and bridges." The effort puts those Republicans "in the unusual position of battling members of their own party who, in some cases, say they won't support any tax increase and are using Trump's infrastructure proposal as another reason to oppose them."

TILLERSON RECUSES HIMSELF FROM STATE'S KEYSTONE XL DELIBERATIONS. The State Department said Thursday that Secretary of State Tillerson, the former CEO of ExxonMobil, "is not participating in matters related to the proposed Keystone XL pipeline," Politico (3/9, Lefebvre, 2.46M) reports. After Greenpeace asked the Office of Government Ethics to "urge Tillerson to remove himself from any decision tied to the Keystone pipeline," a Department ethics lawyer wrote in a letter to the group that Tillerson recused himself from the Department's review of the pipeline in February and "will play no role in the deliberations or the ultimate resolution" of whether a cross-border permit is granted.

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SENATE PANEL EXAMINES GORSUCH'S YEAR AT JUSTICE DEPARTMENT. USA Today (3/9, Wolf, 5.28M) reports that the year Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch spent as a Justice Department official in Washington "may be emerging as a point of contention in his bid for Senate confirmation." Leaders of the Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday "received more than 144,000 pages of documents from Gorsuch's 13-month tenure at the Justice Department in 2005-06," a period during which "the agency was wrestling with issues such as how to treat terror suspects and justify warrantless wiretaps." In addition, "the department was engaged in a major court battle over abortion rights, defending Congress' ban on so-called 'partial birth' abortions."

SESSIONS OPEN TO OUTSIDE COUNSEL TO REVIEW ACTIONS BY OBAMA-ERA DOJ. The Washington Times (3/9, Noble, 272K) reports that Attorney General Sessions "said he would consider having outside counsel review actions taken by the Justice Department under the Obama administration." Hugh Hewitt, interviewing Sessions on his radio show, asked, "How about an outside counsel, not connected to politics, to review the DOJ's actions in those matters with authority to bring charges if underlying crimes are uncovered in the course of the investigation, and just generally to look at how the Department of Justice operated in the highly politicized Holder-Lynch years?" Sessions replied, "Well, I'm going to do everything I possibly can to restore the independence and professionalism of the Department of Justice. So we would have to consider whether or not some outside special counsel is needed. Generally, a good review of that internally is the first step before any such decision is made."

IRS SAYS THERE ARE MORE DOCUMENTS THAT MAY PERTAIN TO TARGETING OF TEA PARTY GROUPS. The Washington Times (3/9, Morton, 272K) reports that the IRS "has admitted in a court filing" that there are "7,000 previously unacknowledged IRS documents that could contain information about the targeting of tea party groups." The IRS made the admission in response to a FOIA request by Judicial Watch, but "has not agreed to a schedule for those documents' public release."

OGE REMAINS CONCERNED ABOUT CONWAY'S PROMOTION OF IVANKA TRUMP'S PRODUCTS. In a letter to Stefan Passantino, deputy counsel to the president, Walter Shaub, chairman of the Office of Government Ethics, said his office is still concerned about counselor to the president Kellyanne Conway's "'misuse of position' to promote Ivanka Trump's products and the White House's decision not to discipline to her," Politico (3/9, Quigley, 2.46M) reports. Shaub wrote, "Not taking disciplinary action against a senior official under such circumstances risks undermining the ethics program." Shaub "also criticized the White House's 'extraordinary assertion' that many OGE regulations are not applicable to employees in the Executive Office of the President," writing, "The assertion is incorrect, and the letter cites no legal basis for it. ... It is critical to the public's faith in the integrity of government that White House employees be held to the same standard of ethical accountability as other executive branch employees." The Washington Post (3/9, Harwell, 11.43M) says Passantino "rebuffed" Shaub's recommendation that Conway be reprimanded, "saying in a letter last week that Conway 'acted inadvertently and is highly unlikely to do so again.'" The Post says the exchange "highlighted ongoing tensions between Shaub...and the White House over the intertwining of the Trump family's private business interests and the president's public duties."

NYTIMES ANALYSIS: LEAK OF TRUMP'S TAX RETURNS UNLIKELY. The New York Times (3/9, Rappeport, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that while Washington has become "a land of leaks" under the Trump Administration, "the holy grail of leaks remains elusive: President Trump's tax returns." Trump opponents "have wondered aloud how it could be that top intelligence agencies are suddenly fonts of classified information while the staid tax collector remains hermetically sealed." The Times says "a rogue I.R.S. agent or Russian cybertheft" are unlikely to result in the release of the returns and "the next best hope is the coming wave of 'emoluments' lawsuits that allege Mr. Trump is in violation of the Constitution because his business operations accept payments from foreign governments."

POLITICO: TRUMP STAYING WITHIN "THE PRESIDENTIAL BUBBLE." Politico (3/9, Nussbaum, Dawsey, 2.46M) reports that President Trump "has spent each of the 48 nights of his presidency either at the White House or at his private Mar-a-Lago Club in Florida," dining "out in the nation's capital just once." Politico added, "Aside from visits to a Florida elementary school and a Boeing plant – both en route to weekend breaks at Mar-a-Lago" – Trump has remained inside "the presidential bubble even when venturing beyond Washington, visiting military installations and speaking at a large campaign-style rally." Trump's "habits in the White House so far comport with what friends in New York say about his pre-political life": He prefers to "stay at home" rather than attend "glitzy balls and galas."

WPOST: TRUMP, BANNON SHAKING CAPITAL "WITH A NEW VOCABULARY." The Washington Post (3/9, Fisher, 11.43M) reports that President Trump and chief strategist Stephen Bannon are shaking "official Washington with a new vocabulary that breaks from the usual liberal-conservative terms of debate. Bannon rails against the 'corporatist, globalist media,'" while the President speaks "about 'a global power structure.' Bannon promises the 'deconstruction of the administrative state,'" while Trump has no hesitation about referring to "'radical Islamic terrorism,' even after his own national security adviser protests that the phrase is unhelpful." The Post adds that the aim "of the new rhetoric is to break

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through the partisan paralysis of recent years, pull the country into an America-first nationalism and persuade Trump supporters that" he "meant it when he announced at his inauguration that 'the hour of action' has commenced."

HEDGE FUND HOLDING "MEET AND GREET" AT MAR-A-LAGO. The New York Times (3/9, Stevenson, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports in its "DealBook" column that President Trump's Mar-a-Lago club "is the location of a 'meet and greet' hedge fund event organized by the Palm Beach Hedge Fund Association," and event organizer and association founder David S. Goodboy "is hoping that Mr. Trump will stop by." The Times points out that not long ago, Trump "was railing against hedge funds, saying that 'hedge fund guys are getting away with murder,'" and calling for "an end to the tax advantage that investment managers including hedge funds receive. But that was then, apparently." Now, he has "surrounded himself with the titans of finance he once complained about – from both hedge funds and private equity."

US HOUSEHOLD NET WORTH CLIMBED TO $2.8 TRILLION IN FOURTH QUARTER OF 2016. The Wall Street Journal (3/9, Zumbrun, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports that US household net worth grew to a record $92.8 trillion in the last quarter of 2016, due in large part to fourth gains in the stock market, according to the Federal Reserve's quarterly financial accounts report.

Stocks Finish Slightly Higher As Bull Market Turns Eight. The AP (3/9, Jay) reports that "the eighth anniversary for the current bull market turned out to be a quiet one" as stocks "meandered" on Thursday, "turn[ing] higher near the end of trading." The Dow climbed 2.46 points to 20,858.19, the S&P 500 index added 1.89 points to close at 2,364.87 Thursday, and the Nasdaq finished 1.25 points higher at 5,838.81. The CBS Evening News (3/9, story 9, 0:20, Pelley, 11.17M) that "since stock prices bottomed out on March 9, 2009, during the Great Recession, the Dow is up well over 200 percent."

CONGRESS VOTES TO OVERTURN KEY ESSA REGULATIONS. The New York Times (3/9, Goldstein, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that Congress has voted "to repeal crucial regulations associated with the Every Student Succeeds Act, one of President Barack Obama's final legislative achievements." The House ":overturned a broad swath of the rules using the Congressional Review Act" last month, and the Senate "passed a similar resolution on Thursday." President Trump "has indicated that he will sign it," which would "leave ESSA on the books," give Education Secretary DeVos "more flexibility in how to apply it."

HALPERIN-HEILEMANN BOOK, HBO SERIES TO FOCUS ON TRUMP'S DEFEAT OF CLINTON. USA Today (3/9, McClurg, 5.28M) reports that political reporters Mark Halperin and John Heilemann "are writing a third installment in their best-selling Game Change series, this one about the 2016 presidential election, and HBO Films has acquired rights for a mini-series adaptation. The book will tell the behind-the-scenes story of how Donald Trump triumphed over Hillary Clinton to win the presidency, Penguin Press announced Thursday." The AP (3/9) reports, "Penguin expects the book to come out in early 2018, followed by the HBO miniseries."

The New York Times (3/9, Alter, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) points out that the two reporters "are betting that there is still a strong appetite for an insider, blow-by-blow account of the 2016 campaign." For example, speaking with the Times on Thursday, Heilemann said, "If you think again about the 2016 race, there are huge questions," adding that "people are asking: What was the role of WikiLeaks in the campaign? Was the Trump campaign collaborating with the Russians? Why did [F.B.I. Director James] Comey do what he did? ... We think there's still an awful lot to write about here."

The Huffington Post (3/9, Calderone, 237K) reported, "The struggle for the authors will be to unearth new details from the Trump and Clinton campaigns amid the real-time, saturation coverage and as other post-mortems mine similar ground. Jonathan Allen and Amie Parnes, authors of a book on Clinton's tenure at the State Department, will publish a campaign-focused book, Shattered, in April. NBC News correspondent Katy Tur, who traversed the country covering Trump's insurgent candidacy, is writing a memoir." The Huffington Post pointed out that Halperin "went as far on election night on 'The Late Show' to describe Trump's victory as the 'the most cataclysmic event the country has ever seen' outside of the Civil War, World War II, and the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001."

"ROGUE" WASHINGTON STATE ELECTORS TO APPEAL RULING UPHOLDING FINES. The Los Angeles Times (3/9, Anderson, 4.52M) reports, "Three of the four Washington state electoral college voters who went rogue in December have lost their appeals over $1,000 fines for writing in the names of Colin Powell and Faith Spotted Eagle as America's next president. They plan to appeal the administrative decision, said their attorney, Sumeer Singla, challenging the constitutionality of the statute that required them to vote for another non-winner, Hillary Clinton." The Times adds that "electors Levi Guerra, Esther John and Peter Chiafolo...voted for Powell, who wasn't running, in a protest triggered by Donald Trump's abrasive and untraditional campaign." The other "rogue voter, Native American activist Bob Satiacum Jr...will face a hearing next week."

POLL: FOUR PERCENT OF SPORTS MEDIA MEMBERS VOTED FOR TRUMP OVER CLINTON. Breitbart (3/9,

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Huston, 2.02M) reports, “A new poll, which shows just how liberal the sports media has become, reveals that only 4 percent voted for Donald Trump.” The “survey (3/8, 369K) of 51 members of the sports media and 312 readers of TheBigLead.com revealed that the reporters exhibited a major liberal bias.” The poll “showed that 58 percent consider themselves Democrats and 36 percent said they were politically independent. The number that said they were Republican was but a sliver of 6 percent.” The poll “became even more lopsided when it asked respondents for whom they voted, and fully 80.4 percent said they went for Hillary, with only a tiny 3.9 percent for...Trump.”

AFTER TRUMP WIN, SOME BUSINESS EXECUTIVES MAY EYE PRESIDENTIAL BIDS. The New York Times (3/9, Stewart, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports, “Having reached the top of a major corporation and amassed a fortune, chief executives often” ponder their next move. In the wake of President Trump’s victory in November’s election, it “may well be a run for the White House.” Of Trump, the Times says, “Virtually his only qualification was his business career, and a checkered one at that, considering his own brush with personal bankruptcy.” Referring to top business leaders, veteran political adviser David Gergen told the Times, “There is this sense that if Trump got it, why shouldn’t they?” He added, “They’ve been more successful, they have more experience, and they’ve run a public company.” The Times adds that “corporate names widely discussed as” potential 2020 Democratic White House hopefuls “include chief executives like Howard Schultz of Starbucks, Robert A. Iger of Disney and Marc Benioff of Salesforce.com,” among others.

TRUMP-BASHING NEW YORK DAILY NEWS NOW TAKING “MORE MEASURED TONE” ON COVER. Politico (3/9, Pompeo, 2.46M) reported, “For most of 2016, the New York Daily News was America’s paper of opposition to Donald Trump. But in the months since the election,” it “has largely pulled back on its famous anti-Trump covers in favor of a decidedly more measured tone.” The shift came after “a shakeup in editorial leadership just weeks before Nov. 8.” Former editor Jim Rich, who resigned in mid-October, had resisted “pressure from management to soften the Trump covers,” according to “people familiar with the matter,” who said Rich “was told they were diminishing a” shrinking “print subscriber base,” especially “among blue-collar readers in certain corners of New York’s outer boroughs, where Trump’s nationalistic populism apparently resonates.” Rich’s “successor, the Pulitzer Prize-winning, longtime News fixture Arthur Browne, made clear in a meeting with editors that he believed the paper’s front-page Trump coverage needed to take a different direction,” said “sources.”

IN RED-STATE SPECIAL ELECTIONS, REPUBLICANS TOUT THEIR “ALLEGIANCE” TO TRUMP. The Washington Times (3/9, McLaughlin, Miller, 272K) reports that President Trump’s “coattails will be put to the test in a string of special elections this year, where Republicans clamor for his support and Democrats seek to turn anti-Trump energy into upsets on red territory.” As one example, the Times points to the special election to succeed ex-Rep. Tom Price, in which Bruce LeVell, “who spearheaded minority outreach for the Trump campaign, is part of a crowded field.” LeVell told the Times, “I got in the race because I believe in the president’s agenda,” adding, “He is going to need a champion in the House.” The Times adds that GOP hopefuls in the special elections to replace ex-Reps. Mick Mulvaney, Mike Pompeo, and Ryan Zinke “make similar boasts of allegiance to Mr. Trump.”

Indeed, in a report on businessman Greg Gianforte’s battle against musician Rob Quist in the special election to replace Zinke, the Billings (MT) Gazette (3/9, Lutey, 208K) aid, “The early message Gianforte is putting out is that Montanans who gave Trump a 20-point victory margin in Montana...need to send someone who supports Trump’s agenda to the House.”

Politico: California Special Election To Gauge Strength Of Trump “Resistance.” Meanwhile, in a report on the special election to succeed ex-Rep. Xavier Becerra, who resigned from Congress to become California’s attorney general, Politico (3/9, Siders, 2.46M) said, “Though the seat is all but sure to remain in Democratic hands, the choice among a large field of candidates, including an establishment favorite and two contenders with Bernie Sanders ties, is unfolding as an early measure of the party’s competing strains, while dismal turnout projections are testing the durability of the Democratic resistance [to Trump] itself. ‘This is the canary in a coal mine for 2018,’ said Paul Mitchell of Political Data Inc.,” adding, “The basic issue is if people will take their increased interest in politics, and convert that to the more mundane act of voting. And this race is about the only test we will have of this question before the June 2018 contests.”

HATCH, CITING ENCOURAGEMENT FROM TRUMP, CURRENTLY PLANS TO SEEK REELECTION. On its website, CNN (3/9, Raju, Reporter, 29.79M) reported that Sen. Orrin Hatch, “the longest-serving GOP senator, told CNN he is planning to run for re-election next year, abandoning his plans to quit the chamber after four decades of service.” Hatch – who vowed “in 2012 that his current term would be his last – said he has changed his mind at this time, partially because he’s been getting encouragement from President Donald Trump and top Republicans to run again.” Speaking with CNN on Thursday, Hatch said, “I’m planning on (running) right now.” Hatch’s remarks came “as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Trump have both tried to persuade” Hatch to seek reelection. Of Trump, Hatch said, “His pitch is he needs me.”

The AP (3/9) reports that Hatch’s “staff later sent out a statement saying [he] is keeping all options open but hasn’t made a final decision.” The St. George (UT) News (3/9, Kessler) reports that “a statement from Hatch, tweeted out by his press

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secretary Matt Whitlock, clarified that his decision to run for re-election is not final, yet he nonetheless plans to ensure 'all options remain on the table.'"

The Hill (3/9, Beavers, 1.25M) reported that Hatch "has served in the Senate for 40 years." The Hill, drawing from the CNN report, added, "On the possibility of a tough 2018 challenge, Hatch quipped: 'Anyone who wants to take me on knows it's going to be a real ordeal.'" Roll Call (3/9, Pathé, 63K) reported that Hatch's remarks "came hours after" ex-Gov. Jon Huntsman, "long considered a potential Senate candidate and possible primary challenger to Hatch, reportedly accepted Trump's offer to serve as ambassador to Russia."

POLITICO: SCHWARZENEGGER MAY BE CONSIDERING 2018 RUN FOR SENATE IN CALIFORNIA. Politico (3/9, Marinucci, 2.46M) reports that ex-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger "may be mulling a political comeback, according to several GOP political insiders in California." President Trump's "caustic tweets about Schwarzenegger, the recent host of 'Celebrity Apprentice,' and their running feud has sparked talk that the intensely competitive Schwarzenegger" could run for Senate in California next year, when Sen. Dianne Feinstein faces reelection. Politico said that Schwarzenegger could "possibly [run] as an independent." Politico quoted a "veteran GOP strategist" as saying that a Schwarzenegger bid "would give Arnold the stage to jam Trump for the next 16 months." Drawing from Politico's story, the Los Angeles Times (3/9, Willon, 4.52M) reports that Schwarzenegger spokesman Daniel Ketchell said the former governor "is 'keeping all his options open' about jumping back into politics."

PINDELL: DEMOCRATS FACE LONG ODDS IN RETAKING SENATE IN 2018. Writing for the Boston Globe (3/9, Pindell, 1.08M), veteran political analyst James Pindell says that while "Democrats need to flip just three seats" to retake the Senate next year, the odds of that occurring are very unlikely. Pindell writes that in 2018, 25 senators "who caucus with Democrats" face reelection, while "just nine...Republicans" will be on the ballot. And of "the 25 Democrats (and independents) up for reelection, 10 are running in states that [President] Trump won last year. The nonpartisan Cook Political Report lists 15 of the 34 Senate contests as competitive. Democrats currently hold 13 of those 15 competitive seats." Pindell adds that for Democrats to reclaim the Senate, the party would have to win all 15 competitive races, plus unseat a GOP "incumbent from one of seven deeply Republican states. The best shot among this group is Ted Cruz in Texas."

IN 2017 GOVERNOR'S RACES, CANDIDATES SEEK "TO CAPITALIZE ON LESSONS LEARNED FROM TRUMP." In a report focusing on the 2017 races to succeed Govs. Chris Christie and Terry McAuliffe, the Washington Post (3/9, Wagner, 11.43M) says, "The appeal of Donald Trump-style populism could soon be tested by another celebrity candidate with no governing experience: Joe Piscopo," who "is 'very close' to jumping into the New Jersey" contest, "inspired in part by his interactions with 'real Americans' while on the campaign trail with Trump." Piscopo's potential run "reflects the maneuvering in" both races "by candidates from both parties, who are trying to capitalize on lessons learned from Trump's strong performance among working-class voters." As one example, the Post says that in the Virginia race, Prince William County Supervisor Corey Stewart, who "served as state chairman of Trump's campaign...is touting that years ago he advocated tough immigration policies such as those being advanced by the president."

Virginia Democratic Hopefuls Pushing For $15 Minimum Wage. In another report, the Washington Post (3/9, Nirappil, 11.43M) says that Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam and ex-Rep. Tom Perriello – who are battling in Virginia's Democratic gubernatorial primary – "stopped by Reagan National Airport this week to meet workers trying to unionize and achieve a $15 minimum wage, a show of solidarity with both a key constituency and a national movement." Appearing separately, the pair "told workers they will urge the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority to require contractors to increase wages for baggage handlers, skycaps and other hourly workers. But they are also calling for a statewide $15 minimum wage, a sign of how much strength the national 'Fight for $15' has gained."

SOROS AIDING DEMOCRATS' EFFORT TO LOWER VOTING AGE TO 17. The Washington Times (3/9, Richardson, 272K) reports that in the wake of "recent election defeats, Democrats are" seeking "to lower the voting age to 17, with a little help from liberal billionaire George Soros. In California, Democratic legislators" are pushing legislation that would decrease the "voting age...from 18 to 17 in the name of reversing the slide in voter turnout." Of the bill, Claremont McKenna College politics professor John Pitney Jr. said, "It is a transparent ploy to pad the Democratic vote." The Times says Soros' "Open Society Foundations is among the left-wing philanthropies backing FairVote, which...supports allowing 17-year-olds who will turn 18 before the general election to vote in primaries and caucuses, a policy catching on in many states."

HUFFPO PROFILES DEMOCRAT WHO LED EFFORT TO DEFEAT OKLAHOMA BALLOT MEASURE. Under the headline "While Trump Was Dominating In Deep-Red Oklahoma, This Democrat Won A Landslide," the Huffington Post (3/9, Carter, 237K) profiled ex-Lt. Gov. Joe Maxwell, an attorney who helped spearhead a successful effort in Oklahoma to defeat "a so-called 'right to farm' ballot initiative" in November's election that aimed to "protect factory farming from environmental, food safety and humanitarian regulations." While Oklahoma's "Republican governor and every member of

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its all-GOP congressional delegation backed" the initiative, and despite President Trump's easy victory over Hillary Clinton in the state, Maxwell, "who works for the Humane Society," was able to "assemble an opposition force of animal welfare activists, environmental groups, Native American tribes and family farmers" that helped defeat the measure. Maxwell's "decision to fight and battle [the] plan reveal a possible path for the Democratic Party out of the political wilderness and back to electoral relevance."

PROGRESSIVE GROUPS WARN SENATE DEMOCRATS AGAINST VOTING TO ADVANCE GORSUCH. Roll Call (3/9, Garcia, 63K) reported, "Liberal groups are pushing for Democratic senators to block Judge Neil Gorsuch from the Supreme Court," warning that "the lawmakers could pay a price if they don't vote against him. The groups announced the launch of a campaign called 'The People's Defense' led NARAL Pro-Choice America, MoveOn.org, CREDO, Indivisible, and the American Federation of Teachers." CREDO Mobile Vice President Murshed Zaheed, speaking with reporters on a conference call, said, "Any Democrat who votes to advance Gorsuch will have a permanent stain on their record." Likening "a vote for Gorsuch to Hillary Clinton's vote authorizing the war in Iraq when she was a senator," Zaheed added, "We will hold them accountable to their constituents and to the Democratic base."

NUDE FEMALE PHOTO SCANDAL INVESTIGATION EXPANDS TO ALL BRANCHES OF THE MILITARY. In the CBS Evening News (3/9, lead story, 2:20, Pelley, 11.17M) lead story, David Martin reported from the Pentagon that the Defense Department investigation of the online nude female photo sharing scandal has spread to all branches of the military after the discovery of the website called "Anon-IB" and at least a half dozen other sites that similarly facilitate the sharing of and commenting on nude female photos. Senior Master Sergeant Ronald Green told Congress "Marines United" is only the "tip of the spear," and Pentagon officials worry the scandal will deter women from enlisting or convince those already in uniform to leave the service.

Commandant Denounces Marine Behavior In Nude Photo Scandal "In the Strongest Terms." In an op-ed for USA Today (3/9, Neller, 5.28M), Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Robert Neller denounces "in the strongest terms" the recent attacks on female Marines in the recent nude photo scandal, calling them "disgusting and unacceptable." He said he intends to "fix this problem," starting with offering support to those victimized by the behavior. Every level of Marine leadership will work to address the attitudes that "allowed this cancer to grow," writes Neller, because all Marines must reinvigorate and live "our ethos of Honor, Courage, and Commitment."

USA Today: Marine Scandal Is "Distressingly Familiar." In an editorial, USA Today (3/9, Board, 5.28M) writes that Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Robert Neller's strong condemnation of Marine behavior in the nude female photo scandal is "distressingly familiar," citing leadership reactions to a 2013 report on widespread sexual abuse in the military, the accusation of sexual abuse by sexual abuse prevention officers in the same year, and the Tailhook scandal in 1991. The proliferation of sites similar to Marines United would suggest the military has a wider problem in the form of a disconnect between generals' speeches and the failure by lower-level officers to admonish disrespectful remarks that reinforces a "dark culture" in the ranks. USA Today says the Marines should introduce a credo similar to the Army's "Not In My Squad" to help effect a culture shift.

DOCUMENTS: DEMPSEY EXPUNGED 2010 IG FINDING OF GENERAL'S "INAPPROPRIATE RELATIONSHIP." A 2,500-word report in USA Today (3/9, Brook, 5.28M) says that documents recently obtained under FOIA revealed that in Sept. 2010, Gen. Martin Dempsey "struck from the record the substantiated finding of" Maj. Gen. John "Custer's inappropriate relationship" with a woman. USA Today reports that instead of "bust[ing] their fellow general officer down to the last rank in which he had served satisfactorily," the generals considering the case, led by Dempsey, allowed Custer "to keep his two stars in retirement and the six-figure pension attached to it." The article details the conclusions of the Defense Department Inspector General and Custer's denial of those claims.

In a separate report, USA Today (3/9, Locker, 5.28M) says that Custer's case is the fifth revelation since July of "high-ranking generals who have been dismissed for a variety of sex-related offenses," but who have had those allegations expunged from their records by higher-ranking officials. The article briefly outlines those five cases.

NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE TABLES BILL ON TRANSGENDER RIGHTS. Reuters (3/9, Malone) reports the GOP-controlled New Hampshire House voted 187-179 Thursday to table without debate a bill that would have prohibited discrimination against transgender people, including for bathroom use. While many Democrats supported the bill, New Hampshire Democratic Party Chairman Ray Buckley blames its failure on Governor Chris Sununu, who said Wednesday he has no position on the matter.

CUOMO ANNOUNCES $1.4 BILLION PLAN TO FIGHT POOR HEALTH, POVERTY IN CENTRAL BROOKLYN. According to the New York Times (3/9, Foderaro, Subscription Publication, 13.9M), New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced Thursday at Medgar Evers College a $1.4 billion plan called Vital Brooklyn to target the persistence of poverty, violence, and poor health in central Brooklyn. Cuomo said his "holistic plan" will focus particularly on "health and

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wellness," in a move the Times calls a "striking investment in one geographic location." Other parts of the plan promote "healthy food, education and youth development, job creation, violence prevention, affordable housing and climate resiliency." Rep. Hakeem Jeffries praised the proposal as a "dramatic and comprehensive effort" and "meaningful initiative."

TEAM TRUMP REMOVES GREEN MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN HATS AFTER SHAMROCK MISTAKE. The New York Times (3/9, Stack, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports Team Trump removed the $50 green "Make America Great Again" hats embroidered with a four-leaf clover from its online store Wednesday afternoon. The Times says the traditional symbol of Ireland is a three-leaf shamrock, but the four-leaf clover on the hats "has nothing to do with St. Patrick's Day." The Times says social media users in Ireland, where President Trump is "deeply unpopular," were especially "quick to pounce" on the mistake. Niall O'Dowd, the publisher of several Irish-American media outlets, said the mistake is not uncommon in the US, nor is the misspelling of "St. Paddy's Day" as "St. Patty's Day," as Team Trump did in its advertisement for the hat.

WPOST: TRUMP WILL REALIZE NEED TO "SET PRIORITIES AND MAKE CHOICES." The Washington Post (3/9, 11.43M) editorializes that despite President Trump's campaign promise to Americans that "they could have it all" being "probably the most effective and phoniest" of his "false promises," he will realize the need to "set priorities and make choices." The Post presents the contradictions of tax cuts, untouched entitlement programs, and federal debt reduction; the deconstruction of the "administrative state" and increased ICE deportation operations; and protecting gun ownership rights and stemming violence in Chicago. The failure of previous presidents to accomplish such lofty goals should not be blamed on "the perfidy of Washington's elite," but rather on reality.

TROY: BANNON SHOULD NOT PLAY THE VILLAIN IN PURIM SHPIELS. In a Wall Street Journal (3/9, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) column, Tevi Troy writes that those celebrating the Jewish holiday of Purim this Saturday should not cast President Trump and White House Chief Strategist Steve Bannon as the villains in their Shpiels, humorous plays that cast contemporary figures in roles of the holiday's traditional Book of Esther reading. In the past the role of Haman, which will likely be played by Bannon in some Shpiels this year, has been played by Adolf Hitler and Sadam Hussein, and Troy says it is unfair and inaccurate to compare Bannon to these figures. Such a comparison diminishes the real threats Jews face in the modern world and undermines legitimate criticism of Bannon. While most Jews are Democrats, Troy says such casting threatens to alienate conservatives at a time when Jewish unity is particularly important.

WSJOURNAL: COMEY SHOULD STEP DOWN NOW. In a brief editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/9, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) asserts that FBI Director Comey should step down immediately to allow the FBI to rehabilitate its credibility. The Journal says Comey's decisions have caused the multiple controversies that have damaged the bureau's integrity.

WSJOURNAL: KENNEDY'S NEW RACIAL STANDARD HAS NO CONSTITUTIONAL BASIS. The Wall Street Journal (3/9, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) editorializes that the Supreme Court decision penned by Justice Anthony Kennedy in the 5-3 decision last week has no constitutional basis and threatens to corrupt juries with political standards based on the liberal focus on race, gender, and class. Kennedy's majority opinion leaves open the definition of unacceptable racial prejudice with only an ambiguous caveat to guide judges on when to overturn jury verdicts. The decision also fails to provide protections from religious prejudice and sexism, which are also constitutionally protected.

NYTIMES: FLORIDA GOP'S ENHANCED "STAND YOUR GROUND" BILL IS DANGEROUS. In an editorial, the New York Times (3/9, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) says that Florida House Republicans' bill to give "accused killers even greater leeway" with the self-defense claim is "dangerous" because "prosecutors would essentially have to try a case twice." The measure would put the burden on prosecutors to prove "beyond a reasonable doubt" that a defendant's self-defense claim was invalid. The Times says the bill moving through the Legislature builds on the 2005 Stand Your Ground law, which has created "the Wild West mayhem" already reigning in Florida courts. American Bar Association research has found an increase in homicides, reduction in victims' rights, and increase in racial injustice following the passage of Stand Your Ground.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"'Stand Your Ground' Could Get Worse."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (3/9, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) writes that Florida House Republicans' bill to give "accused killers even greater leeway" with the self-defense claim is "dangerous" because "prosecutors would essentially have to try a case twice." The Times says the bill moving through the Legislature builds on the 2005 Stand Your Ground law, which has created "the Wild West mayhem" already reigning in Florida courts. American Bar Association research has found an increase in homicides, reduced victims' rights, and increased racial injustice following the Stand Your Ground law.

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"Afghanistan Is Now Trump's War." In an editorial, the New York Times (3/10, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) writes that, as American commanders in Afghanistan call for more troops, the Administration should consider "the long history of deluded thinking about what could be accomplished if the United States committed more troops to the effort." American generals in Afghanistan have been "stymied" for years by issues including insurgent havens in Pakistan, Afghan corruption, and poor Afghan military leadership, and without "a strategy that is significantly different from previous ones," additional troops would "only temporarily" prop up the Afghan government.

WASHINGTON POST. ***"The Most Powerful Check On President Trump."*** The Washington Post (3/9, 11.43M) editorializes that because President Trump's campaign promise to Americans that "they could have it all" was "probably the most effective and phoniest" of his "false promises," when he has a reality check, he will realize the need to "set priorities and make choices." The Post presents the contradictions of tax cuts, untouched entitlement programs, and federal debt reduction; the deconstruction of the "administrative state" and increased ICE deportation operations; and protecting gun ownership rights and stemming violence in Chicago. The failure of previous presidents to accomplish such lofty goals should not be blamed on "the perfidy of Washington's elite," but rather on reality.

"Online Dissidents Expose The Russian Prime Minister's Material Empire." A Washington Post (3/9, 11.43M) editorial says documents released online by the Anti-Corruption Foundation, which is headed by Russian opposition activist Alexei Navalny, show that Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev "has accumulated more than $1 billion worth of property, including vast estates in Russia and Tuscany and two yachts." The Post editorializes this is "a testimony not only to the staggering corruption of the regime of Vladimir Putin, but also to the power of the Internet and social media to expose it and inform Russians about it." The Post argues that while the Trump Administration, "which has been backed up by Russian propaganda outlets in denouncing reports on its own activities as 'fake news,' can hardly be expected to assist courageous dissidents such as Mr. Navalny in exposing truths about the Kremlin," other Western governments and nongovernmental organizations should endeavor to help because distributing evidence of Putin's corruption "would be an appropriate response to Russia's disinformation campaigns in the West."

"Scott Pruitt Demonstrates What Climate Denial Sounds Like." A Washington Post (3/9, 11.43M) editorial says EPA Administrator Pruitt's statement in a CNBC interview that carbon dioxide is not the "primary contributor" to global warming does not represent "'skepticism,' a term that implies reasonable doubt in the face of inadequate information." Rather, it is "denial of a scientific consensus built on ample evidence that gets stronger every year, and it is denial of Mr. Pruitt's essential responsibilities as the nation's chief environmental watchdog."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"How To Think About The Trade Deficit."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/9, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) sets out to provide a tutorial on trade and the wealth of nations to counter the recent op-ed by National Trade Council Director Peter Navarro that emphasized the economically harmful effects of trade deficits. The Journal writes that a trade deficit is often a sign of economic prosperity because it means the US has a capital surplus: Americans buy more foreign goods and services, and foreigners invest in American real estate, stocks, debt, and dollar bank accounts. Getting rid of a trade deficit is difficult because it is often the side effect of a healthy economy. Citing the input of prominent economists from 1978, the Journal suggests that interpreting a trade deficit or surplus as bad or good, respectively, is often incorrect and not useful.

"6-1/2 More Years Of Comey?" In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/9, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) asserts that FBI Director James Comey should step down immediately to allow the FBI to rehabilitate its credibility from the perspective of the American public. The Journal argues that Comey's decisions caused the multiple controversies plaguing his tenure that have damaged the bureau's integrity.

"Politically Correct Juries." The Wall Street Journal (3/9, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) editorializes that the decision penned by Justice Anthony Kennedy in the 5-3 decision last week has no constitutional basis and threatens to corrupt juries with political standards based on the liberal focus on race, gender, and class. Kennedy's majority opinion leaves open the definition of unacceptable racial prejudice with only an ambiguous caveat to guide judges on when to overturn jury verdicts. The decision also fails to protections from religious prejudice and sexism, which are also constitutionally protected.

The Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
GOP Health Plan Advances After Clearing Two Panels
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Washington Times:
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Trump's Coattails: Special Elections To Reflect Affirmation Or Backlash
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Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
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CBS: Female Military Member Photos Investigation; Trump-Obama Wiretap Claim; Trump-Russia Connection Investigation; CIA Leak Investigation; Trump Supporters-Healthcare Reform; EPA Admin-Climate Change Comment; Iraq-Mosul Assault; IRA Scams; Wall Street News; Beverage Consumption; Skydiving Dogs.
NBC: CIA Leak Investigation; Healthcare Reform Plan; Obama Wiretap Investigation; Trump-Conflict Of Interest; AT&T 911 Outage; Germany Train Station Attack; Opioid-Oxycontin Lawsuit; Food Delivery Robot; Severe Weather; Beverage Consumption; E-Cigarette Fire; Girl Scout Cookies.

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Healthcare Reform Plan – 5 minutes, 10 seconds
Trump-Obama Wiretap Claim – 4 minutes, 10 seconds
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CBS: Healthcare Reform Plan; Low Grade Infrastructure; Female Military Member Photos Investigation; South Korea-President Impeached; Severe Weather; Wall Street News.
FOX: Healthcare Reform Plan; Revised Immigration Order-Legal Challenge; Germany Train Station Attack.
NPR: Revised Immigration Order-Legal Challenge; Low Grade Infrastructure; Afghanistan-US General Wants Reinforcement; Wall Street News; South Korea-President Impeached; Germany Train Station Attack; Boston-St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Last Laughs:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Trump has made it known that he doesn't want the new healthcare bill to be called Trumpcare for a very good reason. The President is a humble man; he doesn't like to put his name on things."

Jimmy Kimmel: "You know how the government could make some money? Put it on pay-per-view. I would gladly pay a hundred dollars to watch Donald Trump and Ted Cruz eat dinner together. It would be the best episode of 'Celebrity Wife Swap' ever."

Stephen Colbert: "Well, the GOP's new healthcare bill cleared its first hurdle early this morning, when it was passed by the House Ways and Means Committee, after roughly 18 hours of debate. And anyone who's spent 18 hours trying to pass something knows what you get at the end."

Stephen Colbert: "According to one GOP operative, 'Pretty much anything with the pejorative suffix on it, 'care,' is going to be viewed unfavorably by conservatives.' Yes, conservatives don't want to be associating with caring. That's why the official mascot of Obamacare repeal is 'Suck-it, the don't-care bear.'"

Stephen Colbert: "Of course, one thing Trump is willing to put his name on is accusations that President Obama illegally tapped his phones. Trump demanded that Congress investigate his charges, which they're going to get to right after they find those three million illegal voters, and what really happened to Arnold Schwarzenegger's ratings."

Stephen Colbert: "So, on March 20, Congress will hold a Russia hearing. A fitting name because, as we know, Russia is listening."

James Corden: "Now we're going to get right into the Trump Administration news. Just brightens every day, doesn't it?"

James Corden: "Today Scott Pruitt, the new head of the Environmental Protection Agency, went against the entire scientific community by saying that carbon dioxide is not a primary contributor to global warning. I will go out on a limb here and say that this guy may not be the best choice to head up the EPA. Yes, because not only does Pruitt not see the forest through the trees, he wants to cut down all the trees and build a Cinnabon."

James Corden: "Donald Trump selected his ambassador to Russia, and it's former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman. ... This is great news for Trump. He finally has someone in his Administration who is actually supposed to meet with the Russians. Jon Huntsman's first job as ambassador will be to exchange gifts with his Russian counterpart, and that's tough. Because what do you give somebody who already gave you the White House?"

Trevor Noah: "Why are Republicans in such a rush to repeal Obamacare? 4:30 a.m.? No one's ever made a good decision at 4:30 a.m."

Trevor Noah: "That's right. Trump and his people will not forget you unless you are a Russian ambassador. That never happened."

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TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2017 7:30 AM EST

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Leading the News:

HOUSE GOP LEADERS UNVEIL ACA REPLACEMENT LEGISLATION. This morning, there is extensive coverage of draft legislation to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act which was released by House GOP leaders on Monday evening. Most outlets say the legislation is certain to face significant opposition, not only from Democrats who want to preserve the ACA, but also from some Republicans who are opposed to certain provisions.

ABC World News Tonight (3/6, story 5, 1:15, Muir, 14.63M) reported that there is breaking news from Capitol Hill, as House lawmakers release "the outlines of their long-awaited plan to repeal and replace Obamacare."

The CBS Evening News (3/6, story 5, 1:40, Pelley, 11.17M) reported that late on Monday, "Republicans released details of their long-awaited replacement plan for Obamacare." CBS (Cordes) added that "there is one thing and one thing only lawmakers are doing this evening, and that is reading through this 66-page bill just released by Republican leaders."

NBC Nightly News (3/6, story 3, 1:25, Holt, 16.61M) reported that House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) said he wants the bill to be "passed by Easter. While it would keep some pieces in place, it also includes significant changes."

The Washington Post (3/6, A1, Goldstein, Debonis, 11.43M) reports on its front page that the Affordable Care Act replacement legislation which House Republicans unveiled on Monday evening reveals "a more conservative vision for the nation's health-care system, replacing federal insurance subsidies with a new form of individual tax credits and grants to help states shape their own policies." According to the two draft bills released by separate House committees, the Federal "government would no longer penalize Americans for failing to have health insurance, but would try to encourage people to maintain coverage by allowing insurers to impose a surcharge of 30 percent for those who have a gap between health plans."

On its front page, the New York Times (3/6, A1, Kaplan, Pear, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports the measure "sets the stage for a bitter debate over the possible dismantling of the most significant health care law in a half-century." The ACA would be replaced by "a health law that would be far more oriented to the free market and would make far-reaching changes to a vast part of the American economy." The Times adds that the legislation would end Medicaid expansion, and reduce "federal payments for many new beneficiaries." GOP lawmakers said they are preserving three popular ACA provisions: the one prohibiting insurers from denying coverage due to pre-existing conditions, "the ban on lifetime coverage caps and the rule allowing young people to remain on their parents' health plans until age 26."

The Wall Street Journal (3/6, A1, Armour, Peterson, Hackman, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports on its front page that this effort represents the GOP's first attempt to unite members who have been at odds over how to replace the ACA and keep their campaign promise to repeal the healthcare law. The article adds that the draft legislation would repeal much of the ACA, and establish tax credits based on people' age and income.

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USA Today (3/6, Groppe, 5.28M) reports that the draft legislation does not indicate "how many people would have coverage compared with Obamacare," although "federal support would be reduced to allow Republicans to repeal the law's tax increases on the wealthy, insurance companies, drugmakers and others." The article points out that Democrats, as well as some Republicans, are already attacking the legislation due to "concerns about eliminating coverage for millions of people who got coverage under the bill's expanded Medicaid eligibility." Meanwhile, some conservative Republicans are warning that "the replacement tax credits the bill provided to help people buy insurance would be just another entitlement program."

The Los Angeles Times (3/6, Levey, Mascaro, 4.52M) reports that the draft legislation, "the first step in what could be a long and arduous legislative effort to fulfill a key Republican campaign promise," aims to "eliminate hundreds of billions of dollars of federal aid that has allowed states to expand their Medicaid programs to millions of previously uninsured poor people." The article says it "would probably take away health coverage from several million Americans and raise costs for many more, especially low-income people and the middle-aged." The piece adds that the proposed measure's "impact on the federal deficit is unclear because House Republicans did not release a cost estimate for the proposal."

The AP (3/6, Fram, Alonso-Zaldivar) reports that "the bill would drive government policy down routes long advocated by conservatives." This "course correction would take at least two years to get rolling, and probably longer to show definitive results." The AP says that as far as Medicaid is concerned, GOP lawmakers argue "their solutions would make Medicaid more cost-efficient without punishing the poor and disabled, while spurring private insurers to offer attractive products for the estimated 20 million consumers in the market for individual policies." In contrast, Democrats contend "the bill would make many people uninsured, shifting costs to states and hospital systems that act as providers of last resort. Individual policy holders might be able to find low-premium plans, only to be exposed to higher deductibles and copayments."

The Washington Times (3/6, Howell, 272K) reports that White House press secretary Sean Spicer praised the draft legislation, saying, "Today marks an important step toward restoring healthcare choices and affordability back to the American people. President Trump looks forward to working with both Chambers of Congress to repeal and replace Obamacare." For his part, House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) stated, "Skyrocketing premiums, soaring deductibles, and dwindling choices are not what the people were promised seven years ago. It's time to turn a page and rescue our health care system from this disastrous law." But Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-NY) warned, "Trumpcare doesn't replace the Affordable Care Act, it forces millions of Americans to pay more for less care."

On its website, CNN (3/6, Fox, Walsh, 29.79M) quotes Ryan as saying, "The American Health Care Act is a plan to drive down costs, encourage competition, and give every American access to quality, affordable health insurance. It protects young adults, patients with pre-existing conditions, and provides a stable transition so that no one has the rug pulled out from under them." The piece says the legislation "sets up a political battle that could consume Congress for much of the year." Some Democrats already "railed on Republicans for writing the bill without broader input," while some Republicans "have raised concerns about key provisions within the bill."

The Hill (3/6, Sullivan, 1.25M) reports House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady (R-TX) said on Monday that "he's confident the bill will pass with full Republican support despite recent party infighting over the details." He stated, "We've been listening very carefully to our Republican members for months now to make sure we get it right. ... I am confident we are going to pass this." But the article says the legislation "faces a rocky path, particularly in the Senate."

A separate article by The Hill (3/6, Jagoda, 1.25M) reports that the legislation "would eliminate nearly all of the 2010 health law's taxes – with one key exception." It "would allow ObamaCare's 'Cadillac' tax on high-cost health plans to take effect in 2025," instead of in 2020 per the ACA. The piece explains that this will help to prevent the bill from increasing the Federal deficit after 10 years.

A third piece by The Hill (3/6, Hellmann, 1.25M) reports that the draft bill "would defund Planned Parenthood and some other abortion providers for a year." It would prevent "Planned Parenthood, and some other health organizations that provide abortions, from receiving Medicaid reimbursements for non-abortion women's health services."

Also covering the story are Fox News (3/6, Pergram, 11.07M), Bloomberg Politics (3/6, Tracer, Edney, 201K), Reuters (3/6, Cornwell, Abutaleb), another Bloomberg Politics (3/6, House, 201K) article, CNBC (3/6, Mangan, 2.17M), The Hill (3/6, Fabian, 1.25M), the NPR (3/6, Kodjak, 1.92M) "Shots" blog, Vox (3/6, Kliff, 1.15M), the Washington Examiner (3/6, King, 400K), Modern Healthcare (3/6, Meyer, Subscription Publication, 241K), ABC News (3/6, Bruce, Rogin, McGraw, 3.09M), NBC News (3/7, Caldwell, Moe, 2.67M), The Atlantic (3/6, Newkirk, 21.27M), CNN Money (3/6, Luhby, 3.59M), the Daily Caller (3/6, Brufke, 898K), Forbes (3/6, Jaspen, 15.17M), the Huffington Post (3/6, Cohn, Young, 237K), Kaiser Health News (3/6, Carey, Galewitz, 2K), McClatchy (3/6, Pugh, Daughtery, 74K), the New York Times (3/6, Sanger-Katz, Subscription Publication, 13.9M), Politico (3/6, Demko, 2.46M), Politico (3/6, Bade, 2.46M), Politico (3/6, Faler, 2.46M),

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Roll Call (3/6, McPherson, 63K), TIME (3/7, Gajanan, 6.98M), U.S. News & World Report (3/6, Leonard, 1.02M), Vox (3/6, Yglesias, 1.15M), Vox (3/6, Prokop, 1.15M), Vox (3/6, Prokop, 1.15M), and the Washington Examiner (3/7, Antle, 400K).

The Secretary in the News:

PRICE DISCUSSES ACA REPEAL DURING INTERVIEW. Hugh Hewitt (3/6, Hewitt) interviewed HHS Secretary Tom Price on Monday morning. Price said it was important for consumers to understand why the Affordable Care Act should be repealed. He explained that premiums are rising and insurers are exiting ACA marketplaces. He stated, "We need to repeal it, because we need to put in place a patient-centered system, where patients and families and docs are making these decisions and not Washington, D.C. The timing, from the President's standpoint, is as soon as possible." Price added that President Trump is correct in saying the repeal and the replacement should occur simultaneously. Price also said there are three ACA provisions which seem to be the most popular and which are likely to be included in the replacement bill: the one which prohibits insurers from denying coverage due to pre-existing conditions, the provision which eliminates lifetime coverage caps, and the one which allows young adults to remain on their parents' policies until age 26.

PRICE HAS REPORTEDLY NOT YET MET WITH ONC STAFF. Politico (3/6, Allen, 2.46M) reports that during an interview on Sunday, HHS Secretary Tom Price "made his usual attack on Obamacare," and "said a replacement bill would be out 'very very soon,' and dodged when asked if the roughly 20 million people covered under the ACA would still be." The piece says Price has yet to "meet with ONC staff." The article points out that "Price's pick for the No. 2 position at CMS, to be announced after the Senate confirms Seema Verma as CMS administrator this week, is a health insurance lawyer who had a hand in starting the ONC."

HEALTHCARE IT GROUP WRITES LETTER CALLING FOR HHS TO PRIORITIZE CYBERSECURITY. HealthIT Security (3/6) reports the College of Healthcare Information Management Executives wrote in a letter to Secretary of Health and Human Services Tom Price that improving healthcare cybersecurity should be a top priority for HHS. In the letter, CHIME wrote that HHS should "encourage investment in good cyber hygiene through positive incentives for providers."

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S CHOICE TO LEAD ACA REPEAL EFFORTS QUESTIONED. Dylan Matthews writes in a Vox (3/6, 1.15M) piece that according to the Washington Post, instead of having HHS Secretary Tom Price lead the effort to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, the Trump Administration "has apparently put Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney in charge." Matthews argues that this move "is odd, to say the least. Price, a physician, wrote legislation repealing Obamacare that passed last Congress before being vetoed by then-President Obama," and he also wrote "the most detailed replacement plan of any leading member of Congress."

The Daily Intelligencer (NY) (3/6, Kilgore, 795K) also covers the story.

HHS in the News:

ACTING CMS CHIEFS GIVE ACA STAFF A THANK-YOU PARTY. Government Executive (3/6, Clark, 25K) reports acting CMS Administrator Patrick Conway, acting principal deputy Liz Richter and acting Chief Operating Officer Karen Jackson "threw a modest party for staff involved in implementation of the 2010 law that is now in the crosshairs of the Republican-controlled Congress and the White House." The event featured light refreshments and was streamed to agency offices in Baltimore and DC.

CDC COULD FACE 12.4% BUDGET CUT IF ACA IS REPEALED. The Scientist (3/6, Vence, 151K) reports if the Affordable Care Act is repealed, then the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention could face a 12.4% budget cut. The article explains that the ACA established the Prevention and Public Health Fund, which pays for many public health programs overseen by the CDC, including the Public Health and Social Services Block Grant. If the law is repealed then the "fund could disappear, along with its budget allocation." Kathy Harben, a spokesperson for the CDC, said that if the fund is eliminated, "CDC is hopeful Congress replaces the funding with new budget authority to continue these critical public health programs."

REVIEW OF STUDIES FINDS "LITTLE EVIDENCE" FOR CDC RECOMMENDED DIET TO LOWER CHILDREN'S BLOOD LEAD LEVELS. The New York Times (3/7, Bakalar, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports a "review of studies has found little evidence that" the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended "diet high in calcium, iron and vitamin C as a way of lowering children's blood lead levels" works. A search of literature published in The Journal of Pediatrics discovered "only one study to show that dietary calcium helped reduce lead more than a placebo, and no studies to show that dietary calcium or vitamin C provide such a benefit." Despite this, researchers "said there is no harm

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in following the recommendations, since these foods are rich in nutrients."

SEN. WARREN EXPRESSED CONCERN TO VERMA OVER MEDICAID POLICY. Politico (3/6, Dezenski, 2.46M) reports Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) "made it clear Monday that she is opposed to funding any future iterations of the health system through block grants." Warren pointed out she made the same argument to Trump's nominee to head CMS, Seema Verma. Warren told reporters she was "very concerned" with Verma's "record and her willingness to try to put caps on Medicaid and the kind of health care financing that we need in this country."

OPINION: SEEMA VERMA SHOULD HEAD CMS. Mark Parkinson, the president of the American Health Care Association, and Scott Tittle, the executive director of AHCA's National Center for Assisted Living, write in an opinion piece in the Daily Caller (3/6, 898K) that Seema Verma, President Trump's nomination to head the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, is "a steady leader who will take a thoughtful approach to complex issues." Parkinson and Tittle argue that Verma "has the experience, expertise, and commitment that make her the ideal choice to head this crucial federal agency."

HHS-IG REPORT FINDS 1,600 PEOPLE DEFRAUDED MEDICAID OF $1.9 BILLION IN 2016. The Daily Caller (3/6, Barton, 898K) reports almost 1,600 people "were caught" defrauding Medicaid of $1.9 billion in 2016, according to a report released by HHS-IG. The report summarized the findings of all 50 states' Medicaid Fraud Control Units. Shimon Richmond, an HHS-IG special agent, said, "MFCU's play a critical role in protecting the taxpayers and the residents of health care institutions." Richard Stern, the HHS-IG director of the units, said, "MFCUs investigate, and prosecute, patient abuse or neglect in nursing homes, and hospitals, as well as in assisted living facilities."

OPINION: "RIGHT-TO-TRY" LAWS UNDERMINE PATIENT PROTECTION AND ABILITY TO DETERMINE IF TREATMENTS ACTUALLY WORK. Elizabeth Richardson, the managing associate at Duke University's Robert J. Margolis, MD, Center for Health Policy, writes in STAT (3/6) "First Opinion" that "right-to-try" laws "actually undermine patient protection and the ability to determine how well these treatments work." Richardson argues that a proposed federal "right-to-try" bill "strips dying patients of the protections afforded by FDA oversight, sets no requirement that the drug show promise for treating their disease, impedes their ability to seek redress for any harm, and forces the FDA to ignore scientific data on the effects of the drug among right-to-try patients — data that would be useful for determining its safety and efficacy."

OPINION: TRUMP'S POSITION ON FDA "WRONGHEADED" AND "RECKLESS." In an opinion piece for STAT (3/6), Ed Silverman writes an open letter to President Trump, describing Trump's belief in the need to diminish the FDA's role as "wrongheaded" because "the agency has largely performed well in recent years." According to Silverman, the agency is already approving drugs at "the fastest pace in more than 20 years." He argues that "the idea of naming Jim O'Neill, a Peter Thiel protégé and former hedge fund manager with no medical background, as FDA commissioner would be reckless."

CONNECTICUT CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION ASKS FDA, FTC TO PROTECT "CONNECTICUT" SHADE TOBACCO. The AP (3/6) reports members of Connecticut's congressional delegation sent a letter to the acting commissioner of the FDA and the acting chairman of the FTC requesting that "federal officials to enforce existing regulations on tobacco labeling, accusing foreign competitors of mislabeling their cigars as Connecticut shade tobacco." In particular, the lawmakers take issues with tobacco products using the word "Connecticut" on labels but leaving it unclear as to where the tobacco originated.

Health Reform:

FOUR GOP SENATORS SAY THEY WILL NOT SUPPORT ACA REPEAL IF MEDICAID EXPANSION IS ELIMINATED. The Hill (3/6, Hellmann, 1.25M) reports that on Monday, four Republican senators told Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) "they will vote against any ObamaCare repeal bill that eliminates the healthcare law's Medicaid expansion." The four lawmakers are "Sens. Rob Portman (Ohio) Shelley Moore Capito (W.Va.), Cory Gardner (Colo.) and Lisa Murkowski (Alaska)," all of whom are from states which expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. They wrote in a letter to McConnell, "We believe Medicaid needs to be reformed, but reform should not come at the cost of disruption in access to health care for our country's most vulnerable and sickest individuals."

The New York Daily News (3/6, Joseph, 4.45M) reports that the senators said "the current House plan doesn't do enough to help states that expanded Medicaid – a big sticking point between those who represent states that expanded the program and those that didn't." They added, "While we support efforts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act and make structural reforms to the Medicaid program, we are concerned that the February 10th draft proposal from the House of Representatives does not provide stability and certainty for individuals and families in Medicaid expansion programs or the necessary flexibility for states."

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Politico (3/6, Haberkorn, 2.46M) reports that Medicaid expansion has become "a key friction point in the debate over scrapping the health law. Several Republicans say they're worried that Americans who obtained coverage under the program would suddenly lose their health insurance and be left without options if the program is rolled back."

Also covering the story are the AP (3/7), the Cleveland Plain Dealer (3/6, Koff, 976K), the Denver Post (3/6, Matthews, 778K), Roll Call (3/6, Bowman, Lesniewski, 63K), Salon (3/6, Tesfaye, 564K), Vox (3/6, Prokop, 1.15M), and the Washington Examiner (3/6, Ferrechio, 400K).

POLL INDICATES 68% OF AMERICANS WANT TO PRESERVE AND IMPROVE ACA. The Los Angeles Times (3/6, Mascaro, 4.52M) reports that according to a new poll conducted by Hart Research, "most Americans want to fix the Affordable Care Act, rather than gut it, as Republicans have long promised." Data show "68% of Americans want to keep what works and fix the rest, while just 32% prefer the GOP's repeal and replace approach." In addition, "most Americans – including 54% of President Trump's voters – have a favorable view of the Medicaid system, which would face steep cuts under the Republican plan."

The Hill (3/6, Hellmann, 1.25M) also covers the story.

GOP LEADERS MAKE CONCESSION IN ACA REPEAL PLAN IN ORDER TO GAIN CONSERVATIVES' SUPPORT. Politico (3/6, Bade, 2.46M) reports that in an attempt to gain the support of conservative GOP lawmakers, "House Republican leaders are proposing to curb who would qualify for tax credits to purchase health insurance." The GOP's final draft of the plan to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, "shepherded by Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.), will limit the health care tax credits to those who earn under a certain threshold," according to unnamed sources. The article says this concession may "not necessarily ensure conservative opposition to the House plan will evaporate," yet "two conservative sources told POLITICO the right is pleased with the latest changes."

EXPERTS SAY GOP'S ACA REPLACEMENT PROPOSALS WOULD GIVE MORE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE WEALTHY. McClatchy (3/6, Pugh, 74K) reports that according to experts, the GOP's efforts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act "will ultimately steer more of its financial assistance up the income ladder and away from lower middle-class workers." The article explains that because lower-income people receive more subsidies under the ACA, the GOP's plans "represent a fundamental break from the original intent of Obamacare: to make individual health insurance more accessible and affordable to millions of Americans who need it but can't pay for it." An analysis conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that under a proposal introduced by HHS Secretary Tom Price while he was in the House, "the average tax credit would be $2,256 in 2020," which is "51 percent less than under the Affordable Care Act."

GOP LEADERS AT CRUCIAL JUNCTURE WITH RESPECT TO PLANS FOR ACA REPEAL. The Atlantic (3/6, Berman, 21.27M) reports that House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) and other GOP leaders are at a crucial juncture as far as efforts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act are concerned. The article says although Republicans have not yet unveiled their ACA repeal plan, "it has been beset on seemingly all sides by criticism." Democrats are poised "to attack it," and GOP lawmakers, "while supportive in general, are anxiously awaiting the details and worried about how to sell the plan's less generous components to their constituents." Meanwhile, moderate Republicans say any ACA replacement plan must preserve the Medicaid expansion, and conservative GOP members are warning that they will not support a plan which includes significant Federal spending on subsidies.

GOP LEADERS EXPECTED TO RESOLVE "FUNDAMENTAL" DISAGREEMENTS WITH LAWMAKERS BEFORE ACA REPEAL BILL IS RELEASED. Margot Sanger-Katz writes in the New York Times (3/6, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) "The Upshot" blog that discussion about the fate of the Affordable Care Act "is taking place in secret meetings among Republican lawmakers." President Trump and House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) have vowed to unveil an ACA repeal bill soon, yet, prior to that, they must "work out disagreements among their colleagues on the best way to proceed." According to Sanger-Katz, "several disagreements are so fundamental that they probably need to be resolved behind closed doors before a bill can even be introduced."

USA Today (3/6, Groppe, 5.28M) reports that as Republicans proceed with efforts to repeal the ACA, they face several obstacles. For instance, some moderate GOP lawmakers are worried repealing the ACA would result in millions losing coverage, while "conservative members complained that the replacement plan would just substitute one entitlement program for another."

The Hill (3/6, Hellmann, 1.25M) reports that as Republicans prepare to unveil their Affordable Care Act repeal and replace measure, they must also deal with dissension among the ranks. The article says the GOP has "narrow majorities" in both the House and the Senate, which means "Republicans won't be able to pass healthcare legislation unless they remain united." The piece adds that passing the ACA repeal measure "could prove difficult," given that "there are several knotty

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issues raised by the repeal effort that threaten to push lawmakers into opposing camps."

TRUMP ACCUSED OF MAKING IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR GOP TO ACHIEVE GOALS. On its website, CNBC (3/6, Harwood, 2.17M) reports that Republicans' challenge "in delivering on their ambitious health-care, budget and tax ideas keeps getting steeper." In order to achieve their goals of approving an ACA repeal bill by Easter, "then a new budget, and then sweeping tax reform by August," they "need a strong partner in President Donald Trump to push past political obstacles." Yet, "Trump's wild weekend wiretapping accusations against his predecessor weakened him."

HOUSE COMMITTEE TOUTS LIST OF INVESTIGATIONS INTO ACA PRACTICES. The Washington Examiner (3/6, King, 400K) reports that House GOP members aim to remind consumers about the Affordable Care Act's problems as they get ready to release their proposal to repeal the healthcare law. On Monday, the House Energy and Commerce Committee unveiled "a list...of the oversight activities the panel has done since the Affordable Care Act's passage in 2010." The committee pointed out that since 2010, it "has convened 31 oversight hearings within its Oversight and Investigations and Health subcommittees."

ADVOCACY GROUPS SPENDING MILLIONS ON ADS TO SUPPORT, OPPOSE ACA REPEAL. The Washington Examiner (3/6, Cunningham, 400K) reports that as Republicans continue to work towards repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act, "advocacy groups are spending millions on Internet, television and radio ads pleading for why Congress should or should not ditch the 2010 healthcare law." To date, the American Action Network, with $7.4 million, has spent the most on ads. The group, which is affiliated with House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI), has been airing ads which advocate repealing the ACA.

CONSERVATIVE GROUP SAYS GOP COULD COMPLETELY REPEAL ACA, RETURN CONTROL OF HEALTHCARE TO STATES. The Washington Examiner (3/6, Crabtree, 400K) reports conservative activists are accusing GOP leaders in Congress of "hiding behind Senate rules so they don't have to fully repeal Obamacare," nonetheless, "they warn that passing an imperfect overhaul of the health care law will undermine basic free-market and states' rights principles and anger voters who want to scrap the law entirely." The article says GOP groups and lawmakers are divided about how to repeal the ACA, "with some pushing a harder repeal through the same budget reconciliation process that requires only a simple majority to pass the Senate, rather than the 60 votes normally needed for controversial measures." Rick Manning, president of Americans for Limited Government, maintains that putting an end to the legislative filibuster would allow the GOP to "repeal Obamacare entirely and pass a replacement that 'returns health care governance to the states from where it was stolen by the previous administration.'"

STATEN ISLANDERS PROTESTING GOP REPEAL EFFORTS DUE TO FEAR OF LOSING COVERAGE. Staten Island (NY) Live (3/6, Keag, 134K) reports that as Republicans in Congress work to repeal the Affordable Care Act, "Staten Islanders have come out in droves to town hall meetings and community forums to voice their concerns about the future of health care." Data show thousands of Staten Islanders could loss healthcare coverage if the ACA is repealed. Indeed, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said some 2.7 million New Yorkers could lose coverage.

SEN. COLLINS' ACA REPEAL PROPOSAL COULD BE VIABLE OPTION FOR GOP. The Lewiston (ME) Sun Journal (3/5, Collins, 26K) reports that Republicans are divided over how to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. Many conservatives are concerned "about replacing one big government program with another," and many liberals and moderates worry about "the possibility that millions will lose coverage or wind up with a poor substitute." So, it remains unclear which ACA repeal proposal will be the best option. The article points out that "several of the key provisions that Trump called for in a speech to Congress – flexibility for states, greater use of tax credits and health savings accounts, and coverage for pre-existing conditions – are among the many elements of the plan put forward by Republican U.S. Sen. Susan Collins in January."

POLL INDICATES SLIM MAJORITY OF US ECONOMISTS SUPPORTS ACA. On its website, CNBC (3/6, Schoen, 2.17M) reports that some 285 US business economists surveyed by the National Association for Business Economics believe "President Donald Trump's effort to restrict immigration is a bad idea." They also "think the current health insurance system should be replaced by one that gives consumers more choice and control, with tax credits to support the cost of insurance." Data show "a slim majority" of respondents "supports the Affordable Care Act...and wants to see any replacement increase 'consumer choice and control, supported by tax credits.'"

TREASURY IG SAYS ACA EXCHANGE OFFICIALS APPROVED TAX CREDIT PAYMENTS FOR INMATES, UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS. The Daily Caller (3/6, Watson, 898K) says according to a Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration report, Affordable Care Act "exchanges gave more than $100 million in tax credit payments to non-tax filers without checking their identities, and $22 million in tax credits to documented inmates and illegal immigrants." In response, CMS officials said ACA "identity documentation isn't a factor in health insurance eligibility." Former Acting CMS Administrator Andy Slavitt wrote, "Moving forward, CMS remains committed to improving the performance and outcomes

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of the state-based and federally facilitated marketplaces as well as continuing to protect the integrity of taxpayer dollars." The article points out that all ACA "applicants must be lawful citizens or residents of the U.S., live in the state where the exchange is located, and not be imprisoned." It adds that the Government Accountability Office and the HHS IG "have raised similar concerns in past reports about the Obamacare exchanges' failure to test ACA applicants' eligibility."

DESPITE UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE FUTURE, THE NUMBER OF NEVADANS WHO ENROLLED IN ACA PLANS FOR 2017 GREW. The Las Vegas Sun (3/6, Candee, 178K) reports that according to CMS, the number of Nevadans who enrolled in Affordable Care Act plans through the state's health exchange "grew by roughly 900 people in 2017." Data show about 89,061 people signed up for ACA coverage, and that approximately 29,000 of them are new enrollees. Heather Korbulic, executive director of the Silver State Health Insurance Exchange, said there was much confusion about the future of ACA coverage once Donald Trump took office, but she and her team made a concerted effort to dispel many myths.

MANY CONSUMERS IN TENNESSEE WORRIED ABOUT LACK OF ACA OPTIONS FOR 2018. The AP (3/6, Murphy, Hoyer) reports that health insurers have all exited Knoxville's Affordable Care Act marketplace, leaving area residents with no options for next year. The article says Knox County "is one of 16 in Tennessee that lack[s] even a single insurance company committed to offering coverage for 2018 on the exchange, after Humana announced last month plans to exit." As a result, consumers are worried.

GOP LAWMAKER FACES CHALLENGES AS HE ATTEMPTS TO MOVE ACA REPEAL EFFORTS FORWARD. The Wall Street Journal (3/6, Hackman, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports that as Republicans proceed with efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act, Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR), chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, has taken on a crucial role. The article says Walden's knowledge and experience will be challenged as he tries to garner support for a bill that could lead to millions losing coverage, and simultaneously deal with the demands of conservatives who insist on a limited role for government in healthcare.

REP. BLACKBURN DISCUSSES DETAILS OF ACA REPLACEMENT LEGISLATION. Congressional Quarterly (3/6, Siddons, Subscription Publication, 967) reports Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) offered details to reporters about the nature of the ACA's replacement. Blackburn confirmed the alternative would freeze Medicaid's expansion, but the law would restore payments to hospitals offering uncompensated care. CQ also reports that the law "would get rid of the individual and employer mandates, 'address' the health insurance and medical device taxes, and rescind the Independent Payment Advisory Board." Democratic House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer dismissed Blackburn's claim that hospital payments would be reinstated and further criticized the speed at which Republicans are pushing the bill.

SEN. SCHUMER VOWS TO WORK TO DEFEAT ACA ALTERNATIVE. The Hill (3/6, Shelbourne, 1.25M) reports Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer (D-NY) "slammed the GOP's replacement plans for Obamacare, saying Democrats will work to defeat the bills." Schumer said, "This bill is a giveaway to the wealthy and insurance companies at the expense of American families."

REP. MEADOWS QUESTIONS IF REPUBLICAN HEALTH PLAN WILL LOWER COSTS. The Hill (3/6, Hensch, 1.25M) reports House Freedom Caucus Chairman Mark Meadows (R-SC) expressed his concern Monday night about the ability of the Republican alternative to lower healthcare costs. Meadow said during his appearance on the Fox News program Hannity, "we've got to do better."

REPUBLICAN HEALTHCARE ALTERNATIVE TO GO BEFORE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON WEDNESDAY. The Texas Tribune (3/6, Alfaro, 12K) reports Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX) said on Monday that the GOP alternative to the ACA will go before the House Ways and Means and House Energy and Commerce Committees on Wednesday. The Tribune reports that Doggett believes Republicans kept the bill a secret for so long in order to prevent Democrats from drafting possible amendments to the legislation.

AETNA ISSUES COMMENT ON HEALTH REFORM. The Hartford (CT) Courant (3/6, Lee, 445K) reports "Aetna submitted a seven-page comment in response to the Department of Health and Human Services' proposal to shorten the open enrollment period later this year, increase reporting requirements for mid-year enrollments and more." In the comment, Aetna reported that one percent of its customers accounted for 44 percent of all claims costs. Aetna argued that without reinstituting reinsurance provisions customers would continue to see annual premium increases of 20 percent or more. Aetna also called on lawmakers to increase the surcharge from the proposed 30 percent to ranging between 50 and 100 percent.

CONTRACEPTIVE COVERAGE PASSES NEW MEXICO HOUSE. The AP (3/6) reports the New Mexico House voted 39-29 on Monday to ensure access to contraceptives are offered at no personal cost. The legislation expanded on the ACA's contraceptive services by offering male contraceptives such as vasectomies to the list of covered options.

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SEN. WARREN PLEDGES TO PROTECT COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS DURING BOSTON METRO TOUR. The Springfield (MA) Republican (3/6, Dumicus, 366K) reports Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) "is pledging to protect community health centers, saying they're one way to bring down health care costs." Warrens' comments came as she toured Lynn Community Health Center in the Boston Metro Monday, where she pledged to fight Republicans on their plans to repeal the ACA.

COMMENTARY CONSIDERS ACA. Several outlets offer opinions on health reform.

The New York Times (3/7, Board, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) says in an editorial that President Trump "may have veered from self-inflicted crisis to self-inflicted crisis over the course of his young presidency, but he has kept one policy goal steadily before him: tax cuts for the wealthy." The paper adds that the President "has essentially called for three tax cuts: a personal income tax cut, a corporate income tax cut and a cut achieved by repealing the Affordable Care Act." While "specifics are scant...one thing is clear: All three would overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest Americans," which "would create more of the resentment and inequality Mr. Trump has promised to address."

In an opinion piece, the Washington Post (3/6, 11.43M) "Right Turn" blog contributor Jennifer Rubin writes that the Affordable Care Act may survive because "Republicans now realize what they are offering might in some cases be less generous than what millions enjoy under Obamacare." Rubin argues that Republicans should "be concerned" because recent analyses suggest that the GOP plan could significantly increase healthcare costs for Americans.

Jared Bernstein, a senior fellow at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, writes in an opinion piece in the Washington Post (3/6, 11.43M) that Republicans "have been struggling" to replace the Affordable Care Act, because the law "set a new baseline," which President Trump has promised to surpass, and that "affordable coverage for all goes against their basic brand such that they've set up an impossible goal: better, cheaper coverage than Obamacare that reduces the government's footprint in the sector." Bernstein argues that Republicans seem to be considering ideas that "will fail to deliver what their constituents want in terms of their health coverage."

Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY) writes in an opinion piece in the Washington Post (3/6, 11.43M) that Democrats' criticism of proposals to change Medicaid to a per-capita program are hypocritical, because Democrats once supported such a proposal during the Clinton Administration. Guthrie specifically criticizes former Rep. Henry Waxman for criticizing such proposals, because Waxman supported former President Bill Clinton's plan to change Medicaid to a per-capita program.

In an op-ed piece for the Wall Street Journal (3/6, Brady, Walden, Subscription Publication, 6.37M), Reps. Kevin Brady (R-TX) And Greg Walden (R-OR) describe their plan as an effort to help lower costs and return control from Washington to the states. The Brady-Walden Plan would eliminate penalties for not having insurance as well as the individual and employer mandate. Brady and Walden claim their plan would strengthen Medicaid by freezing enrollment in the Medicaid expansion and institute per-capita allotments to determine funding for each state based on the total number of enrollees. They also claim their plan would expand and strengthen Health Savings Accounts by doubling the amount people are allowed to contribute to the program. The Representatives have posted their bill online and the committees they chair will consider the legislation later in the week.

In an opinion piece for the Los Angeles Times (3/6, Hiltzik, 4.52M) Michael Hiltzik writes the Republican alternative to the ACA is "a nastier, more consumer-unfriendly measure than even close followers could have expected." Hiltzik argues that despite House Speaker Paul Ryan's (R-WI) claims, the legislation will "destroy the ability of millions of Americans to access any healthcare worth the name." Hiltzik claims that even after the CBO scores the legislation, which it has yet to do, "The chances are almost nil that closer examination will find much, if anything, good about it."

In three letters to the editor, readers of the Los Angeles Times (3/6, 4.52M) respond to an article published back in February that outlined the story of a woman who credits the Affordable Care Act with saving her life, but voted for President Donald Trump in part because she believed his campaign pledges to repeal the law were "bluster." In the letters to the editor, the three readers comment on the woman's perspective and also the potential repeal of the ACA.

Peter Orszag writes in his column in Bloomberg View (3/6, 125K) criticizing those who argue that "allowing people to buy health insurance across state lines" will reduce healthcare costs. Orszag points out that selling across state lines "is already allowed – and yet basically doesn't happen," because healthcare is largely delivered locally.

Dr. Kevin Campbell, an assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of North Carolina, writes in an opinion piece on the Fox News (3/6, 11.07M) website that "lawmakers on both sides are putting their OWN interests ahead of the health of the American people." Campbell argues that "the status quo is no longer acceptable," and that "it is no longer acceptable to allow lawmakers to behave like toddlers fighting over a toy when it comes to our health care."

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Doug Badger, a senior fellow at the Galen Institute, and Grace-Marie Turner, the president of the Galen Institute, write in an opinion piece in Forbes (3/6, 15.17M) that Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) has introduced a bill that would keep Obamacare's refundable tax credits, taxes, and Medicaid expansion. Badger and Turner argue that Paul's criticism of the House Republicans' bill as "Obamacare Lite" is inaccurate and hypocritical given that his proposal could be described as "Obamacare Plus."

Abbe Gluck, a law professor at Yale Law School, writes in an opinion piece in Vox (3/6, 1.15M) that Americans need to decide what they believe about healthcare in order to pass healthcare reform. Gluck argues that Americans disagree about whether the government should ensure that all people have access to healthcare or if people should only receive the healthcare they "earn."

Robert J. Budsock, the president of a large nonprofit provider of substance abuse treatment, writes in an opinion piece in the Newark (NJ) Star-Ledger (3/6, 438K) that repealing the Affordable Care Act "would jeopardize the recent expansion of addiction services in New Jersey and other states throughout the nation." Budsock argues that the law's Medicaid expansion increased access to coverage for such services and that repealing the law could undermine those gains.

Dr. Sandeep Jauhar, a cardiologist, writes in an opinion piece in TIME (3/6, 6.98M) that Seema Verma, President Trump's nominee to head the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, believes that Medicaid beneficiaries should take more responsibility for their health. Jauhar argues that personal responsibility is important, but that people's health is also affected by factors outside their control.

Sally Pipes, the President of the Pacific Research Institute, writes in an opinion piece in Forbes (3/6, 15.17M) that the Affordable Care Act unfairly subsidized healthcare "coverage for the old on the backs of the young," but that Republicans have proposed replacing the ACA's 3:1 age rating ratio with a 5:1 ratio so that premiums could be cut for young people and raised for old people. Pipes argues that the individual insurance marketplace is "in the throes of a death spiral" and needs to be reformed to be saved.

In an opinion piece for the Washington Times (3/6, Hamilton, 272K) research fellow at the Heartland Institute Michael Hamilton writes that replacing the ACA with a Republican alternative would "more sustainably give patients financial assistance, expand treatment and insurance options, and establish safety nets for people with pre-existing conditions." Hamilton concludes that after eight years of the ACA, "most patients confess they're ready for a change."

In an opinion piece for Forbes (3/6, 15.17M), Ryan Ellis breaks down the taxing side of the Republican ACA replacement legislation. Ellis argues that removing all of the ACA's taxes is a strong conservative move, and says tax credits can be used by families and carried forward to help cover some of their medical expenses. Ellis concludes that Republicans should support the ACA alternative.

In a guest article for the Sacramento (CA) Bee (3/6, 574K), Deborah Burger writes that attempts to replace the ACA "look like a horror show." Instead of following what Congress is offering, Burger suggests that California go it alone. Burger supports California Senate Bill 562, which would create a universal healthcare system in California. The legislation has been proposed by state Sen. Ricardo Lara and Rep. Toni Atkins and received support from the California Nurses Association. Burger concludes that the single-payer system will help drive down costs by allowing the state to negotiate bulk discounts and eliminate the "profiteering of the insurers."

In a guest article for CNN (3/6, Starr, 29.79M) President and CEO of the Guttmacher Institute Ann Starrs writes that the GOP alternative to the ACA will "undercut US women's access to family planning services." Starrs argues that a full or partial repeal of the ACA would leave millions of women without insurance, while "tens of millions more would see their insurance's contraceptive coverage severely degraded." Starrs writes that HHS Secretary Tom Price has been "openly hostile" to the ACA covering the cost of contraceptive and family planning services. Starrs also criticizes Republicans for their efforts to strip funding away from Planned Parenthood.

In a guest article for the Orlando (FL) Sentinel (3/6, 684K), Executive Director of the Home Care Association of Florida Bobby Lolley writes that CMS' "Pre-Claim Review" – which requires government contractors to decide if a physician-prescribed home healthcare service is "medically necessary" before they offer reimbursement – would create disastrous results for the state of Florida. Lolley argues that forcing people to prove the necessity of the service would create gaps in coverage which could delay recovery or negatively impact the outcome of the patient. Lolley calls on CMS to revoke the rule and warns that not doing so could create chaos.

In an opinion piece for Vox (3/6, 1.15M), Editor-in-Chief Ezra Klein writes the GOP approach to replacing the ACA is "breathtaking," taking issue with the fact that House Republicans plan to hold a committee vote just two days after

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releasing the legislation, and without first allowing the Congressional Budget Office to score the bill. Klein argues, based on his discussions with healthcare experts, that the legislation will result in fewer people obtaining coverage and a faster depletion of the Medicare trust fund. Klein criticizes the alternative for having no "cost control...at all." Klein concludes that the legislation suffers from a major fault: "it's not clear why it exists. What does it make better? What is it even trying to achieve?"

John Harwood writes for CNBC (3/6, 2.17M) in its Harwood File that the GOP attempted to boost their chances of passing an ACA replacement plan by making it look more like the ACA. Harwood points out it is a bit too early to determine the likelihood of success because the CBO has yet to score the bill.

In an opinion piece for the Washington Examiner (3/7, Antle, 400K) W. James Antle III writes that failing to repeal the ACA now would "keep us on a path toward a single-payer system that would offer all Americans only one form of insurance, one completely controlled and financed by the government." Antle argues that the single-payer system would not be the "Medicare for all" that some Democrats are championing, but rather "Medicaid for all."

David Frum writes in The Atlantic (3/6, 21.27M) about Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY), who is a staunch opponent of the Affordable Care Act, but whose state has benefited greatly from the healthcare law. The piece says Paul is dealing with an "agonizing dilemma" for several reasons, such as the fact that Kentucky's uninsured rate fell from 20 percent in 2013 to 7.5 percent in 2015, thanks to the ACA. So, while Paul advocates the repeal and replacement of the ACA, he wants the new system to preserve Medicaid expansion. According to Frum, Paul's best move is "to strike a heroic attitude of principle while in fact supporting as the least-bad option [of] a law that you nominally oppose."

Healthcare News:

ADMINISTRATION OFFERS TO WITHDRAW REQUEST TO DEFUND PLANNED PARENTHOOD IF THEY STOPPED ABORTION SERVICES; PLANNED PARENTHOOD DECLINES. The New York Times (3/6, Haberman, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports the White House "has proposed preserving federal payments" to Planned Parenthood "if it discontinues providing abortions." The New York Times reports that Ivanka Trump played a key role in nudging President Trump "toward a nuanced view of Planned Parenthood's work." In a statement to the Times, Trump confirmed the talks took place. The Times writes that Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) chided the Trump Administration for playing "political games" with the organization and she described the proposal as a way to interfere with women's medical choices that should be left between women and their doctors.

The Hill (3/6, Hellmann, 1.25M) reports Planned Parenthood rejected the offer from President Trump. Planned Parenthood's President Cecile Richards released a statement saying, "Planned Parenthood has always stood strong against these attacks on our patients and their ability to access the full range of reproductive health care. We are glad that the White House understands that taking away the preventive care Planned Parenthood provides is deeply unpopular and would be a disaster for women's health care."

The AP (3/6) and U.S. News & World Report (3/6, Levy, 1.02M) also report.

IMPACT OF SPEAKER PAUL RYAN'S EFFORTS AGAINST PLANNED PARENTHOOD EXAMINED. The Huffington Post (3/6, Bassett, 237K) reports tentative efforts by House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) to "defund" Planned Parenthood would "prevent Medicaid from working with" it by blocking nearly 60 percent of the 2.5 million patients served by the organization from receiving medical care. This would "likely force some of its clinics to shut down," and would leave patients unable to secure contraceptive care and family planning assistance.

GROUP OF US COMPANIES REVEALS PLANS TO LOWER THEIR HEALTHCARE SPENDING. The Wall Street Journal (3/6, Walker, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports a group of more than three dozen US companies called the Health Transformation Alliance announced plans to lower their healthcare spending. Their strategy include group contracts for prescription drugs purchases, which the group claims will save $600 million over three years – about 15 percent of employers' median total drug spending.

TENNESSEE STATE SENATOR EXPLAINS SPONSORSHIP OF BILL THAT WOULD PROHIBIT MEDICATION SWAPS MID-YEAR BY INSURERS. In an op-ed in the Tennessean (3/6, 407K), Tennessee state Sen. Mark Green (R-Clarksville) discusses why he is sponsoring the Reliable Coverage Act (Senate Bill 991), which would "prevent commercial health insurers from reducing consumers' pharmacy benefits in the middle of a plan year, while still allowing for the introduction of generics as well as coverage shifts based on market changes."

CMS LEVIES $2.5 MILLION FINE AGAINST UNITEDHEALTHCARE. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (3/6, Snowbeck, 1.27M) reports "A new audit finds that some UnitedHealthcare prescription drug plans didn't comply with certain Medicare

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rules, resulting in beneficiaries facing increased out-of-pocket costs and inappropriate denials or delays in accessing benefits." As a result of the findings, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services issues a $2.5 million penalty against the insurer.

KANSAS LEGISLATURE CONSIDERS BILL REINFORCING CURRENT ASSISTED SUICIDE LAW. The Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal (3/6, Harford, 106K) reports that, after a pro-assisted suicide bill died in committee this session, the Kansas State Legislature heard community feedback on Monday reinforcing support for current limits on the practice. Steve Brunk, policy director for the Family Policy Alliance of Kansas, spoke in favor of the legislation as a way to safeguard against future measures which may allow assisted suicide. Brunk cited the American Medical Association's reconsideration of its stance on the practice, and he argued that the "culture should enjoy doing things to enhance the quality of life and not things to detract from it."

Human Services News:

TEXAS LEGISLATURE DEBATES CHILD WELFARE BILL. The Dallas Morning News (3/6, Garrett, 1.12M) reports a proposal aiming to decrease Texas child welfare workers' caseloads "is laudable but needs more careful consideration," Republican lawmakers said. The bill encourages Child Protective Services to employ another 893 workers during the next two years in hopes of updating the department's "byzantine" practices. Among the provisions of the bill are requirements for the addition of nearly "150 child care licensing division inspectors and investigator" in response to a Federal class-action lawsuit concerning overburdening "conservatorship" caseworkers. GOP leaders pushed for "kinship care" as a priority over CPS monitoring.

Food & Import Safety:

AVIAN INFLUENZA STRAIN DETECTED ON TENNESSEE COMMERCIAL CHICKEN FARM. ABC World News Tonight (3/6, story 11, 0:20, Muir, 14.63M) reported on an outbreak of avian influenza in Lincoln Country, TN. A "strain of the disease" was "detected on a chicken farm under contract to Tyson Foods." So far, "more than 73,000 birds have been euthanized to keep the virus from entering the food system. About 30 farms in the area under quarantine for precaution."

In response to the outbreak, Reuters (3/6, Polansek) reports the leading US egg and chicken "companies ramped up procedures to protect birds from avian flu on Monday, a day after the federal government confirmed the nation's first case of the virus at a commercial operation in more than a year."

Bloomberg News (3/7, Mulvany, Durisin, Singh, 2.41M) reports that the H7 avian influenza "virus is believed to spread partly by migratory wild birds, posing the risk it may reach other farms." Nevertheless, "the industry is confident in its new security procedures." In addition to quarantine measure, "companies can now depopulate birds and clean up themselves when the disease is detected, as opposed to waiting for the US Department of Agriculture." The article goes on to outline security procedures put into place by Sanderson Farms and Pilgrim's Pride.

FDA, PENNSYLVANIA AUTHORITIES INVESTIGATING APPLE JUICE THAT CAUSED THROAT BURNS IN TWO CHILDREN. The AP (3/6, Scolforo) reports local authorities and the Food and Drug Administration are investigating a case of two children who "suffered burn-type injuries to their mouths and throats after drinking what they believed to be apple juice at a Chinese buffet in Pennsylvania." The juice, they say, contained an "unknown caustic substance," and has been recovered for testing. The children are "hospitalized in fair condition."

MEIJER ADDS PRODUCTS TO ITS POSSIBLE LISTERIA CONTAMINATION RECALL. MLive (MI) (3/6, Martinez, 878K) reports Meijer is expanding its cheese recall to include their Artisan Made Natural Muenster Cheese and pre-wrapped ham subs due to possible listeria contamination. The recalls follow previous recalls from Meijer after they were notified by their supplier MDS Foods that contamination may have occurred at one of their processing facilities.

GALVESTON'S SEAFOOD SAFETY LAB'S TESTING OF OYSTERS PROFILED. The AP (3/6, Barnett) reports on the work of Galveston's Seafood Safety Lab, which is one of only two certified food safety testing labs on the Gulf Coast, "making it the prime spot for testing most post-harvest processed oysters in the country." The lab focuses on testing "for two naturally occurring bacteria: Vibrio vulnificus and Vibrio paraphaemolytious. ... Vibrio vulnificus can cause gastroenteritis in any healthy person, but it can kill someone who has health problems such as diabetes, cancer, HIV, heart ailments, hepatitis or other liver diseases ... Vibrio parahaemolyticus is not deadly, but can cause bad gastroenteritis if consumed through raw or undercooked seafood."

Nutrition & Obesity:

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BUSINESSES LAYING OFF WORKERS DUE TO SALES DROP FROM PHILADELPHIA SODA TAX. The CBS Evening News (3/6, story 8, 2:00, Pelley, 11.17M) reported the soda industry and local businesses say that Philadelphia's soda tax is "costing jobs." The manager of one distribution center explained that he "had to lay off about 30 positions simply because the business is down," adding that "soda sales have fallen 45 percent since the tax was imposed." Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney responded to the layoffs, accusing companies of "using their employees as pawns."

WRITER DISCUSSES EATING DISORDERS IN CHILDREN. In the Washington Post (3/6, 11.43M) "Health & Science," Jill U. Adams discusses eating disorders in children. The American Academy of Pediatrics "updated its guidelines on preventing eating disorders and obesity in teenagers last year." About "half of teenage girls and a quarter of teenage boys are dissatisfied with their bodies, according to the AAP."

Medicare:

OMB DIRECTOR SAYS HE IS LOOKING AT ENTITLEMENT REFORM. The Washington Post (3/6, Weigel, 11.43M) reports Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney said that he was looking at entitlement reform. The article points out that President Trump promised during his campaign to leave Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security alone, but Mulvaney said, "There are ways that we can not only allow the president to keep his promise, but to help him keep his promise by fixing some of these mandatory programs."

SOME CALLING FOR MEDICARE TO INCREASE DENTAL COVERAGE. Kaiser Health News (3/6, Galewitz, 2K) reports some are calling for Medicare to cover more dental care in part because "untreated dental problems can exacerbate health problems such as diabetes and heart disease, leading to costlier bills for Medicare." The article points out that when Medicare was created, a large percentage of seniors had no natural teeth left, but now 87% of Americans between the ages of 65 and 74 still have some or all of their teeth, according to figures from the American Dental Association.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS DIFFER ON WHETHER OR NOT ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN ON MEDICARE. The Fiscal Times (3/6, Pianin, 49K) reports HHS Secretary Tom Price declined to rule out cuts or changes to Medicare during his appearance on CBS' Face the Nation on Sunday. Price did say it was his goal to ensure Medicare remains solvent. However, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin was asked a similar question by Fox Business News' Maria Bartiromo and Mnuchin responded by saying the Trump Administration would not touch Medicare.

Medicaid & CHIP:

GROUP OF REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS CALLS FOR CHANGES TO MEDICAID. In its top story, the Politico (3/6, Karlin-Smith, 2.46M) "Prescription Pulse" reports that a group of 10 Republican governors, including Ohio Gov. John Kasich and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, have released a plan seeking to change Medicaid. The plan calls for a change in how the program is funded and would also eliminate the Medicaid requirement that states cover all FDA-approved drugs.

SOME REPUBLICAN STATE LEGISLATORS IN KANSAS, MAINE PUSHING FOR MEDICAID EXPANSION. Vox (3/6, Kliff, 1.15M) reports some Republican state legislators in Kansas and Maine are advocating for expanding Medicaid in their states under the Affordable Care Act, while Congressional Republicans are working to repeal the law. The article reports that some Republicans in Kansas and Maine are pushing for expansion in order to benefit state residents.

ANALYSIS: MEDICAID COVERAGE IMPROVES HEALTH. Vox (3/6, Belluz, 1.15M) reports that Medicaid coverage improves health based on data from Oregon where the state selected 10,000 random people to receive Medicaid coverage in 2008 and compared their health to those who lost the lottery. The article reports that data from the state demonstrates that Medicaid coverage is correlated with better overall health reported by patients, increased access to healthcare, and also improved health by other measures.

PRIVATE INSURERS POST HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN LOSSES ON IOWA'S MEDICAID MANAGED CARE PROGRAM. The Cedar Rapids (IA) Gazette (3/6, Keenan, 144K) reports the three private insurers managing Iowa's Medicaid program have posted hundreds of millions of dollars in losses. The article reports that AmeriHealth Caritas posted a loss of almost $300 million, while Amerigroup posted a loss of over $133 million and UnitedHealthcare of the River Valley anticipates losing more than $100 million on the program.

MACOMB COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY PREPARING FOR MICHIGAN MEDICAID CUTS. Crain's Detroit Business (3/6, Greene, 75K) reports the Macomb County Community Mental Health Authority in Michigan "is preparing for $12.4 million in planned Medicaid managed care cuts from the Michigan Department of Health and

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Human Services on April 1 that will touch many aspects of the authority's operations." The article reports that the cuts are part of a five-year-old program that are hitting the mental health authority in Macomb County "harder than any other regional mental health agency in the state."

NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE QUALITY INSTITUTE RELEASE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING STATE'S MEDICAID PROGRAM. The Bergen (NJ) Record (3/6, Washburn) reports the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute released 24 recommendations aimed at improving the state's Medicaid program by modernizing and streamlining healthcare delivery. The recommendations were released after the institute conducted a year-long study funded by The Nicholson Foundation.

COLUMNIST: "PUSHBACK AGAINST SCALING BACK MEDICAID EXPANSION KEEPS GROWING STRONGER." Stephanie Grace writes in her column in the Baton Rouge (LA) Advocate (3/6, 75K) that Americans should "keep an eye on how Medicaid expansion plays into the debate" over the potential repeal of the Affordable Care Act. Grace argues that "pushback against the idea of scaling back the expansion keeps growing stronger."

SEN. CASSIDY REINTRODUCES BILL THAT WOULD MAKE MEDICAID A PER CAPITA PROGRAM. Modern Healthcare (3/6, Dickson, Subscription Publication, 241K) reports Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) reintroduced a bill that would change Medicaid into a per capita program. The article explains that Cassidy first introduced the proposed Medicaid Accountability and Care Act in 2013, but it failed to gain traction.

ARKANSAS GOVERNOR SEEKS FEDERAL PERMISSION TO CHANGE EXPANDED MEDICAID PROGRAM. The AP (3/6, Demillo) reports Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson (R) is seeking federal permission to move about 60,000 people off the state's expanded Medicaid program "and require some participants to work under a series of restrictions." Hutchinson said on Monday that he would seek permission to implement the new rules by 2018. The Arkansas News (3/6, Lyon, 1K) also covers the story.

KANSAS MEDICAID DIRECTOR RESPONDS TO FEDERAL AUDIT DECLARING KANCARE OUT OF COMPLIANCE. The Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal (3/6, Carpenter, 106K) reports Kansas Medicaid director Michael Randol responded to Federal reports that declared the privatized system of KanCare out of compliance by saying the Federal audit didn't reflect declining emergency room visits and an increase in the number of primary care physicians. The Capital-Journal writes, "Federal reviewers said limited coordination between state agencies posed a risk to health and safety of some participants and Kansas didn't provide sufficient oversight of the three managed care organizations hired to operate KanCare."

OPINION: MEDICAID 2.0 PROVIDES BLUEPRINT FOR HEALTHCARE REFORM IN NEW JERSEY. In an opinion piece for NJ Spotlight (3/7), Lilo Stainton writes that New Jersey's Medicaid program needs to be modernized in order to better serve patients and become financially sustainable. Lilo supports the new Medicaid 2.0 Blueprint unveiled Monday, which offers 24 specific changes that would make the system more efficient, better integrated, and more responsive to patient needs.

Health & Medical News:

MANY PATIENTS WITH ASTHMA MAY NOT CORRECTLY USE INHALERS, STUDIES SUGGEST. The Wall Street Journal (3/6, Reddy, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports that two studies suggest many patients with asthma may not use their inhalers correctly. One study was presented at a CHEST meeting and the others was published in the Journal of Aerosol Medicine and Pulmonary Drug Delivery. NIH funds were used for the latter study.

OP-ED SAYS TECHNOLOGY CAN HELP REDUCE DEATHS FROM CAR CRASHES. David Leonhardt writes in a New York Times (3/7, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) op-ed that the automobile is essential to modern society, "yet it's also one of the biggest destroyers of life. In the United States, crashes claim 1,000 lives every nine days." Indeed, data show that in 2016, 40,000 Americans died in car crashes, "about as many as from breast cancer and more than twice as many as from murder." Leonhardt argues that society has accepted these deaths as the price of being able to use cars, but technology that prevents distracted driving and driverless cars can help to address this public-health crisis.

EIGHT SENATORS ASK MARATHON PHARMACEUTICALS TO EXPLAIN PRICING OF EMFLAZA. In more coverage of Marathon Pharmaceuticals' pricing of the rare disease drug Emflaza for Duchenne muscular dystrophy, STAT (3/6, Silverman) reports that eight US Senators have asked the company for detailed information on the $89,000 price, as well as "profit projections, how much money was spent on clinical research, and details of its patient assistance program." Marathon received an orphan drug designation for Emflaza, which the company did not develop and for which it "purchased 23-year-old trial data," STAT adds. The Senators – seven Democrats and one Independent – wrote that there are "serious questions about whether there is any justification for such a dramatically high price."

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OHIO LATEST STATE TO CONSIDER ALLOWING PHARMACISTS TO SWITCH OUT EPIPEN. STAT (3/6, Silverman) reports that Ohio is the latest state to move ahead with legislation that would let pharmacists fill prescriptions for Mylan's EpiPen with something less expensive. New York, New Jersey, and Vermont are also weighing such bills, while Hawaii has "a somewhat comparable" piece of legislation. At $608 for a two-pen pack, the EpiPen has provoked an "outcry" and led to Mylan offering its own generic for around $300. There is also the $110 AdrenaClick and the Auvi-Q at $360, with that price covered for some patients by the manufacturer. STAT says Athenahealth found that "last month, alternatives commanded nearly 29 percent of prescriptions" for auto-injected epinephrine.

GENOME-WIDE ASSOCIATION STUDY FINDS 18 GENES ASSOCIATED WITH AUTISM. NBC News (3/6, Fox, 2.67M) reports a genome-wide association study "of people with autism and their relatives has uncovered 18 genes associated with the disorder." Investigators at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children "studied the DNA of more than 5,000 people in 2,066 families with children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders, including 2,600 affected children." Autism Speaks, the group behind the study, "is making the data from the project, called MSSNG (it's the missing 'I's' that matter), available freely."

ARKANSAS SENATE REJECTS BAN ON SMOKING MEDICAL MARIJUANA. The AP (3/6) reports the Arkansas Senate rejected a proposed ban on "smoking medical marijuana in the state." Republican sponsors of the bill said that they see "no evidence of a medicinal value to smoking marijuana and that the smoking of pot is a recreational use." The senate also "approved a motion to allow" them "to bring the bill back for another voter at a later date."

IMMUNOCELLULAR ANNOUNCES FDA APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO PHASE 3 TRIAL OF NEWLY DIAGNOSED GLIOBLASTOMA BRAIN TUMOR TREATMENT. The San Fernando Valley (CA) Business Journal (3/6, Henkel, Subscription Publication, 16K) reports ImmunoCellular Therapeutics announced Monday that the "Food and Drug Administration has approved an amendment" for its phase 3 registration trial of ICT-107, a treatment for newly diagnosed glioblastoma brain tumors. The change "will allow patients to be randomized 30 days after screening procedures instead of 90 days after, which should accelerate the FDA process by approximately two months."

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA RESEARCHERS SEEKING 300 WOMEN FOR NIH-FUNDED POST-MENOPAUSAL BONE LOSS STUDY. The Omaha (NE) World-Herald (3/7, Anderson, 544K) reports researchers at the University of Nebraska Medical Center "are seeking to recruit 300 women in the Omaha and Lincoln areas and 60 Spanish-speaking women in Omaha as part of an ongoing study comparing the effectiveness of three strategies to improve bone strength and prevent bone loss in post-menopausal women." The study, which "is funded by a $3.2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health," will split the women into three groups that will be given calcium and vitamin D. Two of the groups will also take "a drug that slows or stops bone loss" or "participate in a structured exercise program three times a week."

CONVERSION THERAPY ADVOCATES HOPE REPUBLICANS WILL FIGHT STATE BANS ON THE PRACTICE. ABC News (3/6, Ross, Epstein, 3.09M) reports conversion therapy advocates hope recent Republican electoral victories will help them "fight off efforts to make such programs illegal." Peter Sprigg of the Family Research Council, a conservative lobbying group, characterizes homosexuality as "a mental health issue," adding that the council supports "ordinary talk therapy like anyone would have for any type of psychological issue." Sprigg believes conversion therapy "should not be prohibited by law" and is "optimistic Republicans will back" the council's position.

WHITE-FOOTED MOUSE POPULATION IN HUDSON RIVER VALLEY TIED TO CASES OF LYME DISEASE, RESEARCH SUGGESTS. The NPR (3/6, Doucleff, Greenhalgh, 1.92M) "Goats and Soda" blog and "Morning Edition" program report the number of white-footed mice "scampering around the forest in the summer correlates" with the number of Lyme disease cases diagnosed the following summer, according to research conducted in the Hudson River Valley by Bard College and the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies. Researchers found that the mice "are highly efficient transmitters of Lyme" disease by infecting up to 95% of "ticks that feed on them." The blog notes that cases of Lyme disease have risen across the Northeast and more recently in the Midwest.

FORMER VICE PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN TO SPEAK ABOUT CANCER AT SOUTH BY SOUTHWEST FESTIVAL. The AP (3/6) reports former Vice President Joe Biden will speak about cancer research and prevention at the South By Southwest festival. Biden will be a featured speaker at the event on Sunday and is expected to "discuss plans for his new cancer-fighting initiative."

NEW FITBITS TO OFFER DEEPER SLEEP ANALYSIS. The AP (3/6, Jesdanun) reports, "Fitbit will offer deeper sleep tracking on some of its devices." The article explains that "Fitbits already track how much sleep people get and use sensors to measure periods of being awake or restless while in bed," but the company will begin offering new products that "will break sleep into clinically defined stages."

FEDERAL MAGISTRATE JUDGE AWARDS $2.5 MILLION TO VETERAN AFTER VA MEDICAL CENTER IN

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PHOENIX BREACHED STANDARD OF CARE BY FAILING TO ORDER MORE TESTING. The AP (3/6, Billeaud) reports US Magistrate Judge Michelle Burns awarded $2.5 million to Steven Harold Cooper after finding that the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center in Phoenix "breached the standard of care by failing to order more testing and refer him to a urologist." The article explains that a nurse practitioner found abnormalities with Cooper's prostate during an examination, but the hospital failed to order more testing that could have detected his now-terminal cancer sooner.

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI RESEARCHERS DEVELOP IMMUNOTHERAPY THAT MAY HELP BLOCK EFFECTS OF COCAINE. The Cincinnati Enquirer (3/6, DeMio, 511K) reports researchers at the University of Cincinnati "have developed an immunotherapy that could be the first FDA-approved medication to block the effects of cocaine." Andrew Norman, a professor at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, said that the injectable antibody would help reduce cravings for cocaine, but is not a "magic bullet." The article reports that researchers plan to complete a second round of animal testing before applying to the FDA to conduct human trials. The article mentions that the National Institute on Drug Abuse funded the research with a $6.28 million three-year grant.

IMMUNOTHERAPY MARKET EXPECTED TO SURGE, REACH $40 BILLION BY 2025. The Wall Street Journal (3/6, Loftus, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports on the tightening race between companies developing immunotherapy cancer treatments, a market analysts say could grow from $6 billion in 2016 to $40 billion by 2025. The Journal highlights Wilmington, Delaware-based Incyte Corp., whose experimental drug, epacadosat, is expected to be one of the first of a new batch of immunotherapy treatments to hit the market, with potential sales of $3.4 billion in 2025.

FDA LIFTS CLINICAL HOLD ON SEATTLE GENETICS' EXPERIMENTAL CANCER DRUG TRIALS. Reuters (3/6, Mukhopadhyay) reports the Food and Drug Administration "lifted a clinical hold on several early stage studies testing" Seattle Genetics Inc.'s experimental cancer drug, vadastuximab talirine. The clinical hold was imposed last December "after the company reported the deaths of four people in trials testing" the drug. The company "said on Monday the clinical hold was resolved through a comprehensive study evaluating more than 300 patients and amendments to further enhance safety."

OPINION: DRUG IMPORTATION BILL THREATENS TO UNDERMINE PATIENT SAFETY. Forbes (3/6, 15.17M) contributor Doug Schoen writes that a bill proposed by Sens. Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Cory Booker (D-NJ), and Bob Casey (D-PA) that allows importation of prescription drugs from Canada "threatens" the "strongest drug vetting procedure in the world." Schoen writes that "there is no guarantee that the drugs we consume are not from a third-party country as the law does not bar transshipments," nor does it "stipulate the essential storage and shipping conditions under which drugs must be imported." He concludes, "allowing unregulated, unaccountable foreign sellers into the US market endangers patients and harms the ability of doctors to trust the medications they prescribe."

ONCOCYTE SAYS STUDY CONFIRMS ACCURACY OF LUNG CANCER BLOOD TEST. Reuters (3/6, Berkrot) reports OncoCyte Corp announced that a "300-patient validation study of its blood test for early detection of lung cancer has confirmed the accuracy reported from a prior trial." The company said it anticipates a commercial launch of its liquid biopsy as early as the second half 2017 and believes the product will be the first of its kind.

PHYSICIAN DISCUSSES PARENTS' GUILT, REGRET WHEN CHILDREN ARE ILL, INJURED. In the New York Times (3/6, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) "The Checkup" blog, Perri Klass, MD, discusses some parents' feelings of guilt and regret when their children are injured or become ill.

MOST US SCHOOLS COULD DO A LOT MORE TO PROTECT STUDENTS FROM THE SUN, RESEARCH SUGGESTS. Reuters (3/6, Rapaport) reports that research suggests "most US schools could do a lot more to protect students from the sun, with efforts like keeping kids indoors at high noon or making time for sunscreen application." Investigators looked at "data on policies at 577 schools." The researchers found that only "16 percent of schools asked parents to apply sunscreen before school, and even fewer supplied sunscreen to students or scheduled outdoor activities to avoid the peak intensity of the sun's ultraviolet (UV) rays." The findings were published in JAMA Dermatology

COLUMBUS, OHIO PILOT PROGRAM TO HAND OUT GUN LOCK BOXES TO PARENTS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN. The Columbus (OH) Dispatch (3/6, Burger, 529K) reports that "a new partnership is handing out gun lock boxes in a pilot program to Columbus pediatricians in an effort to curb the number of unintentional shootings among young" kids. The Dispatch adds, "The Partnership for Safety of Children Around Firearms includes the Ohio chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Buckeye Firearms Association, Black Wing Shooting Center and Kiwanis Club of Columbus."

COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS SEEKING TO INCORPORATE GENETIC TESTING INTO CANCER CARE THEY OFFER. The Wall Street Journal (3/6, Kincaid, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports community healthcare systems are seeking to incorporate genetic testing into the cancer care they provide. Richard Schilsky, chief medical officer of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, points out that most patients with cancer receive care in a community

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setting.

TEACHING FAMILIES HOW TO CLEAN ALLERGENS SHED FROM MICE IN THEIR HOMES MAY HELP REDUCE ASTHMA SYMPTOMS IN KIDS, STUDY SUGGESTS. The Baltimore Sun (3/6, Cohn, 714K) "Picture of Health" blog reports that research suggests "teaching families how to clean allergens shed from mice in their homes is just as good as professional pest management in reducing asthma symptoms in" kids. The research was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

RESEARCHERS EXAMINE REPRESENTATION OF MINORITIES, WOMEN IN MEDICAL PROFESSIONS. Reuters (3/6, Seaman) reports recent studies analyzed the representation of women and minorities in medical careers, with one determining "male doctors were judged to have about a 13 percent higher attainment of important milestones than their female counterparts," possibly due to harsher judgment of women who "take on leadership traits that are stereotypically male." Another study found fewer women are speakers at grand rounds, "presentations delivered by esteemed doctors to medical teams at other institutions." Researchers who examined the acceptance rates for minorities into the prestigious Alpha Omega Alpha society found "black students had 84 percent lower odds of being Alpha Omega Alpha members," while "Asian students had 48 percent lower odds." Some researchers attribute the disparity to implicit bias.

Studies Analyze Representation Of Women Among Grand Rounds Speakers. STAT (3/6, Ross) reports the grand rounds podium – a "coveted perch in medicine" – is "also a pedestal women don't reach as often as men," according to a study published in JAMA Internal Medicine. The study found women comprised 26 percent of speakers in grand rounds, while women represent "47 percent of medical students, 46 percent of residents, and 36 percent of faculty in the US." Researchers assert the disparity "lowers the visibility of female leaders and may stifle the ambitions of women in academic medicine," and also "undermines the quality of care and the quality of medical education, especially in grand rounds lectures."

ALASKA GOVERNOR PROPOSES BILL TO COMBAT OPIOID ABUSE. The AP (3/6, Bohrer) reports Alaska Gov. Bill Walker proposed increased measures to address opioid abuse following his declaration last month of a public health disaster. His bill, unveiled on Monday, seeks to allow physicians to phase out patient use of opioids, "limit to seven days initial prescriptions for outpatient use, with some exceptions." The measure would also institute a controlled substance prescription database updated daily by medical providers. In addition, the state corrections department would have the power to "develop a program to provide treatment for inmates at the point of release from custody who want help fighting opioid addictions," allowing corrections units to administer US FDA-approved Vivitrol to inmates prone to relapse and opioid dependence after detox therapy.

THREE TEXAS BILLS SEEK TO ACCOMMODATE NURSING MOTHERS IN PUBLIC, WORKPLACES. The Texas Tribune (3/6, Evans, 12K) reports the Texas Legislature is considering three bills which would offer greater accommodations for nursing mothers in public spaces and the workplace. A CDC analysis found Texas met the agency's goal of 81.9 percent of mothers breastfeeding at some point, although the agency also "found the state still struggled to implement procedures to help encourage breastfeeding." The three bills intend to provide "mother friendly" options in compliance with agency standards, but some legislators "expressed frustration" about a lack of clear policy implementation.

TRAUMA SURGEON URGES FEDERAL POLICYMAKERS TO SUPPORT EFFECTIVE AND SWIFT EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICES. In an opinion blog piece for The Hill (3/6, Kavouspour, Contributor, 1.25M), trauma surgeon Dar Kavouspour, MD, who is also assistant director of trauma at Christus Southeast Texas St. Elizabeth in Beaumont, TX, writes that "the speed in which a patient is transported to" emergency or trauma care "can literally determine their life or death." For that reason, Dr. Kavouspour urges "Washington policymakers to take this reality into serious consideration as they craft any legislation that would impact the ability of emergency response services, including emergency air medical transport by helicopter, to carry out their critical missions."

MANY WOMEN, SOME HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS UNAWARE OF SYMPTOMS OF ENDOMETRIOSIS. USA Today (3/6, Rossman, 5.28M) reports that many women and even some healthcare professionals are unaware of the symptoms of endometriosis, a condition that affects approximately one in 10 women. The condition, if left untreated, may lead to infertility. Some women "live with symptoms" of the condition "for six to 10 years before diagnosis."

GUN CONTROL ADVOCATES SEE MISSOURI COURT DECISION, SETTLEMENT AS SIGNIFICANT VICTORIES FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE. The Washington Post (3/6, 11.43M) follows a Missouri case in which a woman with mental illness who "had never been identified as a threat to herself or others by a judge or ordered to an extended mental hospital stay" was able to "pass the background check" to buy a gun. Originally intending to shoot herself, the woman shot her father. The woman's mother sued the pawn shop that sold the gun "for negligence...and won a decision at the Missouri Supreme Court that said that nothing in federal law barred" this kind of lawsuit. Under Missouri

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"law, the court ruled that dealers can be held liable if they should have known a buyer was dangerous." The shop settled with the family for $2.2 million. Advocates for gun control "say the state court's decision combined with" that "settlement are significant victories for those who want to reduce gun violence."

Global Health:

PHYSICIANS FROM COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY PRESIDENT TRUMP'S REVISED TRAVEL BAN PLAY CRUCIAL ROLE IN US HEALTHCARE, ANALYSIS SUGGESTS. The Boston Globe (3/6, Freyer, 1.08M) reports physicians "from the six Muslim-majority countries included in President Trump's revised travel ban play a critical role in caring for Americans, providing more than 14 million patient visits each year, according to an analysis by a team of graduate students in economics at Harvard University and MIT." The researchers found that the highest concentration of immigrant physicians from the countries affected by the ban were "in the Rust Belt and rural areas – the same regions that voted heavily for Trump."

JAPAN TO FIGHT HIGHER DRUG PRICES THIS YEAR, ANALYSTS EXPECT DECREASED SALES. Bloomberg News (3/7, Matsuyama, 2.41M) reports Japan has joined the fight against increasing drug prices. Officials announced in December "plans to review drug prices more frequently," and the country "is already preparing to assess the price levels of seven drugs for the next round next year." US lobbying group Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America predicts that sales in the region will "fall by 30 percent to about $62 billion through 2025." The group adds, "Japan runs the risk of multinational companies redirecting their investment in drug development elsewhere."

GERMANY ABANDONS PLAN TO LOWER PRICES OF NEW DRUGS. Reuters (3/6, Severin) reports the German government "will scrap plans announced last year to lower prices of newly launched drugs within the first 12 months should sales exceed 250 million euros ($264.83 million)."

INDIA TO REQUIRE ALL MEDICAL DEVICES TO STATE MAXIMUM RETAIL PRICE. The Times of India (3/6, 545K) reports that India's Consumer Affairs Ministry has issued a draft proposal requiring all medical devices to declare their maximum retail price (MRP). In 1995, some medical devices, like stents and heart valves, were declared drugs, so they were not included in the MRP requirement. An official said the rule change aims to bring the devices back under the MRP requirement and to include medical devices sold online.

COMMENTARY EXPLAINS NEED FOR CONTINUED US SUPPORT IN TANZANIA'S AIDS FIGHT. The Hill (3/6, Headley, 1.25M) "Ballot Box" blog contributor Jamila Headley, PhD, managing director of the Health Global Access Project, writes, "The president's budget could spell the reversal of over a decade of progress and put the world on track for a disastrous end to what has been an incredible story of transformation in the global AIDS response." During his travels to Tanzania in support of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, Headley examined the impact US contributions on Tanzania. Though President Trump did not prioritize PEPFAR initiatives, Headley hopes Congress will show more support.

SYRIAN KIDS SHOWING SIGNS OF "TOXIC STRESS," REPORT REVEALS. The AP (3/6) reports children in Syria are showing "symptoms of 'toxic stress' and are attempting self-harm and suicide in response to prolonged exposure to war," a report from Save the Children reveals. Youngsters simply "do not feel safe at school and are developing speech disorders and incontinence, and some are even losing the capacity to speak," researchers found after speaking with "450 children, adolescents and adults in seven of Syria's 14 governorates." Reuters (3/6, Taylor) also covers the story.

FOUR ASIAN COUNTRIES LIMIT US POULTRY IMPORTS FOLLOWING TENNESSEE BIRD FLU CASE. Reuters (3/6, Chung, Polansek) reports that four Asian countries, including South Korea, Japan, Taiwan and Hong Kong, "have limited imports of US poultry after the United States detected its first case this year of avian flu on a commercial chicken farm" in Tennessee, "South Korea's government and" the USA Poultry & Egg Export Council announced on March 6.

National News:

ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS DEFEND TRUMP'S CLAIM OBAMA WIRETAPPED TRUMP TOWER. President Trump's claim that President Obama wiretapped Trump Tower continues to get heavy media coverage, including extensive cable commentary and nearly 14 minutes of reporting on the network newscasts – all of which led with the story. As was the case on Monday, coverage is largely negative toward Trump, with reports charging that the White House has yet to offer any evidence to substantiate Trump's allegation and pointing out that FBI Director Comey and former intelligence officials dispute it. Typical of the tenor of much of the coverage was Hallie Jackson's lead story for NBC Nightly News (3/6, lead story, 3:20, Holt, 16.61M), which indicated that Trump's accusation would be "a huge scandal if it happened, but there's no evidence that it did." Likewise, in the lead story for ABC World News Tonight (3/6,

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lead story, 4:15, Muir, 14.63M), Brian Ross said there is "is still no proof tonight, none, to back up President Trump's Twitter claims," but White House press secretary Sean Spicer "seemed to double down on the unfounded assertions in an off camera briefing." Spicer: "There's no question that something happened. The question is, is it surveillance, is it a wiretap or whatever?"

Scott Pelley reported in lead story for the CBS Evening News (3/6, lead story, 3:10, Pelley, 11.17M) that while Trump "has continually stamped rumors with the seal of the President," the "wiretap claims seem to cross a line," and "Democrats and Republicans called for Mr. Trump to provide evidence." The Washington Post (3/6, Parker, Johnson, 11.43M), meanwhile, says "senior administration officials contorted themselves trying to defend the president's claims." The Post adds that in "the clearest sign of the uncomfortable situation the president's tweets created for his aides, the normally media-hungry White House went largely dark on Monday."

The Wall Street Journal (3/6, Ballhaus, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) says Spicer declined to provide a source for Trump's claim, saying the President's tweets were "based on numerous things," and there were "several sources" that had "brought this to light." Gloria Borger said on CNN Wolf (3/6, 224K), "I would argue that if the President believes this occurred and there was a warrant for this." The "key" is to "have it immediately declassified and just put it out there for the American public to see."

The New York Times (3/6, Schmidt, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that White House deputy press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Monday that Trump does not accept Comey's contention that Trump's allegation that Obama had him wiretapped is false. Appearing on ABC's "Good Morning America," Sanders said, "I think [Trump] firmly believes that this is a story line that has been reported pretty widely by quite a few outlets." Sanders also said that "she did not know whether Mr. Trump had been in contact with Mr. Comey. 'I don't know that he has gotten a firm denial from the F.B.I.,' she said."

USA Today (3/6, Jackson, Johnson, 5.28M) says Comey "sought a public rebuke from the Justice Department of Trump's accusation" over the weekend, but Spicer "said he doesn't know whether Comey really made that request because news reports are based on 'anonymous sources.'" Senior Justice Correspondent Pierre Thomas said on ABC World News Tonight (3/6, story 2, 1:50, Muir, 14.63M) that according to "sources," Comey "is deeply concerned that Trump's allegation is not only false but suggested the FBI acted improperly and pursued a politically motivated investigation."

Reuters (3/6, Mason) reports that the White House said Monday that Trump still has confidence in Comey. Spicer told reporters, "There's nothing that I have been told by him that would lead me to believe that anything is different than what it was prior." Pamela Brown reported on CNN's Situation Room (3/6, 554K) that she asked a source if Comey is concerned about losing his job, "We're told that's not something he is concerned about or preoccupied with. He knows it's a possibility but he has no plans at this stage to resign."

However, Politico (3/6, Nelson, 2.46M) describes the White House as "push[ing] back" against Comey. In addition to Sanders' comments, senior adviser Kellyanne Conway "hinted that Trump may have intelligence backing up his explosive claim." Asked on Fox News' Fox & Friends (3/6, 831K) if Trump knows his phones were tapped, Conway said, "He's the President of the United States. He has information and intelligence that the rest of us do not, and that's the way it should be for presidents." However, neither Conway nor Sanders "offered any proof of the president's claim, nor has any other Trump administration official."

The Washington Times (3/6, Boyer, Sherfinski, 272K) quotes Conway as telling Fox News' Fox & Friends (3/6, 831K), "Well, let's get to the bottom of it – that is the president's entire point. ... You have a number of various and credible news sources showing that there was politically motivated activity all during the campaign and suggesting that there may be more there. The president's entire point is that the people deserve to know."

In his "Talking Points Memo" segment for Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor (3/6, 767K), Bill O'Reilly said that "this whole thing is terrible for the country. America's credibility is being damaged all over the world and the Federal government's ability to even operate is being impeded. So, for the good of the country, perhaps we should tamp down the madness a bit and let Congress do its job and investigate."

Similarly, a front-page New York Times (3/6, A1, Baker, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) analysis says that in recent times "the natural friction between current and past presidents" has not "spilled over into such a public spectacle" and if it continues, "it could fray the institution of the presidency, further erode the public's already low confidence in the nation's leadership and leave both allies and enemies with the impression of an America at war with itself."

Kelly: Trump Has "Credible Evidence" Of Wiretapping. DHS Secretary Kelly said Monday that Trump has "credible evidence" that Obama ordered the wiretapping, The Hill (3/6, Hensch, 1.25M) reports. Appearing on CNN's Situation

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Room (3/6, 554K), Kelly said, “If the president of the United States said that, he’s got his reasons to say it. ... [Trump’s] got some convincing evidence that that took place.” Kelly added that “he would not guess why the Obama administration might have wiretapped a 2016 presidential candidate.”

Bloomberg Politics (3/6, Brody, Jacobs, 201K) reports that former intelligence officials “continued to dispute...Trump’s explosive allegations.” In addition to former DNI James Clapper, who said, “I can deny it,” Gen. Michael Hayden, who served as director of the CIA and NSA during the George W. Bush Administration, “said Monday that a president can’t order such wiretapping and that ‘to set the record straight’ the secret court records may need to be provided to Trump in an ‘unprecedented’ move.”

Chief Legal Analyst Dan Abrams was asked on ABC World News Tonight (3/6, story 3, 1:15, Muir, 14.63M) if there is “any scenario this wiretapping could have occurred that we just haven’t hit on yet.” Abrams said, “I don’t think so. When you get the denials that we’re getting, James Clapper, the former Director of National Intelligence, you heard him there, saying there was no wiretap against Trump Tower during the campaign conducted by any part of the national intelligence community. Then you have James Comey, who was no friend to Hillary Clinton during this campaign according to Democrats, also saying this did not happen.”

Former UK Lawmaker At Heart Of Trump Allegations Says Her Report Doesn’t Back Trump’s Claim. The Washington Post (3/6, Adam, 11.43M) reports that former British legislator Louise Mensch “is at the heart of the Trump administration’s explosive allegation.” Mensch “is the writer behind an article published on the eve of the election titled: ‘EXCLUSIVE: FBI ‘Granted FISA Warrant’ Covering Trump Camp’s Ties To Russia.’” The article, which was “published on the right-leaning, libertarian website Heat Street,” has “come under the spotlight” following Trump’s allegations over the weekend. However, in tweets Monday, “Mensch emphasized that her reporting does not back up Trump’s wiretapping claim, even though the White House cited her article to justify the allegation.”

Republican Lawmakers Largely Silent While Democrats Pounce. Politico (3/6, Everett, Bresnahan, 2.46M) reports that “more than 48 hours after the initial allegation, Republicans in Congress remained mostly mum as the controversy flared and threatened to create a lingering distraction for the GOP as they try to pass major legislation in the coming weeks.” Neither Senate Majority Leader McConnell nor House Speaker Ryan commented on the matter and “some of the chief critics of the Obama administration on Capitol Hill said there was simply no evidence they knew of to support Trump’s claim.” Politico describes Republicans as being placed “in a box.” If they back Trump, “they risk being proven wrong by congressional probes into Russia’s influence on the election,” but “they also know all too well that that Trump harbors grudges and values loyalty from his allies.”

Republicans were not entirely silent, however. Rep. Chris Stewart said on MSNBC’s MTP Daily (3/6) that “there’s been an accusation made and I don’t know why you would object to us investigating that. If we investigate it, and we say no, that’s not true, then the American people know. If we investigate it, and we find evidence of it and we share that with the American people, once again, then they know. Isn’t that a better outcome than putting your hands over your ears and say nothing we don’t to want look at it?”

Some opinion writers were also open to the possibility that Trump’s claims are true. For example, in an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (3/6, Subscription Publication, 6.37M), Michael Doran, a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, considered a scenario in which Trump and Clapper, who said that “there was no such wiretap activity mounted against the president,” are both right. Doran posits that the NSA was charged with monitoring the calls of Trump associates, in which case Trump’s accusation and Mr. Clapper’s denial are would both be true. Jeff Pegues said on the CBS Evening News (3/6, story 2, 2:15, Pelley, 11.17M) that a number of “Trump associates are under scrutiny, including former National Security Adviser Mike Flynn, one-time campaign chairman Paul Manafort, foreign policy adviser Carter Page, and adviser Roger Stone.” CBS News contributor Fran Townsend, who led the Justice Department’s FISA unit, said, “The likelihood that there is a counterintelligence investigation by the FBI against one or more of those individuals that could, in fact, support a request to the FISA court for a surveillance warrant I think is pretty good.”

In an op-ed for USA Today (3/6, 5.28M), University of Tennessee law professor Glenn Harlan Reynolds writes that it is “certainly not impossible to believe that the Obama administration spied on Trump” and it is not “unbelievable that under the Obama administration, supposedly non-partisan civil servants would go after political opponents.” Reynolds argues that “what this really needs is a special prosecutor, someone from outside the politically tainted Justice Department, to look into the political abuse of surveillance laws by the Obama administration.”

Democrats were much more vocal and critical Monday, often casting Trump’s allegation as an effort to distract from questions about his campaign aides’ contacts with Russian officials, and arguing that either Trump is not telling the truth, or a court found probable cause to authorize a criminal wiretap. Sen. Jack Reed said on MSNBC MTP Daily (3/6), “The idea that the President wiretapping the Trump campaign flies in the face of the process that you need a court order to

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conduct a wiretap." Reed added that "it seems as if President Trump was reacting to something he read, not verifying the facts. ... I think in many respects, it's just simply the President trying to confuse the issue."

Sen. Mazie Hirono said on CNN Wolf (3/6, 224K), "This is yet another distracting early morning tweet from President Trump which has no basis in fact. We should not be distracted from the issue at hand, which is let's have an independent investigation into Russian attempts to interfere with our elections and the Trump team's ties to Russia." Hirono added, "We're going down that path of where President Trump wants us to go, which is very distracting from what the Russians were attempting to do with regard to our elections."

Rep. Adam Schiff, ranking Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said on CNN's The Lead (3/6, 320K), "I have no idea...what he is talking about. I can't go into particulars of the investigation, but the whole idea that President Obama ordered him to be wiretapped illegally is just preposterous. There are only two possibilities here. One is that there was a FISA warrant against Trump and his associates, and Jim Clapper said that is just not true, it never happened. The other is that there was a criminal wiretap authorized by the Department of Justice. If the reports are correct, Director Comey says that's not true."

Rep. Jim Himes said on MSNBC's Morning Joe (3/6, 270K), "We all know on the face of it the tweet is either wrong or it points to a scandal unlike we have ever seen." Himes added, "Talk about walking yourself into a box canyon. The President either lied with the most wild conspiracy theory apparently out of Breitbart did that in front of the whole world, set the FBI director sort of against him, or if there is something here, what it is likely to be is that somebody – well, the FBI, most likely – at some point had probable cause to go on to a judge and say we have probable cause against somebody in Trump Tower and give us a warrant."

Rep. Seth Moulton said on CNN's Situation Room (3/6, 554K), "It's absolutely shocking" and it "really means two things. One, if the President – if President Obama was doing this illegally, then we in Congress need to get to the bottom of it. If he was doing it legally, it means that he was able to obtain a warrant against the new President of the United States. Both are frightening for our national security and both heighten the need to seriously investigate the allegations about Russia's interference in our elections."

Rep. John Garamendi was asked on CNN's Situation Room (3/6, 554K) if he believes Trump has "some convincing evidence to make such a shocking allegation against President Obama." Garamendi said, "He does not. But he lives in an alternate fact world. ... This man has more alternate facts about what's going on in the world than any other person I've ever heard of and it is extremely dangerous because the world cannot count on him or count on what he might do next."

Opinion pages and television commentators are also largely negative toward Trump. For example, the Washington Post (3/6, 11.43M) says in an editorial that while presidents enter their terms "with a store of credibility that comes with the office," Trump "is burning through his with breathtaking speed." The Post describes Trump's accusation that Obama had the phones at Trump Tower tapped the "latest rash expenditure from his already depleted trust account."

USA Today (3/6, 5.28M) says in an editorial that if Trump's allegations were true, "it would be a political scandal of historic proportion, and a crime by the former president." However, Trump "has offered no evidence to back it up, and none has come to light." In an editorial, the Charlotte (NC) Observer (3/6, 656K) decries what it says is the "lunacy" coming from the White House. The Observer calls it "telling – and troubling – that Trump's tweets show a glib assumption that illegal wiretapping of a presidential candidate is something a sitting president might do," and "concerning that Trump has once again widened the fissure between his office and the intelligence community."

Jake Tapper was critical of Trump's aides, saying on CNN's The Lead (3/6, 320K), "The people around President Trump who are enabling this nonsense, the ones who know better, you have to ask yourselves this question. Are you really serving the President? Are you really serving the American people?"

Kirsten Powers said on CNN's The Lead (3/6, 320K), "What I can say is that this is consistent with his behavior since he's become President in that he wants to...destabilize things and he does want to tear down the institutions that people have come to trust in this country and around the world, frankly. ... I think he intentionally wants to create an environment where...his people don't trust anybody but him." In his Wall Street Journal (3/6, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) column, Gerald Seib argues that if Trump's claim was intended to distract attention from questions about Russian efforts to influence the presidential election, it failed because by making the unsubstantiated allegation, Trump has assured that the investigation will go deeper.

Dana Milbank writes in his Washington Post (3/6, 11.43M) column that Trump's White House "is the ultimate faith-based initiative – and The Donald is the deity. Things aren't true because they can be proven via the scientific method or any other" but "because Trump believes them to be true." In his Washington Post (3/6, 11.43M) column, Eugene Robinson

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writes that if Congress does launch an investigation as Trump has demanded, it "would necessarily have to look into the alleged reason for the alleged wiretapping: contacts between the Trump campaign and the Russians." Trump, Robinson argues, "has put himself in a no-win position." If GOP leaders deny his request for an investigation, "he suffers an embarrassing public rebuke." If they grant it, "Trump sets in motion a process he will not be able to control."

Richard Cohen writes in his Washington Post (3/6, 11.43M) column that conservatives "have gone over to Trump because they hate his enemies more than they do him." For "too many people, their best and only reason for voting for Trump was that he was not Clinton." But "sticking with Trump out of a refusal to admit a mistake is hardly wise."

MEDIA ANALYSES: TRUMP'S NEW IMMIGRATION ORDER MORE LIKELY TO WIN COURT APPROVAL. President Trump's new immigration order received widespread media coverage, including reports on all three major network newscasts. On cable, meanwhile, the story was overshadowed by commentary on the Trump Tower wiretapping controversy. While the underlying tone in much of the analysis remained hostile toward Trump's new order, reports also cast it as an improvement over his first attempt and as more likely to pass legal muster. Democrats and immigration advocates, on the other hand, were not persuaded. The New York Times (3/6, Thrush, Subscription Publication, 13.9M), for example, notes Senate Minority Leader Schumer described the order as a "watered-down ban" as well as "mean-spirited and un-American," and Roll Call (3/6, Bowman, 63K) quoted ACLU legal director David Cole as warning, "President Trump, we'll see you in court." Yet the Los Angeles Times (3/6, Savage, 4.52M), in a story typical of the tenor of the coverage, says the "revised travel ban retreats on nearly every issue that triggered chaos in airports and lawsuits in federal courts across the nation." Likewise, the CBS Evening News (3/6, story 3, 2:20, Pelley, 11.17M) called the new order a "sharp contrast" to the first "both in substance and its rollout," and NBC Nightly News (3/6, story 2, 2:35, Holt, 16.61M) said it was "far more reserved."

Along similar lines, the Washington Post (3/6, Nakamura, Zapotosky, 11.43M) says "the new guidelines mark a dramatic departure from Trump's original ban," the AP (3/6, Caldwell, Colvin) that the order "eliminates some of the most contentious aspects" of the previous version, Politico (3/6, Gerstein, McCaskill, 2.46M) that it included "significant concessions," and Vox (3/6, Lind, 1.15M) that while "Trump is by nature loath to admit a mistake...it's hard not to read the changes to the executive order as an admission that the rollout of the original travel ban was a legal and political disaster."

ABC World News Tonight (3/6, story 4, 2:20, Vega, 14.63M) said "travel ban 2.0 rescinds the original, now stalled in courts, addressing some of the red flags raised by opponents," but the Washington Times (3/6, Miller, Noble, 272K) cautions that "a new round of court challenges appeared unavoidable."

Reuters (3/6, Holland, Ainsley) reports, "legal experts" said yesterday's order "would...be harder to challenge because it affects fewer people living in the United States and allows more exemptions to protect them." The new order, notes Reuters, "takes effect on March 16," and "keeps a 90-day ban on travel to the United States by citizens of Iran, Libya, Syria, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen." However, "it applies only to new visa applicants, meaning some 60,000 people whose visas were revoked under the previous order will now be permitted to enter."

Moreover, says Los Angeles Times (3/6, Savage, 4.52M), the order "will not apply to foreign students, engineers, tourists and relatives who are traveling to this country or temporarily traveling aboard." And as NPR (3/6, Domonoske, 1.92M) reported, "Administration officials left open the possibility that other countries could be added to future visa-issuance bans, or that countries currently on the list could be removed."

Roll Call (3/6, Ratnam, 63K) noted that "unlike the Jan. 27 order, Monday's action does not permanently ban the entry of Syrian refugees," while the Washington Post (3/6, Nakamura, Zapotosky, 11.43M) indicates that under the new order "the nation's refugee program will be suspended for 120 days, and it will not accept more than 50,000 refugees in a year, down from the 110,000 cap set by the Obama administration." The Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review (3/6, Alexander, 170K) notes, however, that "Obama's 2016 goal was a historic high," and "the US has set a refugee cap between 70,000 and 80,000 every year since 2007, according to State Department data."

Vox (3/6, Lind, 1.15M) stated that the "much more narrowly tailored and thoughtfully considered...ban" is "much more likely to stand up in court," and the Christian Science Monitor (3/6, LaFranchi, 387K) reported that "the new order no longer prioritizes the resettlement of religious minorities – read Christians, by and large – from those six Muslim-majority countries." The Monitor added that "that prioritization was one of the key features of the original order that had critics and some jurists concluding the travel suspension was actually a Muslim ban that would not pass constitutional muster." An unnamed "senior Department of Homeland Security official" told reporters, "This is not a Muslim ban in any way, shape, or form." The Washington Times (3/6, Noble, 272K), meanwhile, quotes a "senior DOJ official" as saying, "We anticipate most of the challenges should be mooted by this new executive order and the Department of Justice will be filling the appropriate briefs and letters in those existing cases."

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Presidential counselor Kellyanne Conway said on Fox News' Fox & Friends (3/6, 831K), "What's different is it has effective date of March 16th, and here are the legal permanent residents who were always excluded from it but that's made much more clear now. ... I think people will see six or seven major points about this executive order that do clarify who is covered."

At any rate, USA Today (3/6, Korte, 5.28M) reports, "White House aides say the president still stands behind the original executive order." Said press secretary Sean Spicer, "When you look at how the court adjudicated that, their facts were wrong. ... I think we recognized that we could have been in litigation for up to a year on this, and that would have left the country exposed. We 100% maintain that the executive order as initially drafted is 100% constitutional and legal."

Business Insider (3/6, Relman, 3.42M) noted that "when...Trump first signed an executive order restricting immigration to the US, he was surrounded by advisers and photographers at the Pentagon." Yesterday, however, he signed the "revised version...behind closed doors and without fanfare." Secretary of State Tillerson, Attorney General Sessions, and Homeland Security Secretary Kelly then "held a short media briefing to announce the new ban," in which "they did not take any questions from journalists."

USA Today (3/6, Gomez, 5.28M) quotes Tillerson as saying, "It is the president's solemn duty to protect the American people, and with this order, President Trump is exercising his rightful authority to keep our people safe. ... As threats to our security continue to evolve and change, common sense dictates that we continually reevaluate and reassess the systems we rely upon to protect our country." ABC World News Tonight (3/6, story 4, 2:20, Vega, 14.63M) showed Tillerson saying, "This is part of our ongoing efforts to eliminate vulnerabilities that radical Islamist terrorists can and will exploit for destructive ends."

Fox News' Special Report (3/6, 1.53M), meanwhile, showed Tillerson stating, "While no system can be made completely infallible, the American people can have high confidence we are identifying ways to improve the vetting process and thus keep terrorists from entering our country." AFP (3/6, Beatty) reports that Tillerson also described the order "as 'a vital measure' for strengthening national security," while "Sessions added that it 'provides a needed pause' allowing a review of how America deals with travelers from 'countries of concern.'" Sessions added that "three of these nations are state sponsors of terrorism," and "others had served as 'safe havens' for terror operatives."

The Military Times (3/6, Shane III, 734K) notes that Kelly said, "We are not immune to terrorist threats, and our enemies often use our own freedoms in generosity against us. ... Today's executive order…will make America more secure and address long overdue concerns about the security of our immigration system." The New York Times (3/6, Thrush, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that Kelly also said yesterday, "If you have a current valid visa to travel, we welcome you," but "unregulated, un-vetted travel is not a universal privilege, especially when national security is at stake."

Roll Call (3/6, Bowman, 63K) reported "Congressional Democrats were quick to condemn...Trump's new executive order," but "there isn't much they can do about it." While "Connecticut Sen. Christopher S. Murphy announced that he would introduce a bill to overturn Trump's new order," with "Trump's party in control" of the Senate "the Connecticut lawmaker's bill is not likely to move forward." Sen. Mazie Hirono said on CNN Wolf (3/6, 224K), "He made some small changes, apparently, to the very sweeping travel ban that he issued earlier. I haven't studied all of the provisions of it, but it's still basically a Muslim ban. It's still a ban based on one's religion, and every time our country has targeted a minority group for discriminate other treatment, we have been proven to be very, very wrong, and the President is wrong in this instance."

The Detroit Free Press (3/6, Spangler, 1.01M) reports that "Michigan Democrats – including US Reps. John Conyers of Detroit, Debbie Dingell of Dearborn, Dan Kildee of Flint Township, Sander Levin of Royal Oak and Brenda Lawrence of Southfield – argued that the new order changes little." Democratic Rep. Seth Moulton said on CNN's Situation Room (3/6, 554K) that the new order is "a step in the right direction. But let us not be distracted that this order weakens our national security. It does the opposite of what the President says it will do."

McClatchy (3/6, Ordoñez, Kumar, 74K) describes the new order as "softening some of the most objectionable pieces but still leaving the policy vulnerable to legal challenges," and reports "criticism from groups that help refugees and immigrants was swift." Human Rights First's Eleanor Acer said, "This order is essentially religious discrimination masquerading, once again, in the language of national security. ... Legal wordsmithing cannot obscure the discriminatory intent and impact of the order." Hans van de Weerd, chair of Refugee Council USA, similarly charged that "the order does nothing to improve our national security and will have painful human consequences: It will separate families and leave tens of thousands of people – mostly women and children – exposed to grave danger and despair."

To Politico (3/6, Toosi, 2.46M), "Trump's newly revised travel ban may at first seem to be more limited in its reach than his sweeping earlier order suspending refugee admissions and barring entry for citizens of several predominantly Muslim countries." However, it "still contains provisions that could ultimately slow travel and immigration to the United States from

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every corner of the globe," and "could ultimately backfire on Americans wishing to travel abroad, and, for some countries, what appear to be temporary bans could effectively prove permanent."

Science Magazine (3/6, Wadman, 410K) reported that "the academic community was not appeased by the changes." Peter McPherson, president of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities in Washington, DC, said in a statement, "During the 2015–16 school year, more than 15,450 students and over 2100 scholars from the six countries targeted in this ban studied and conducted research at US universities. ... The pipeline of new students and scholars from those countries – many of whom are in the midst of the college application process – is now cut off." Mary Sue Coleman, president of the Association of American Universities, said, "The new order, like its predecessor, poses a fundamental long-term threat to America's global leadership in higher education, research, and innovation."

Iraq Excluded From New Order. The Military Times (3/6, Shane III, 734K) reports "Trump's new executive order on immigration won't block Iraqis from traveling to the United States," and "should allow Iraqi translators and other foreign nationals who helped US troops in overseas war zones to travel to America, although much depends on where they are in existing vetting processes."

The Washington Times (3/6, Boyer, Miller, 272K) notes "the administration said Iraq was removed form the list, despite the presence of Islamic State fighters in the country, because of extra steps the Iraq government was taking to share information and assist the US in vetting travelers." NPR (3/6, Domonoske, 1.92M) cited a "senior administration official" who "told reporters...Iraq has agreed to the 'timely repatriation' of Iraqi citizens in the US who are slated for deportation," whereas "as of last summer, Iraq was one of 23 countries considered 'recalcitrant' for refusing to cooperate with the US in deporting their citizens."

Politico (3/6, Gerstein, McCaskill, 2.46M) reported "Iraqi officials angrily protested the inclusion of their country on the original travel ban list," and "Tillerson appeared to allude to that blowback Monday when he publicly paid tribute to Iraq's role in the fight against terrorism," saying, "Iraq is an important ally in the fight to defeat ISIS." The New York Times (3/6, Walsh, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that the decision to exclude Iraq "came after pressure from the State Department and the Pentagon — and as American troops are working closely with Iraqi soldiers in the battle for Mosul." The AP (3/6, Abdul-Zahra, Salaheddin) also reports the White House "removed Iraq from the list under pressure from the State Department and the Defense Department, which had noted the close cooperation between the two countries in battling the IS group." Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman Ahmed Jamal told the AP yesterday, "Today our battle in Mosul is a battle that Iraqis are conducting on behalf of the entire world," and "the revision of the travel ban will 'enhance' the US-Iraqi partnership in that fight."

The Washington Post (3/6, Salim, 11.43M) similarly reports that "Iraqi officials on Monday praised the Trump administration's decision...calling it an 'important step in the right direction,'" and said it "reinforces the strategic alliance between Baghdad and Washington in many areas, particularly the fight against terrorism."

Administration: FBI Investigating 300 Refugees For Terror Ties. Bloomberg Politics (3/6, Epstein, Talev, 201K) reports "Trump and his aides repeatedly have described the travel directive as an urgent national security matter." In fact, "Administration officials said the FBI is looking into some 300 individuals admitted to the US as refugees as part of counterterrorism probes," though "a congressional aide said it's unclear whether any of those investigations have turned up anything."

Moreover, the Washington Post (3/6, Nakamura, Zapotosky, 11.43M) reports, "a Department of Justice official who briefed reporters earlier in the day could not estimate how many of those refugees were admitted from the six countries listed in the ban." Another Washington Post (3/6, Lee, 11.43M) analysis says that "this 300 figure is meaningless," as "300...is a tiny fraction of all resettled refugees in the United States." In fact, "since Congress created the Federal Refugee Program through the Refugee Act of 1980, about 3 million refugees have resettled in the United States, according to Pew Research Center."

Meanwhile, CNN's Situation Room (3/6, Blitzer, 554K) reported that during an appearance on CNN, DHS Secretary Kelly was asked how many of those refugees came from the six countries listed in the new executive order. Kelly said, "I don't know how many are from those six," adding that the FBI's investigation hasn't concluded. Wolf Blitzer asked Kelly, "Don't you think you needed that intelligence before you release the travel ban affecting the six majority-Muslim countries?" Kelly responded that the countries on the list are either designated by the State Department as terrorist sponsors, or they "are countries in collapse."

Graham, Corker Praise New Order. USA Today (3/6, Kelly, Collins, 5.28M) reports Sen. Lindsey Graham said on Monday "he believes Trump's revised order is better and will 'pass legal muster.'" Said Graham, "I congratulate the Administration for modifying the original order to ensure that it is prospective in application, protective of those with valid

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visas and legal status, and exempts Iraqis, as five thousand Americans are currently fighting alongside them against (the Islamic State). ... I believe the new order will withstand legal challenges as it's drafted in a fashion as to not be a religious ban, but a ban on individuals coming from compromised governments and failed states."

Reuters (3/6, Zengerle), meanwhile, reports that Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman Bob Corker "said on Monday he was 'very encouraged' by the approach...Trump's administration took to its new immigration executive order, and pleased that Iraq was removed from the list of countries subject to visa restrictions."

Washington State AG: Trump "Has Capitulated On Numerous Key Provisions." The Wall Street Journal (3/6, Meckler, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) that Bob Ferguson, Washington State's attorney general who sued to block the first order, said he was still considering his next legal steps, but weighed in on yesterday's version, declaring, "It is the president's solemn duty to protect the American people, and with the order, President Trump is exercising his rightful authority to keep our people safe. ... By rescinding his earlier executive order, President Trump makes one thing perfectly clear: His original travel ban was indefensible – legally, constitutionally and morally. ... The president has capitulated on numerous key provisions blocked by our lawsuit." Reuters (3/6, Rosenberg, Levine) notes Ferguson also said "he will likely decide on the next litigation steps this week after consulting with state universities and businesses about potential harms." Said Ferguson, "We need to do our homework and be thoughtful about this."

Order Says Government Will Publicize Information About "Honor Killings" By Foreign Nationals. Politico (3/6, Toosi, 2.46M) reports that in a line that "leaps out like few others in the revised travel ban...Trump issued Monday," the Administration said "the American government...will start publicizing information about 'acts of gender-based violence against women, including so-called "honor killings," in the United States by foreign nationals.'" Politico adds that "the statement is part of a broader section that pledges the US government will begin releasing data on terrorism-related offenses committed by immigrants."

Breitbart (3/6, Munro, 2.02M) reported that the order "bolsters the often-ignored language in the current N-400 citizenship application document, which asks applicants if they have 'EVER advocated (either directly or indirectly) the overthrow of any government by force or violence? Have you EVER persecuted (either directly or indirectly) any person because of race, religion, national origin, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion?'"

LATimes Analysis: Order's "Little-Noticed Provision" Gives Trump Extra "Leverage" In Foreign Dealings. The Los Angeles Times (3/6, Bennett, 4.52M) reports "a little-noticed provision in...Trump's revised restrictions on entry into the country could remake how the US conducts foreign policy, creating leverage for a president who promised to bring his hard-nosed deal-making mind-set to American diplomacy." In the order, "Trump ordered a global review to determine whether citizens from additional countries should be blocked from coming to the US as well," and asked "the departments of State and Homeland Security, along with intelligence agencies, to determine which countries come up short on cooperating with US immigration officials who are vetting travelers who want to enter the country." That "review gives Trump, who spent his adult life working out real estate transactions, the opportunity to demand concessions from more than 190 countries." To the Times, "At stake is the ability of their citizens and nationals to travel to the United States."

On CNN's Situation Room, Kelly said, "We are now looking at other countries," and "there are countries out there that we'll ask, like Iraq has done...to cooperate with us better, to get us the information we need to safeguard the country."

Studies Appear To Contradict Order's Rationale. The CBS Evening News (3/6, story 4, 0:35, Pelley, 11.17M) reported that in Trump's address to Congress last week, he "said the vast majority of individuals convicted of terrorism and terrorism-related offenses since 9/11 came here from outside of our country, and the attorney general repeated that" Monday. But "it turns out the facts tell a different story. A study by Fordham University School of Law says 78 percent of ISIS-related prosecutions in the US involve American citizens, and 53 percent of Al Qaeda related cases involve people born in the US."

In addition, a Washington Post (3/6, Berman, 11.43M) analysis states that "according to data collected by New America, a Washington-based nonprofit group," the "new ban...has something big in common with the earlier version: It would not have kept out of the United States anyone responsible for a deadly terror attack since 2001." According to the Post, "There have been 10 fatal attacks tied to Islamist extremist ideology or otherwise deemed international terrorism since 2001 and the people behind those attacks are from none of the banned countries."

Monmouth Poll: Public Opposed Original Order 49%-39%. US News & World Report (3/6, Levy, 1.02M) reported that "according to a new poll from Monmouth University released Monday, just 39 percent of US adults said they believe the original travel ban was a good idea. Meanwhile, 49 percent said the executive order...was a bad idea." The poll, which was "taken before the White House announced the new version of its executive order on Monday, found that approximately the same number – 50 percent – said Trump should have moved on from the ban to other issues,

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compared with 38 percent who favored his decision to take a second stab at it."

NYTimes Examines Yale Law Group Fight Against Travel Order As Echo Of 1991 Efforts. As part of its "Retro Report" series, the New York Times (3/6, Haberman, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) says former Yale Law School students' help drafting a petition to stop the first immigration executive order is an echo of previous efforts by the school's legal experts. Yale law professor Michael Wishnie recalls the 1991 movement he took part in that led to the release of Haitian immigrants from Guantanamo. Anticipating legal pushback on the newly released order, Professor Koh, who was also involved in the 1991 effort, said, "Your goal is to make the law serve justice, not just make the law serve power."

Editorial Writers Weigh In. Under the headline "Trump's New Travel Ban Is As Arbitrary And Senseless As The First," the Washington Post (3/6, 11.43M) editorializes that "the ban, while doing virtually nothing to deter terrorist attacks in this country, aids the recruitment efforts of the Islamic State and other extremist groups by substantiating their case that anti-Islamic bigotry thrives in the United States." While "the courts will decide whether the order...passes legal muster," it is "already clear...that it remains antithetical to American interests, values, tradition and security."

In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/6, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) describes the order as unnecessary, even as it praises it as more reasonable than the January version. USA Today (3/6, 5.28M), in an editorial, similarly calls the order "an improvement on the original" but "still a disappointment," because "the military and law enforcement need cooperation from Muslims at home and abroad to uncover terror plots and identify targets," and "alienating them with sweeping policies that cast suspicion on entire populations is a dangerous game."

The New York Times (3/6, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) headlines its editorial "President Trump's Muslim Ban Lite," and refers to a "downscaled, but still pernicious, version of the ban," which amounts to "an implicit acknowledgment that the Trump administration stumbled spectacularly in its first major attempt to deliver on a campaign promise."

In its editorial page, the Los Angeles Times (3/6, 4.52M) calls the order "no less misguided and damaging...than the original," and concludes that "Trump's aim here is not to improve national security, but to ostracize. And it will be to Americans' shame if he gets away with it."

Farhana Khera, the president and executive director of Muslim Advocates, "a civil rights legal organization," and Johnathan Smith, the group's legal director, write in the New York Times (3/6, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) that the new order "still suffers from a fundamental, and fatal, flaw: It constitutes unlawful religious discrimination. ... The Muslim ban and President Trump's relentless attacks on Islam are not just an assault on thousands of patriotic, innocent Americans — they violate our Constitution and our most fundamental American values and beliefs."

TRUMP WANTS CONGRESS TO INVESTIGATE LEAKS OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION. President Trump is asking Congress to investigate leaks of classified information. The Washington Times (3/6, Boyer, 272K) describes the President and his advisers as "frustrated" by leaked intelligence reports linking the Trump campaign to Russia. White House press secretary Sean Spicer "said Mr. Trump wants lawmakers on the House and Senate intelligence committees to look into 'pervasive leaks of national security classified information.'"

Grassley Probing Allegations FBI Worked With MI6 Agent Who Investigated Trump. The Hill (3/6, Easley, 1.25M) reports Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley has begin an investigation to allegations that the FBI worked with MI6 agent Christopher Steele, "who authored a controversial opposition research dossier on President Trump during the 2016 election." In a letter to FBI Director Comey, Grassley "asked for records pertaining to any agreements the agency may have had" with Steele. Grassley wrote, "The idea that the FBI and associates of the Clinton campaign would pay Mr. Steele to investigate the Republican nominee for President in the run-up to the election raises further questions about the FBI's independence from politics, as well as the Obama administration's use of law enforcement and intelligence agencies for political ends."

Kaptur Asks Public For Any Info On Team Trump-Russian Meetings At RNC In Cleveland. On its website, WKSU-FM Kent, OH (3/6, Niedermier, 6K) reported, "If you were at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland last summer," Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) "wants to know if you witnessed any meetings between President Donald Trump's campaign team and Russian officials." WKSU-FM added, "Some meetings at the RNC between the two have been confirmed, and Kaptur wants cab drivers, restaurant and hotel operators and journalists to tell her want they saw or heard." Kaptur, commenting on what may help shed light on the meetings, is quoted as saying, "Unearthing your photos, unearthing your transcripts, unearthing articles you may have written last year. And just innocent citizens who may have been present when some of these individuals were meeting."

Report: Russian Hackers Trying To Extort Liberal Groups. The New York Post (3/6, Moore, 3.82M) cites a Bloomberg News report which said Russian hackers "are poaching embarrassing details from the emails of liberal organizations in

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the US and demanding hush-money payments of up to $150,000." According to Bloomberg, "at least a dozen groups – including the Center for American Progress and Arabella Advisors – have been contacted about extortion attempts since the presidential election." The hackers are demanding ransoms "from about $30,000 up to $150,000 – payable in untraceable bitcoins," and are sending "copies of the pilfered data" along with their demands.

Democratic Sen. Murphy Met With Russian Ambassador Kislyak In 2014. The Connecticut Post (3/6, Vigdor, 268K) reported that Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT) "met with the same Russian ambassador as Donald Trump's beleaguered attorney general," Jeff Sessions, "whom Murphy is demanding resign." On Monday, Murphy's office "confirmed" that he "was part of a bipartisan group of senators who huddled with Sergey Kislyak in March 2014 to air their concerns over Russia's annexation of Crimea." However, Murphy's office "spurned comparisons between the formal conclave and a pair of pre-election meetings between Kislyak and Sessions when Sessions was a senator from Alabama and a Trump campaign confidante on national security matters."

Kagan: Republicans Serving As Russia's Accomplices After The Fact. Robert Kagan writes in his Washington Post (3/6, 11.43M) column that Republicans are "serving as enablers of Russian interference in this country's political system." If Russia "had intervened to help elect the Democratic nominee," he argues, they would be "demanding a bipartisan select committee of Congress, or a congressionally mandated blue-ribbon panel of experts and senior statesmen with full subpoena powers to look into the matter." Instead, they "are covering up." Kagan writes that by "stand[ing] in the way of thorough, open and immediate investigations, they become Russia's accomplices after the fact."

Ross Helped Oust Russians From Bank Of Cyprus Board. The New York Times (3/6, Higgins, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that Commerce Secretary Ross' purchase of shares in the Bank of Cyprus three years ago raised concerns among President Trump's critics because the bank's vice chairman "used to work with Vladimir V. Putin in the Leningrad K.G.B." and "five other [were] Russians on its board." However, "while several of Mr. Trump's closest allies have come under scrutiny for Kremlin ties, Mr. Ross, who was confirmed by the Senate on Monday, was no friend to the Russians in Cyprus – and in fact, he forced them out of the bank." The Times cites "bankers, lawyers and others who have worked closely with the Bank of Cyprus," who said that "within months of Mr. Ross's becoming a shareholder in the summer of 2014, all six Russians who were on the board when he arrived, including Mr. Putin's former K.G.B. colleague, Vladimir Strzhalkovsky, were gone, ousted in a rolling purge of Kremlin influence."

SESSIONS AMENDS SENATE TESTIMONY, BUT SAYS HIS ORIGINAL STATEMENTS WERE "CORRECT." In a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee explaining his confirmation testimony, Attorney General Sessions argued that his testimony was "correct," USA Today (3/6, Johnson, 5.28M) reports. Sessions wrote, "I did not mention communications I had had with the Russian ambassador over the years because the question did not ask about them." Sessions' letter "offered a similar defense of his prior testimony as he provided last week during a news conference at the Justice Department, where he announced his recusal from the Russia investigation."

The Los Angeles Times (3/6, Wilber, 4.52M) says Sessions "sought...to clarify his denial to the Senate about contact with Russian officials during the presidential campaign," and the Washington Post (3/6, Zapotosky, 11.43M) says Sessions framed the letter "as a supplement to his testimony during his January confirmation hearing." In it, he "acknowledged that he spoke briefly to Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland in July and that he met with Kislyak in his Senate office in September." Politico (3/6, McCaskill, 2.46M) reports that Sessions said in the letter that he "'honestly' answered a question from Minnesota Sen. Al Franken about contact – as a Trump surrogate."

Democrats Take Aim At Sessions' Top Deputy. In a separate story, Politico (3/6, Kim, Everett, 2.46M) reports that Senate Democrats "are turning to their next target: Attorney General Jeff Sessions' top deputy," Rod Rosenstein, who President Trump has "nominated to become the Justice Department's No. 2." Since Sessions has recused himself from any federal probe involving the Trump campaign, "the weight of the Russia investigation would fall on Rosenstein if he's confirmed," and Democrats "are using what would usually be a noncontroversial nomination to extract as many concessions from Rosenstein as possible." The New York Times (3/6, Lichtblau, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) says that Democrats "who have otherwise expressed confidence in Mr. Rosenstein's prosecutorial skills said they were skeptical that he – or anyone besides an independent outside counsel – would not be subject to political pressure while overseeing such an investigation."

In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/6, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) argues that Democrats are trying to extort Rosenstein by threatening to hold up his nomination if he does not agree to appoint a special prosecutor. The Journal calls on Rosenstein to refuse to acquiesce as a matter of political principle.

NYTIMES ANALYSIS: WEST WING SEES "DEEP STATE" AT WORK AGAINST ADMINISTRATION. The New York Times (3/6, Davis, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) considers the notion of the "deep state," a "shadowy network of agency or military officials who secretly conspire to influence government policy." While it is "more often used to describe

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countries like Egypt, Turkey and Pakistan, where authoritarian elements band together to undercut democratically elected leaders," Steve Bannon and others in the West Wing "see the influence of such forces at work within the United States, essentially arguing that their own government is being undermined from within." While neither Bannon nor President Trump has used the term publicly, the Times calls the notion "an extraordinary contention for a sitting president to make."

PRIEBUS UNDER FIRE AS TRUMP WEATHERS "ROCKY STRETCH." The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (3/6, Nelson, 513K) reports that the future of Chief of Staff Priebus "once again is the focus of national political reports after another rocky stretch" for President Trump. A Politico piece this weekend "carried the headline 'Knives are out for Reince'" that contains "harsh comments about Priebus' performance," with colleagues calling him "a micro-manager" and accusing him of "sheer incompetence."

SPICER HOLDS AUDIO-ONLY GAGGLE AFTER A WEEK WITHOUT A TELEVISED BRIEFING. USA Today (3/6, Estepa, 5.28M) reports, "Anyone hoping to see Trump spokesman Sean Spicer on camera only got to hear the sound of his voice on Monday, when he held an audio-only press gaggle." Spicer has not held an on-camera briefing in the past week. Politico (3/6, Nussbaum, Gold, 2.46M) reports under the headline "The Disappearing Sean Spicer" that "after two flayings on Saturday Night Live, sustained mockings on late-night shows, and a series of televised confrontations with reporters," Spicer "is retreating from the harsh glare of the daily televised briefing."

The New York Times (3/6, Grynbaum, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports, "Past press secretaries said it was unusual that they would stay off television for a full week. And Mr. Spicer's absence from the airwaves coincides with a rough period: He was criticized" by President Trump in a Fox News interview, "and his closest ally in the administration," Chief of Staff Priebus, "is under fire from rival factions within the White House."

"SOURCES": IN VIDEO, TRUMP WAS ANGRY AT WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL MCGAHN. In continuing coverage, the Daily Mail (3/6, Martosko, 4.59M) reports that video "appearing to show the impact of an agitated Donald Trump dressing down top aides Steve Bannon and Reince Priebus on Friday actually depicted fallout from the president directing his ire at White House counsel Don McGahn, according to three sources familiar with the tense meeting. 'He was chewing out the White House counsel about Sessions,' a senior administration official" said, "referring to Attorney General Jeff Sessions' move a day earlier to recuse himself from federal investigations linking Russian officials with Trump campaign personnel." The Daily Mail added, "Earlier reporting described Friday's shout-fest as a rebuke of Bannon and Priebus. But an official close to McGahn confirmed that the longtime Trump lawyer was one of the aides in the president's crosshairs."

SENATE VOTES TO REVERSE OBAMA-ERA RULE ON LABOR LAW VIOLATIONS. The AP (3/6, Freking) reports that the Senate voted 49-48 on Monday to reverse an Obama Administration rule "designed to ensure government contractors disclose violations of federal labor laws as they seek more work." The rule "addressed government auditors' concerns over the years that contracting officers frequently failed to consider violations when awarding contracts because they lacked adequate information." Business groups said it would increase compliance costs "and punish all contractors for the actions of a few." Reuters (3/6, Iafolla) says the reversal was passed under the Congressional Review Act. President Trump has signed three CRA resolutions thus far. The Hill (3/6, Devaney, 1.25M) also reports on the vote.

The Washington Post (3/6, Kindy, 11.43M) reports that "a half-dozen other worker safety regulations are also in Republican crosshairs. ... Many are directed at companies with federal contracts. Such companies employ 1 in 5 American workers – meaning the effort could have wide-ranging effects."

CONGRESS COULD OVERTURN OBAMA EDUCATION REGULATIONS THIS WEEK. The Washington Post (3/6, Brown, 11.43M) reports that Congress could overturn regulations on how states must implement that Every Student Succeeds Act as early as this week. Republicans say the Obama-era rules "represent an executive overreach," while "Democrats argue that rescinding the rules will open loopholes to hide or ignore schools that fail to adequately serve poor children, minorities, English-language learners and students with disabilities." While Sen. Rob Portman opposes repealing the regulations, Senate Republican leaders believe they maintain a majority.

DOT STUDY: OBAMA ADMINISTRATION RULE DID NOT IMPROVE TRUCKERS' SAFETY OR HEALTH. The Hill (3/6, Zanona, 1.25M) reports a study by the Transportation Department did not find that an Obama Administration rule on truckers' hours improves safety and health. In a letter to members of the Senate and House, the DOJ Inspector General "said it agreed with the DOT report – which has not yet been made public – that the rule doesn't 'explicitly identify a net benefit…on driver operations, safety, fatigue and health.'"

GUN ADVOCATES OPTIMISTIC ABOUT NATIONAL CONCEALED CARRY RECIPROCITY BILL. The Washington Times (3/6, Sherfinski, 272K) reports that gun rights activists are hoping to get "a national concealed carry reciprocity bill to President Trump's desk." The legislation "would allow people who have concealed carry permits in their home states to exercise those rights in other states that allow concealed carry, provided that the permit holder abides by those other state

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laws as well."

WPost Profiles Case Of Woman Who Tried To Prevent Gun Sale To Mentally Ill Daughter. The Washington Post (3/6, A1, Marimow, 11.43M) has a 3,000-word front-page feature on a mother's efforts to prevent her mentally ill adult daughter from purchasing a handgun. She told a gun store manager that "her daughter had been in and out of mental hospitals...and was diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic. She had tried to kill herself." But the store sold her daughter the gun and "made about $60 profit on the sale." The young woman then used it to kill her father.

SOME SCIENTISTS AND RESEARCHERS SAY ADMINISTRATION IS HIDING DATA. The New York Times (3/6, Harmon, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that some researchers and scientists are concerned that the Trump Administration is hiding scientific data. While "it is illegal to destroy government data...agencies can make it more difficult to find by revising websites and creating other barriers to the underlying information." Climate change data is now harder to find on the EPA and NASA websites, and "reports last week that the administration is proposing deep budget cuts for government agencies" including the EPA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration "have fueled new fears of databases being axed, if only as a cost-saving measure."

CARSON VOWS "FAIRNESS FOR EVERYBODY" IN FIRST REMARKS TO HUD STAFF. The Washington Post (3/6, Delreal, 11.43M) reports that in his first remarks to his new department, HUD Secretary Carson "said that he would place a 'big emphasis on fairness for everybody'...warning that there will be 'no favorites for anybody, no extra' in his approach to housing policy." Carson also "lauded career civil servants at HUD who he said have shown a dedication to 'really helping the downtrodden, helping the people in our society to be able to climb the ladder.'" However, he "gave few insights into key concerns among housing activists and HUD staffers – including whether the Trump administration will seek to curb housing subsidies given to low-income Americans." Carson "also drew a swift backlash on social media Monday for referring to slaves who were forcefully brought to the United States as 'immigrants.'" The front page of Tuesday's New York Daily News reads, "They Came In Chains, Ben."

DEMOCRATIC SENATORS CALL ON TRUMP TO RELEASE WHITE HOUSE, MAR-A-LAGO VISITOR LOGS. Reuters (3/6, Harte) reports that eight Democratic senators have signed a letter urging President Trump "to release logs of visitors to the White House and Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida" in continuation of an Obama Administration policy "that made public the names of nearly six million visitors to the White House." While the White House did not respond to requests for comment, Reuters notes that the White House website has a "section entitled 'Visitor Access Records' [that] says the page will post records of White House visitors on an ongoing basis, once they become available. It does not mention Mar-a-Lago."

PARK SERVICE RELEASES PHOTOS OF INAUGURATION CROWDS. The AP (3/6, Daly) reports that the National Park Service has released dozens of photographs of President Trump's inauguration "that appear to counter Trump's claim that up to 1.5 million attended the event. ... The photos were released in response to news media requests made through the Freedom of Information Act." NPS also released photos from the 2009 and 2013 inaugurations, and the photos "show the 2009 event far outstripped the number of people who attended Trump's inauguration."

CNN: TRUMP FOLLOWS "SURPRISINGLY FEW PEOPLE" ON TWITTER. On its website, CNN (3/6, O'Sullivan, 29.79M) reported, "For a man with 26.1 million Twitter followers, President Donald Trump follows back surprisingly few people on his @realdonaldtrump account – a mere 43. Seven of them are family members," while "nine are family businesses (Trump Organization, Trump Golf, Trump Wakiki). The rest are made up of close advisers (Kellyanne Conway, Reince Priebus), supporters (Sean Hannity, Laura Ingram, Piers Morgan) and other right-leaning personalities (Ann Coulter, Joe Scarborough, Bill O'Reilly). Mainstream news outlets (CNN, New York Times) are absent from the list, as is Breitbart News and Infowars. Also missing: the account belonging to his press secretary Sean Spicer and the official @POTUS account."

ROSKAM FAULTS TRUMP, PRESIDENTIAL RACE, SOCIAL MEDIA FOR POLITICS' LACK OF "CIVILITY." The Chicago Tribune (3/6, Pearson, 2.54M) reports that Rep. Peter Roskam (R-IL) on Monday said his constituents "long for 'civility' in politics, and he blamed President Donald Trump, the recent presidential campaign and social media for the lack of polite and rational discourse." Addressing the City Club of Chicago, Roskam "said, 'I think I represent a constituency that is longing for civility in public life. I mean, longing for it." Roskam also "said he viewed lack of civility in politics an outgrowth of 'one of the toughest (presidential) campaigns that we've seen in a long time.'" And he "said part of the reason 'it seems particularly ungracious right now' is due to social media." Even so, Roskam said that Trump "has made a series of 'missteps and foibles' and is 'the commander in chief and he's the leader and he's got the capacity to set a different tone.'"

POLL: 51% OF US VOTERS THINK RACE RELATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO WORSEN UNDER TRUMP. McClatchy (3/6, Douglas, Harrell, 74K) reported that a McClatchy-Marist survey of 865 US voters, taken Feb. 15-19, finds that

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"African-Americans, whites and Latinos are united in their pessimism about the current and future state of race relations under President Donald Trump." Over "half of Americans believe race relations in the country have worsened over the last year and will continue to deteriorate under Trump." In the poll, 51 percent of those surveyed said they "believe relations have gotten worse while only 10 percent think they have improved." In addition, 51 percent "said they expect relations to worsen under Trump." McClatchy added, "Sixty percent of Latinos, 57 percent of African-Americans and 50 percent of whites think relations have gotten worse over the last year. ... Among African-Americans, 73 percent said race relations would worsen under Trump," while 64 percent of Latinos and 48 percent of whites said "race relations would get worse."

CNN ANALYSIS: PRO-TRUMP ADVOCACY GROUP PLAGUED BY "DRAMA." On its website, CNN (3/6, Schleifer, 29.79M) reported that America First Policies, an "outside group intended to serve as the political muscle behind Donald Trump's" proposals, "is sputtering and potentially splintering as tension tears the nonprofit further from its biggest donor," according to "multiple sources close to the group." CNN said, "Much of the drama stems from an ongoing dispute with the Mercers, a father-daughter set of donors who have become intertwined deeply within the Trump political infrastructure. The Mercers were initially expected to provide much of the funding for the group," though "it remains disputed how much sway they will hold over the nonprofit." CNN added, "Part of the dispute, according to one of the people, centers on whether the Mercers will have a seat on the nonprofit's board of directors. The placement would require a $1 million contribution, the person said, a buy-in that sources described them as uneasy about handing over."

AT TOWN HALL, MACARTHUR TELLS CONSTITUENTS, "I'M NOT DONALD TRUMP'S SPOKESMAN." The Philadelphia Inquirer (3/6, Hanna, 586K) reports that Rep. Tom MacArthur (R-NJ) on Monday "sought to mollify unrest from the left as he took questions for two hours at a town-hall meeting," telling "constituents who filled an Ocean County firehouse that he was 'not Donald Trump.'" MacArthur drew "applause as he told the crowd that he was among a handful of" congressional Republicans "who had most often worked with Democrats, and as he empathized with some of their concerns." However, MacArthur "drew objections" when he argued "it was too soon to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate claims of Russian interference in the recent presidential election, or to force Trump to release his tax returns." Said MacArthur, "I'm not Donald Trump's spokesman. Donald Trump actually doesn't answer to Congress, Donald Trump answers to you."

IN WAKE OF TRUMP WIN, MANCHIN WOOED, TARGETED BY BOTH SIDES. In a profile of Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV), Politico Magazine (3/6, Kruse, Everett) reported that the lawmaker finds himself "in one of the most unusual positions in Washington today." The moment Donald Trump defeated Hillary Clinton, "all eyes turned to Manchin as maybe the most vulnerable senator" facing reelection next year. Trump carried West Virginia "by an astonishing 42 points," and now, Manchin "is being courted by both parties: He was tapped for the Senate Democratic leadership within days of the election," then paid "a visit to Trump Tower almost a month later, briefly putting his name in the mix for a Cabinet job." Manchin told Politico Magazine, "I've had more personal time with Trump in two months, than I had with [Barack] Obama in eight years." Manchin's "comfort working with Trump has infuriated progressives" and led to talk of a primary challenge, while Republicans view "the seat in red-shifting West Virginia as theirs for the taking."

MONTANA REPUBLICANS CHOOSE GIANFORTE AS NOMINEE IN ZINKE SPECIAL. The AP (3/6) reports that Montana Republicans on Monday selected businessman Greg Gianforte (R) as the party's nominee in the May 25 special election to succeed ex-Rep. Ryan Zinke, who resigned from Congress after being confirmed as President Trump's new Interior secretary. Gianforte, who last year fell short in his bid to oust Gov. Steve Bullock (D-MT), will face off against musician Rob Quist (D) in the special election.

The Missoulian (MT) (3/6, Michels, 114K) reports that Democrats have sought to cast the special election "as referendum on Trump, who has seen his approval ratings plummet, with the most recent Gallup poll putting it at 43 percent." However, Gianforte "said 'Montana has already spoken' when it comes to Trump, who won the state with 56 percent of the vote." Said Gianforte, "Montana has a choice. We can either put someone in our lone house seat to advance the Trump train or we can pick someone who will fight against Donald Trump." The Great Falls (MT) Tribune (3/6, Drake, 85K) reports, "The Libertarian Party is expected to choose its candidate this weekend. Secretary of State spokeswoman Morgan Williams says no independent or minor-party candidate met Monday's deadline to turn in a petition, meaning that no other candidates will be on the ballot."

POLL: NELSON LEADS SCOTT 44%-38% IN HYPOTHETICAL FLORIDA SENATE RACE. The Florida Times-Union (3/6, Monroe, 234K) reports that a University of North Florida survey of 957 Florida voters, taken Feb. 13-26, shows Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL) leading Gov. Rick Scott (R-FL) 44%-38% in a hypothetical 2018 Senate race matchup; 12% were undecided. UNF Public Opinion Research Laboratory Director Michael Binder said of the poll results, "Even though it's very early in the 2018 election season, Nelson's six-point lead is meaningful. This race is going to get national attention and Rick Scott's alliance with Donald Trump will likely factor into this election's outcome next year." Scott, who is term-limited and has reportedly been urged by Trump to challenge Nelson, has said he's considering the race.

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The Sunshine State (FL) News (3/6, Nielsen, 3K) reported that in to the poll, Scott's "approval rating stands slightly higher than Nelson's, with 46 percent of Floridians approving while 40 percent disapprove. A smaller number – 42 percent – say they approve of the job Nelson is doing, but only 28 percent disapprove."

DCCC PLACES 19 "VULNERABLE" DEMOCRATS IN INCUMBENT PROTECTION PROGRAM. The Hill (3/6, Marcos, 1.25M) reported that the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee on Monday "announced the 19 members considered most vulnerable in the 2018 election cycle who will benefit from its incumbent protection program." Included on the list are eight "of the 12 Democrats who represent districts won by President Trump in November": "Reps. Rick Nolan (Minn.), Sean Patrick Maloney (N.Y.), Cheri Bustos (Ill.), Josh Gottheimer (N.J.), Tom O'Halleran (Ariz.), Jacky Rosen (Nev.), Carol Shea-Porter (N.H.) and Dave Loebsack (Iowa)." The others on the list are: "Reps. Ami Bera (Calif.), Salud Carbajal (Calif.), Charlie Crist (Fla.), Elizabeth Esty (Conn.), Ruben Kihuen (Nev.), Ann McLane Kuster (N.H.), Stephanie Murphy (Fla.), Scott Peters (Calif.), Raul Ruiz (Calif.), Brad Schneider (Ill.) and Tom Suozzi (N.Y.)." Roll Call (3/6, Pathé, 63K) also reported on the story.

DEMOCRATIC EX-REP. SUTTON TO ENTER 2018 OHIO GOVERNOR'S RACE TODAY. The Cleveland Plain Dealer (3/7, Gomez, 976K) reports that ex-Rep. Betty Sutton (D-OH) today "will enter the race" to succeed term-limited Gov. John Kasich (R-OH), "giving Democrats a second confirmed candidate in as many weeks." Sutton will join state Senate Minority Leader Joe Schiavoni (D) in a Democratic primary that is likely to grow, as a number of Democrats are still mulling bids. Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor (R is currently the only announced GOP candidate, though state Attorney General Mike DeWine (R), Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted (R), and Rep. Jim Renacci (R) "all are expected to declare their candidacies soon."

STOCKS FINISH LOWER. The AP (3/6, Press) reports that for "the second time in the last three trading days," stocks ended the day lower on Monday. The Dow fell 51.37 points to 20,954.34, the S&P 500 lost 7.81 points to close at 2,375.31, and the Nasdaq finished 21.58 points lower at 5,849.17.

WHITE HOUSE TOURS TO RESUME TODAY. USA Today (3/6, Trejos, 5.28M) reports, "The White House will re-open to the public on Tuesday." The First Lady said in a statement, "The White House is a remarkable and historic site and we are excited to share its beauty and history. I am committed to the restoration and preservation of our Nation's most recognizable landmark."

AIRBNB LISTING FOR TRUMP TOWER APARTMENT DISAPPEARS. CNN (3/6, Roberts, 29.79M) reports on its website that there was an Airbnb listing for a Trump Tower apartment "since at least September." After the New York Times reported on the rental, listed for $300 to $450 per night, it "disappeared." While President Trump no longer lives in the building, the First Lady and Barron Trump "still live there full-time – at least for the near future."

FORMER CHRISTIE ALLY SAMSON SENTENCED TO HOME CONFINEMENT IN BRIBERY CASE. The New York Times (3/6, McGeehan, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that ex-New Jersey Attorney General David Samson, a "longtime friend of Gov. Chris Christie," on Monday was sentenced to "one year of home confinement" for having pressured "executives of United Airlines into operating a weekly flight to South Carolina for his personal convenience." The 77-year-old Samson "pleaded guilty to bribery in July, admitting that he had used his power as chairman of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to coerce United into running the route even though it was not profitable." Samson "is the fourth one-time ally of Mr. Christie to be convicted or to plead guilty to charges that arose from investigations into the closing of access lanes to the George Washington Bridge in 2013."

SUPREME COURT WILL NOT HEAR VIRGINIA TRANSGENDER BATHROOM RIGHTS CASE. NBC Nightly News (3/6, story 9, 0:20, Holt, 16.61M) reported that in "a defeat in court today for advocates of transgender rights," the Supreme Court said on Monday that "it will not rule on which bathroom a transgender Virginia teen can use at school." NBC noted that the decision "wiped out" the student, Gavin Grimm's "previous victory in a lower court," and that it "comes after a change in policy by the Trump Administration."

USA Today (3/6, Wolf, 5.28M) reports that the court sent the case of Grimm, a 17-year-old Virginia high school senior, "back to a federal appeals court because the Trump administration withdrew guidance to schools that had instructed them to grant transgender students' bathroom preferences." USA adds that "by rescinding the Obama administration's policy, the Departments of Justice and Education eliminated the basis for the appeals court's earlier decision in Grimm's favor," and that "while the Supreme Court could have decided the case on other grounds, it decided instead to give the US Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit another chance."

The Washington Post (3/6, Barnes, 11.43M) reports that both the Gloucester County, VA school board and Grimm's attorneys "had asked the Supreme Court to let the case proceed, saying it presented a reading of the civil rights law Title IX that the court ultimately will have to settle."

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Bloomberg Politics (3/6, Stohr, 201K) reports that the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals "had said the school district was probably violating US civil rights law by reserving the boys' bathrooms for 'biological' males," and it "based its decision on an Obama administration letter that, until the new administration revoked it in February, interpreted federal law as protecting the bathroom rights of transgender students." The lower court "will now reassess the case by directly considering what's required by Title IX, the 1972 law that bars discrimination in schools."

The New York Times (3/6, Liptak, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that "proponents of transgender rights said they were disappointed that the court had not taken the chance to decide a pressing national issue. 'Thousands of transgender students across the country will have to wait even longer for a final decision from our nation's highest court affirming their basic rights,' said Sarah Warbelow, the legal director of the Human Rights Campaign." Kerri Kupec, an attorney with Alliance Defending Freedom, "a conservative Christian group, welcomed Monday's development. 'The first duty of school districts is to protect the bodily privacy rights of all of the students who attend their schools and to respect the rights of parents who understandably don't want their children exposed in intimate changing areas like locker rooms and showers,' she said."

The AP (3/6, Sherman) reports that the court's order "means that attention now will turn to lower courts around the country that are grappling with rights of transgender students to use school bathrooms that correspond to their chosen gender, not the one assigned at birth." The 4th Circuit "and other appellate panels handling similar cases around the country will have the first chance to decide whether federal anti-discrimination law or the Constitution protects transgender students' rights."

Reuters (3/6, Hurley) reports that "bathroom access has become a key issue in the intensifying battle over transgender rights," and notes that North Carolina last year "became the first state to require people to use bathrooms matching their gender at birth in public schools and government buildings," with "about a dozen other states" considering similar measures. The Wall Street Journal (3/6, Bravin, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) has a similar report.

WPost: Gavin Grimm Will Graduate Without Justice. In light of the Supreme Court's Monday decision to send Gavin Grimm's case back to the US Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit in Richmond, the Washington Post (3/6, 11.43M) editorializes that the transgender Virginia student "will graduate from high school still waiting for...justice." The Administration's repeal of Obama-era guidance on transgender bathroom use fails to take into consideration "the real-life experiences of [complicit] schools and states" where the guidance had no negative effects, says the Post.

Yelp Begins Tracking Gender-Neutral Bathrooms For Transgender Users. The New York Times (3/6, Chokshi, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that Yelp, "the crowdsourced website that offers reviews of everything from restaurants to stores to churches, is adding a new way to filter its results: by the availability of gender-neutral bathrooms." The new feature was announced on Friday, "just one week after it was proposed, and represents Yelp's latest foray into the fight for transgender rights." The company on Thursday "joined dozens of others, including Amazon, Gap, Intel and Yahoo, in signing on to a Supreme Court brief on behalf of Gavin Grimm, a transgender boy seeking the right to use school bathrooms that correspond to his gender identity. 'This isn't the first time that we've spoken out about social issues, but this is the first time that we have married doing something on our platform around the social justice support of the L.G.B.T.Q. community,' said Rachel Williams, who leads the company's diversity and inclusion efforts."

SUPREME COURT SAYS JURORS' RACIAL BIAS VIOLATES RIGHT TO FAIR TRIAL. The Washington Post (3/6, Barnes, 11.43M) reports the Supreme Court ruled 5-3 Monday that judges must investigate jury deliberations if a juror is accused of making racially biased statements. Writing for the majority, Justice Anthony Kennedy, joined by Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor, and Elena Kagan, stated that addressing racial bias "is necessary to prevent a systemic loss of confidence in jury verdicts." The New York Times (3/6, Liptak, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that in his dissent, Justice Samuel Alito called the majority decision "a well intentioned but ill-considered intrusion into jurors' privacy." While Kennedy insisted efforts to eliminate racially biased jurors are less effective than for other issues, Alito said it would be difficult to limit the impact of the ruling.

The Wall Street Journal (3/6, Bravin, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports the decision comes in the case of Peña Rodriguez v. Colorado in which the Colorado man was convicted of groping two teenage sisters in a Denver-area restroom at the horse track where he worked. The Monday ruling does not require a particular outcome for the case involving a juror's alleged comment that the defendant must have committed sexual assault because he was a Mexican. Instead, the decision leaves Colorado courts to decide whether the remarks "show that racial animus was a significant motivating factor in the juror's vote to convict."

SMALL CITIES COUNTER BIG AIRLINES IN LOBBYING FIGHT OVER AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL PRIVATIZATION. According to McClatchy (3/6, Tate, Daugherty, 74K), 118 mayors of small cities around the country to sign a letter Monday that expresses concern over the proposal to end FAA oversight of the air traffic control. Large airlines reportedly spent

more than $16 million in 2016 to lobby Congress and federal agencies in favor of the plan that would give them more control over American airspace. Small airports worry the change would result in increased fees and reduced control.

DOD INVESTIGATES FEMALE MARINE NUDE PHOTO SCANDAL. The CBS Evening News (3/6, story 10, 0:15, Pelley, 11.17M) reported the Defense Department's investigation of the nude photos of female Marines shared on the private Marines United Facebook page that had about 30,000 followers before its removal. ABC World News Tonight (3/6, story 7, 1:50, Muir, 14.63M) a defense contractor was fired for allegedly uploading the photos to a Google Drive account and soliciting images from others. Chief Global Affairs Correspondent Martha Raddatz reported Marine veteran-turned journalist Thomas Brennan, who discovered and reported the page, said it was "awful" and "shocking" to see people he knew verbally abused. NBC Nightly News (3/6, story 5, 1:50, Holt, 16.61M) said Secretary Mattis is "troubled" by the alleged behavior by Marines, said a Pentagon official. Marine leadership harshly condemned the behavior in a statement.

The New York Times (3/6, Philipps, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports the photo sharing was an evolution of the "make her famous" retaliatory practice in which Marines shared images of spouses or girlfriends suspected of cheating. While one Marine who condemns the postings says the public is overreacting, and a Reddit poster claimed Marines have "a taste for the carnal things in life" by nature, Marine spokesman Maj. Clark Carpenter claimed "a true warrior" maintains "a sense of decency and compassion."

ARMY CONSIDERS ALLOWING SOLDIERS TO GROW BEARDS. The Army Times (3/5, Myers, 306K) reports the US Army is conducting a study to determine whether to allow soldiers to sport beards, according to multiple officials. Sgt. Major Dan Dailey cites two primary concerns: the improper sealing of gas masks and the loss of the "iconic image of the clean-shaven American service member." According to the Washington Times (3/6, Ernst, 272K), Dailey noted that troops "strategically shave" to ensure the proper seal in other countries such as Norway. Sgt. Major Anthony Moore told the Army Times the recent directive that accommodates Sikh soldiers' beards and turbans has allowed other soldiers' requests to wear facial hair to gain traction.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN NORTH CAROLINA, NORTHERN VIRGINIA TO CLOSE FOR "A DAY WITHOUT A WOMAN." The New York Times (3/6, Haag, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports about 12,300 students in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro school district in North Carolina will stay home Wednesday. Officials have deemed it an optional teacher workday because of the "significant" number that indicated they would skip school. According to the Washington Post (3/6, Balingit, 11.43M), Alexandria, Virginia schools will be closed Wednesday because 300 staff members, mostly teachers, requested the day off, a move officials attribute to the "Day Without a Woman" protest. Superintendent Alvin Crawley said the decision was not "made lightly," and the Post says the district will open six schools to allow children relying on school meals to eat. One mother who will lose a day's wages to watch her son says the protest aimed at supporting women actually leaves them "suffering." Other Northern Virginia, Washington, and Maryland schools will reportedly remain open.

CHANCE THE RAPPER DONATES $1 MILLION TO HELP CHICAGO SCHOOLS. The AP (3/6, Tareen) reports Chicago-native Chance the Rapper made a $1 million donation to help address the Chicago Public Schools' funding crisis after a meeting on Friday with Gov. Bruce Rauner. Rauner called it "a good exchange of views" and released two proposed solutions, both rejected by lawmakers. The Illinois governor's office also acknowledged his history of donating more than $7 million to support CPS students. According to the Chicago Tribune (3/6, Perez, Garcia, 2.54M), Chance publicly chastised Rauner at a Monday news conference because he "still won't commit to give Chicago's kids a chance without caveats or ultimatums." The rapper blamed the lack of resolution on "political posturing."

Lawyer: Zombie Apocalypse Preparations, Fiscal Crisis Show Illinois Dysfunction. In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (3/6, Skoning, Subscription Publication, 6.37M), Chicago labor and employment lawyer Gerald Skoning writes that Illinois' inability to reform its pension system, pass an annual budget, and improve its bond rating explains the state's population decrease. Another marker of legislative dysfunction is lawmakers' serious consideration of necessary preparations for a Zombie Apocalypse, says Skoning.

ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE REPORT: WHITE SUPREMACISTS INCREASE RECRUITING EFFORTS AT COLLEGES. The New York Times (3/6, Best, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports 65 instances of attempts by white supremacists to recruit students on college campuses since January, and 100 since September, according to an Anti-Defamation League report. ADL Chief Executive Jonathan Greenblatt told the Times in a Monday phone interview that such groups have increasingly embraced "the seemingly antiquated approach" of flier distribution because it increases a physical presence, requires little energy, and provides relative anonymity. The report identified the involvement of Identity Evropa, American Vanguard, and American Renaissance in the posting of fliers on 66 campuses in 32 states since September.

VIRGINIA MAN CONVICTED OF THREATENING TO KILL OBAMA RUNNING FOR DELEGATE SEAT. On its website,

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WUSA-TV Washington (3/6, Valerio, 70K) reported, "Eight years after he emailed the Secret Service and threatened to kill President Barack Obama, a Northern Virginia man is now out of prison, equipped with enough signatures in at least one county to run for the House of Delegates." WUSA-TV said that Nathan Daniel Larson was sentenced "to 16 months in prison with three years of supervised release. After Larson served time" in prison and Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D) "restored his voting rights, the convicted felon decided early this year to run for" office. Under Virginia law, "voting rights are lost upon conviction of a felony. Eligibility to vote is a requirement to run for public office in the state. Larson intends to run for Virginia's 31st House District." A "self-proclaimed libertarian," Larson – who graduated from George Mason University in 2003 – "proposes the suppression of women's rights, including the right to vote."

RAMPELL: UNDER-FUNDING THE IRS SLOWS GOVERNMENT REVENUE, HELPS SUPER RICH. Catherine Rampell writes in her column for the Washington Post (3/6, 11.43M) that the Administration's proposed 14.1 percent IRS funding decrease would reduce federal tax revenue in two ways. First, reduced staff levels risk resulting in lower rates of voluntary compliance because confused taxpayers do not have adequate resources to answer their questions. Second, inadequate funding also reduces the agency's ability to enforce the tax code, which has led to $5 billion in lost revenue annually, a phenomenon that mostly benefits the super rich.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"President Trump's Muslim Ban Lite."*** In an editorial on President Trump's new immigration order, the New York Times (3/6, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) refers to a "downscaled, but still pernicious, version of the ban," which amounts to "an implicit acknowledgment that the Trump administration stumbled spectacularly in its first major attempt to deliver on a campaign promise."

"President Trump's Blinkered Fiscal Vision." A New York Times (3/7, Board, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) editorial says Trump "may have veered from self-inflicted crisis to self-inflicted crisis over the course of his young presidency, but he has kept one policy goal steadily before him: tax cuts for the wealthy." Trump, it says, "has essentially called for three tax cuts: a personal income tax cut, a corporate income tax cut and a cut achieved by repealing the Affordable Care Act." While "specifics are scant...one thing is clear: All three would overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest Americans," which "would create more of the resentment and inequality Mr. Trump has promised to address."

"Smothering Speech At Middlebury." A New York Times (3/7, Board, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) editorial.

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Trump May Regret Asking For An Investigation Into Wiretapping."*** The Washington Post (3/6, 11.43M) says in an editorial that while presidents enter their terms "with a store of credibility that comes with the office," Trump "is burning through his with breathtaking speed." The Post describes Trump's accusation that President Obama had the phones at Trump Tower tapped the "latest rash expenditure from his already depleted trust account."

"Gavin Grimm Will Graduate Without Justice." In light of the Supreme Court's Monday decision to send Gavin Grimm's case back to the US Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit in Richmond, the Washington Post (3/6, 11.43M) editorializes that the transgender Virginia student "will graduate from high school still waiting for...justice." The Administration's repeal of Obama-era guidance on transgender bathroom use fails to take into consideration "the real-life experiences of [complicit] schools and states" where the guidance had no negative effects, says the Post.

"Trump's New Travel Ban Is As Arbitrary And Senseless As The First." In an editorial on President Trump's new immigration order, the Washington Post (3/6, 11.43M) says that "the ban, while doing virtually nothing to deter terrorist attacks in this country, aids the recruitment efforts of the Islamic State and other extremist groups by substantiating their case that anti-Islamic bigotry thrives in the United States." While "the courts will decide whether the order...passes legal muster," it is "already clear...that it remains antithetical to American interests, values, tradition and security."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Trump's Travel Ban Mulligan."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/6, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) describes President Trump's new immigration order as unnecessary, even as it praises it as more reasonable than the January version.

"America's Got Immigrant Talent." A Wall Street Journal (3/6, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) editorial points out that a growing number of participants in the Regeneron Science Talent Search are the children of immigrants and says that the effort by some Republicans to limit H-1B visas is detrimental for the US economy. The Journal argues that importing high-skilled workers is a long-term investment that creates jobs for American workers and will produce future entrepreneurs who do the same.

"Schumer's Rosenstein Extortion." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/6, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) argues that Democrats are trying to extort Rod Rosenstein, President Trump's nominee to be deputy attorney general by

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threatening to hold up his nomination if he does not agree to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate Russian efforts to influence the 2016 election. The Journal calls on Rosenstein to refuse to acquiesce as a matter of political principle.

The Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
House Republicans Release Plan To Replace Obamacare
Trump Signs Revised Travel Ban
CSX Agrees To Hire Hunter Harrison As CEO
Facebook, Rushing Into Live Video, Wasn't Ready For Its Dark Side

New York Times:
Trump's New Travel Ban Blocks Migrants From Six Nations, Sparing Iraq
House Republicans Unveil Plan To Replace Health Law
Supreme Court Won't Hear Major Case On Transgender Rights
Trump's Wiretapping Claims Puncture Veneer Of Presidential Civility
The Downside Of Ride-Hailing: More New York City Gridlock
Inquiry Opens Into How 30,000 Marines Shared Illicit Images Of Female Peers

Washington Post:
A Warning, A Gun Sale And Tragic Consequences
House GOP Unveils Plan To Replace Obamacare
Revised Travel Ban Blocks New Visas
Ahead Of European Votes, Provocative Websites Flourish
Justices Send Transgender Case Back To Lower Court

Financial Times:
North Korea Fires Missiles Into Sea Of Japan
US Travel Order Bars Citizens From 6 Muslim Nations
Cryan Changes Deutsche Bank's Course Again
Peugeot SA To Step Up UK Presence In "Hard Brexit"

Washington Times:
Think Twice Before Crossing: Sneaking Illegal Families Face Separation
Trump's Revised Travel Ban Aims To Erase "Muslim" Label
House Republicans Release Details Of Plan To Replace Obamacare
Mexican Mega-Billionaire Sees World Of Opportunity In Country Trump Snubs
Coalition Forces Make Quick Progress In Mosul, ISIS Defeat Expected Soon
"A Day Without A Woman" Ignites Backlash Over Left-Wing Agenda, School Closures

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Trump-Obama Wiretap Claim; Obama Wiretap-FBI Director; Obama Wiretap-Expert Comment; New Immigration Order; Healthcare Reform Plan; North Korea-Missile Test; Marine-Female Nude Pictures; Severe Weather; Washington-Hate Crime Shooting; Wrong Way Driver; Tennessee-Bird Flu; Bill Paxton Death Cause; Robert Osborn Dies; Youngest Spelling Bee Winner.
CBS: Trump-Obama Wiretap Claim; Obama Wiretap Claim-FISA; New Immigration Order; Immigration Order-Fact Check; Healthcare Reform Plan; Iraq-Mosul Assault; North Korea-Missile Test; Philadelphia-Soda Tax; Ben Carson-Slavery Comment; Marine-Female Nude Pictures; Climate Change-Killer Whales.
NBC: Trump-Obama Wiretap Claim; New Immigration Order; Healthcare Reform Plan; TSA-New Security Procedure; Marine-Female Nude Pictures; Severe Weather; North Korea-Missile Test; High School-Nap Pods; Bathroom Law-Legal Challenge; Robert Osborn Dies; Best Airlines; Elementary Student Music Video.

Network TV At A Glance:
Trump-Obama Wiretap Claim – 10 minutes, 45 seconds
New Immigration Order – 7 minutes, 15 seconds
Healthcare Reform Plan – 4 minutes, 20 seconds
North Korea-Missile Test – 4 minutes, 20 seconds
Marine-Female Nude Pictures – 3 minutes, 55 seconds
Severe Weather – 1 minutes, 30 seconds

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Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Severe Weather; Healthcare Reform Plan; New Immigration Order; US-S. Korea Missile Defense Deployment.
CBS: Healthcare Reform Plan; New Immigration Order; Trump-Obama Wiretap Claim; US-S. Korea Missile Defense Deployment; Iraq-Mosul Assault.
FOX: Healthcare Reform Plan; New Immigration Order.
NPR: Healthcare Reform Plan; New Immigration Order; Sessions Defends Russian Contact; Trump-Obama Wiretap Claim; Bathroom Law-Legal Challenge; New Orleans-Confederate Monuments; Ben Carson-Slavery Comment.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Kimmel: "It was another wild weekend for President Trump, who tweeted up a world of trouble from high atop his toilet Saturday morning at Mar-a-Lago. A lot of people are saying they need to take his phone away. I think maybe at this point they should consider taking his thumbs away. Put them in a box, give them back to him in four years."

Jimmy Kimmel: "What is the point of wire-tapping Donald Trump? Every crazy thought he has, he puts on Twitter. He's wire-tapping himself."

Stephen Colbert: "Saturday morning while he was in Florida, out of nowhere, Trump tweeted: 'Terrible! Just found out that Obama had my wires tapped in Trump Tower just before the victory. Nothing found. This is McCarthyism!' And just like that, the White House had to reset their sign back to zero."

Stephen Colbert: "This is a serious allegation, and you know that Trump takes it seriously because his next tweet was: 'Arnold Schwarzenegger isn't voluntarily leaving 'the Apprentice,' he was fired by his bad pathetic ratings, not by me. Sad end to great show.'"

James Corden: "Now Trump had absolutely no evidence that the wiretapping occurred. And right now, we are this close to Trump putting tinfoil on his head during a speech and shouting, 'Try reading my thoughts now, Obama.'"

James Corden: "Apparently Trump believes this because he read about it in Breitbart News. So he didn't discover a wiretap. He just read about it and believed it. I'm like, 'Quick, someone write a fake news story about Trump resigning.' You know what I mean."

James Corden: "What you are looking at is Hillary Clinton reading a USA Today article about how Mike Pence used a personal email address the entire time he was governor of Indiana. Now Hillary had to think that this was hypocritical, but there are some big differences in the two cases. For example, Mike Pence was governor of Indiana when he was using his personal email, whereas Hillary Clinton, on the other hand, was a woman."

Trevor Noah: "Donald Trump thinks the best way to distract from a scandal is to start a bigger scandal."

Trevor Noah: "No one needs to spy on Donald Trump. You can just follow him on Twitter."

Trevor Noah: "As with most Trump scandals, the most fun for the ride is watching his people try and fail to defend him."

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From: Bulletin Intelligence <HHS@BulletinIntelligence.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 07, 2017 6:06 AM
To: HHS@BulletinIntelligence.com
Subject: HHS Secretary's News Briefing for Tuesday, March 07, 2017

HHS SECRETARY'S NEWS BRIEFING

TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2017 6:00 AM EST

Top National Stories:

GOP IS CONSIDERING A HEALTH-CARE APPROACH IT'S LONG BEEN AGAINST

Washington Post (3/6, Amy Goldstein and Mike Debonis)
This morning, there is extensive coverage of draft legislation to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act which was released by House GOP leaders on Monday evening. Most outlets say the legislation is certain to face significant opposition, not only from Democrats who want to preserve the ACA, but also from some Republicans who are opposed to certain provisions. The Washington Post reports on its front page that the Affordable Care Act replacement legislation which House Republicans unveiled on Monday evening reveals "a more conservative vision for the nation's health-care system, replacing federal insurance subsidies with a new form of individual tax credits and grants to help states shape their own policies." According to the two draft bills released by separate House committees, the Federal "government would no longer penalize Americans for failing to have health insurance, but would try to encourage people to maintain coverage by allowing insurers to impose a surcharge of 30 percent for those who have a gap between health plans."
More Coverage: TV. House GOP Leaders Unveil ACA Replacement Legislation (CBS Evening News, 3/6), House GOP Leaders Unveil ACA Replacement Legislation (ABC World News Tonight, 3/6), House GOP Leaders Unveil ACA Replacement Legislation (NBC Nightly News, 3/6)

More Coverage: Print and Online. Republicans Will Finally Let Public See Their Obamacare Plan (CNN, 3/6, Lauren Fox), House Republicans Closer To Unveiling Plan To Replace Health Law (New York Times, 3/6, Thomas Kaplan and Robert Pear), House Republicans Unveil Obamacare Replacement Bill (USA Today, 3/6, Maureen Groppe), ObamaCare Repeal Bill Will Defund Planned Parenthood (The Hill, 3/6, Jessie Hellmann), GOP Releases Bills To Repeal And Replace ObamaCare (The Hill, 3/6, Peter Sullivan), House GOP Releases Bill Replacing Obama Health Care Overhaul (Associated Press, 3/6, Alan Fram and Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar), House Republicans Unveil Bill To Repeal Obamacare (Reuters, 3/6, Susan Cornwell), House Republicans Release ObamaCare Replacement Bill (Fox News, 3/6), House GOP Releases Plan To Repeal, Replace Obamacare (CNBC, 3/6), GOP Obamacare Plan Needs Trump's Salesmanship To Break Stalemate (Bloomberg Politics, 3/6), House Unveils Obamacare Replacement (Washington Examiner, 3/6), Republicans Unveil Legislation To Repeal And Replace Obamacare (Bloomberg Politics, 3/6, Zachary Tracer, Anna Edney), BREAKING: Latest Draft Of GOP Repeal Bill Dumps Tax On Employer Health Plans (Modern Healthcare, 3/6), Obamacare Changes Emerge In House Repeal And Replace Bill : Shots (NPR, 3/6), House Republicans Just Introduced Their Bill To Repeal And Replace Obamacare (Vox, 3/6), House GOP Bill Repeals ObamaCare Taxes — With One Exception (The Hill, 3/6, Naomi Jagoda), WH Praises House ObamaCare Repeal Bill (The Hill, 3/6, Jordan Fabian), House GOP Releases Plan To Repeal, Replace Obamacare (Wall Street Journal, 3/6, Stephanie Armour, Kristina Peterson and Michelle Hackman), House Republicans Release Details Of Plan To Replace Obamacare (Washington Times, 3/6, Tom Howell Jr.), Conservatives Pan House Obamacare Repeal Bill (Politico, 3/6, Rachael Bade), Republicans Unveil Plan To Repeal And Replace Obamacare Amid Conflicting Pressures (Los Angeles Times, 3/6, Noam N. Levey and Lisa Mascaro), Obamacare Replacement Adds Penalty For Not Having Insurance (TIME, 3/7), Republicans Offer Their Bill To Repeal Obamacare (McClatchy, 3/6), House Republicans Introduce Bill To Repeal And Replace Obamacare (U.S. News & World Report, 3/6, Kimberly Leonard), House Republicans Unveil Bill To Repeal Obamacare (Huffington Post, 3/6), The Republican Plan To Pay For Their New Health Care Plan Is (Vox, 3/6), House GOP Health Bill Jettisons Insurance Mandate, Much Of Medicaid Expansion (Kaiser Health News, 3/6), House GOP Obamacare Repeal Bill Courts Detractors (Roll Call, 3/6, Lindsey McPherson), Obamacare Repeal Bill Offers Tax Credits, Big Medicaid Changes (Politico, 3/6, Paul Demko), Republicans' Obamacare Repeal Plan Would Cut Taxes On The Wealthy (Politico, 3/6, Brian Faler), Is The American Health Care Act 'Obamacare Lite'? Not Quite (The Atlantic, 3/6), G.O.P. Health Bill Would Cut Funding For Poor And Taxes On Rich (New York Times, 3/6, Margot Sanger-Katz), Republicans Unveil Obamacare Replacement Bill, Scrapping Individual Mandate (NBC News, 3/7), House Republicans Unveil Obamacare Replacement Plan (ABC News, 3/6), The Winners And Losers In Republicans' Plan To Repeal And Replace Obamacare (CNN Money,

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3/6), Conservatives Glare At Obamacare Replacement (Washington Examiner, 3/7), Trump's Statement On The House GOP's Obamacare Bill Is A Non-endorsement (Vox, 3/6), House Republicans Unveil Obamacare Repeal Bill (Daily Caller, 3/6, Julie Grace Brufke)

Health Insurance Marketplaces:

WHAT IF THERE'S NO AFFORDABLE INSURANCE TO BUY?

Associated Press (3/6, Tom Murphy and Meghan Hoyer)
The AP reports that health insurers have all exited Knoxville's Affordable Care Act marketplace, leaving area residents with no options for next year. The article says Knox County "is one of 16 in Tennessee that lack[s] even a single insurance company committed to offering coverage for 2018 on the exchange, after Humana announced last month plans to exit." As a result, consumers are worried.

Health Reform & Healthcare:

HHS SECRETARY DR. TOM PRICE ON THE ROAD TO OBAMACARE REPEAL

Hugh Hewitt Show (3/6)
Hugh Hewitt interviewed HHS Secretary Tom Price on Monday morning. Price said it was important for consumers to understand why the Affordable Care Act should be repealed. He explained that premiums are rising and insurers are exiting ACA marketplaces. He stated, "We need to repeal it, because we need to put in place a patient-centered system, where patients and families and docs are making these decisions and not Washington, D.C. The timing, from the President's standpoint, is as soon as possible." Price added that President Trump is correct in saying the repeal and the replacement should occur simultaneously. Price also said there are three ACA provisions which seem to be the most popular and which are likely to be included in the replacement bill: the one which prohibits insurers from denying coverage due to pre-existing conditions, the provision which eliminates lifetime coverage caps, and the one which allows young adults to remain on their parents' policies until age 26.

FOUR GOP SENATORS PLEDGE TO VOTE AGAINST ROLLING BACK MEDICAID EXPANSION

The Hill (3/6, Jessie Hellmann)
The Hill reports that on Monday, four Republican senators told Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) "they will vote against any ObamaCare repeal bill that eliminates the healthcare law's Medicaid expansion." The four lawmakers are "Sens. Rob Portman (Ohio) Shelley Moore Capito (W.Va.), Cory Gardner (Colo.) and Lisa Murkowski (Alaska)," all of whom are from states which expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. They wrote in a letter to McConnell, "We believe Medicaid needs to be reformed, but reform should not come at the cost of disruption in access to health care for our country's most vulnerable and sickest individuals."

More Coverage. 4 GOP Senators Demand To Keep Obamacare Medicaid Expansion (Politico, 3/6, Jennifer Haberkorn), Four GOP Senators Reject Early House Obamacare Replacement Draft (Washington Examiner, 3/6), Sen. Rob Portman, Others Vow Fight If Medicaid Is Slashed Without New Help For Needy (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 3/6), GOP Senators Threaten Obamacare Repeal Effort (Roll Call, 3/6, Bridget Bowman and Niels Lesniewski), A Crucial Bloc Of Swing Republican Senators Just Criticized A House GOP Obamacare Draft (Vox, 3/6), Key Senate Republicans Criticize House GOP Obamacare Repeal Plan (New York Daily News, 3/6, Cameron Joseph), GOP's Obamacare Civil War May Have Saved Medicaid Expansion (Salon, 3/6), Sen. Cory Gardner Defends Medicaid Expansion As GOP Reveals Obamacare Replacement (Denver Post, 3/6)

NEW POLL SHOWS AMERICANS WANT TO FIX OBAMACARE, NOT END IT, WHILE KOCH GROUPS PUSH FOR FULL REPEAL

Los Angeles Times (3/6)
The Los Angeles Times reports that according to a new poll conducted by Hart Research, "most Americans want to fix the Affordable Care Act, rather than gut it, as Republicans have long promised." Data show "68% of Americans want to keep what works and fix the rest, while just 32% prefer the GOP's repeal and replace approach." In addition, "most Americans – including 54% of President Trump's voters – have a favorable view of the Medicaid system, which would face steep cuts under the Republican plan."

More Coverage. Poll: Majority Of Voters Want ObamaCare Fix, Not Repeal (The Hill, 3/6, Jessie Hellmann)

GOP LEADERS OFFER OBAMACARE CONCESSION TO WIN OVER FAR-RIGHT

Politico (3/6, Rachael Bade)
Politico reports that in an attempt to gain the support of conservative GOP lawmakers, "House Republican leaders are proposing to curb who would qualify for tax credits to purchase health insurance." The GOP's final draft of the plan to

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repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, "shepherded by Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.), will limit the health care tax credits to those who earn under a certain threshold," according to unnamed sources. The article says this concession may "not necessarily ensure conservative opposition to the House plan will evaporate," yet "two conservative sources told POLITICO the right is pleased with the latest changes."

GOP'S OBAMACARE REPEAL WOULD STEER MORE SUBSIDIES TO AFFLUENT

McClatchy (3/6)

McClatchy reports that according to experts, the GOP's efforts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act "will ultimately steer more of its financial assistance up the income ladder and away from lower middle-class workers." The article explains that because lower-income people receive more subsidies under the ACA, the GOP's plans "represent a fundamental break from the original intent of Obamacare: to make individual health insurance more accessible and affordable to millions of Americans who need it but can't pay for it." An analysis conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that under a proposal introduced by HHS Secretary Tom Price while he was in the House, "the average tax credit would be $2,256 in 2020," which is "51 percent less than under the Affordable Care Act."

THE OBAMACARE STICKING POINTS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

New York Times (3/6, Margot Sanger-Katz)

Margot Sanger-Katz writes in the New York Times "The Upshot" blog that discussion about the fate of the Affordable Care Act "is taking place in secret meetings among Republican lawmakers." President Trump and House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) have vowed to unveil an ACA repeal bill soon, yet, prior to that, they must "work out disagreements among their colleagues on the best way to proceed." According to Sanger-Katz, "several disagreements are so fundamental that they probably need to be resolved behind closed doors before a bill can even be introduced."

More Coverage. Obstacles Ahead As GOP Begins ObamaCare Repeal (The Hill, 3/6, Jessie Hellmann), GOP Struggles To Replace Obamacare (USA Today, 3/6, Maureen Groppe)

TRUMP IS MAKING IT HARDER FOR REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT THEY WANT

CNBC (3/6)

On its website, CNBC reports that Republicans' challenge "in delivering on their ambitious health-care, budget and tax ideas keeps getting steeper." In order to achieve their goals of approving an ACA repeal bill by Easter, "then a new budget, and then sweeping tax reform by August," they "need a strong partner in President Donald Trump to push past political obstacles." Yet, "Trump's wild weekend wiretapping accusations against his predecessor weakened him."

ECONOMISTS THINK TRUMP IS WRONG ON BUDGET, TRADE, OBAMACARE AND IMMIGRATION

CNBC (3/6)

On its website, CNBC reports that some 285 US business economists surveyed by the National Association for Business Economics believe "President Donald Trump's effort to restrict immigration is a bad idea." They also "think the current health insurance system should be replaced by one that gives consumers more choice and control, with tax credits to support the cost of insurance." Data show "a slim majority" of respondents "supports the Affordable Care Act...and wants to see any replacement increase 'consumer choice and control, supported by tax credits.'"

GOP LAWMAKER TRIES TO STEER THROUGH TRICKY TERRAIN ON ACA

Wall Street Journal (3/6, Michelle Hackman)

The Wall Street Journal reports that as Republicans proceed with efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act, Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR), chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, has taken on a crucial role. The article says Walden's knowledge and experience will be challenged as he tries to garner support for a bill that could lead to millions losing coverage, and simultaneously deal with the demands of conservatives who insist on a limited role for government in healthcare.

ALLIANCE OF COMPANIES UNVEIL FIRST STEPS AIMED AT CUTTING HEALTH-CARE COSTS

Wall Street Journal (3/6, Joseph Walker)

The Wall Street Journal reports a group of more than three dozen US companies called the Health Transformation Alliance announced plans to lower their healthcare spending. Their strategy include group contracts for prescription drugs purchases, which the group claims will save $600 million over three years – about 15 percent of employers' median total drug spending.

A DIET FOR LEAD POISONING? IT PROBABLY DOESN'T WORK

New York Times (3/7, Nicholas Bakalar)

The New York Times reports a "review of studies has found little evidence that" the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended "diet high in calcium, iron and vitamin C as a way of lowering children's blood lead levels" works. A search of literature published in The Journal of Pediatrics discovered "only one study to show that dietary

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calcium helped reduce lead more than a placebo, and no studies to show that dietary calcium or vitamin C provide such a benefit." Despite this, researchers "said there is no harm in following the recommendations, since these foods are rich in nutrients."

PREVENTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH FUND ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK?
The Scientist (3/6)
The Scientist reports if the Affordable Care Act is repealed, then the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention could face a 12.4% budget cut. The article explains that the ACA established the Prevention and Public Health Fund, which pays for many public health programs overseen by the CDC, including the Public Health and Social Services Block Grant. If the law is repealed then the "fund could disappear, along with its budget allocation." Kathy Harben, a spokesperson for the CDC, said that if the fund is eliminated, "CDC is hopeful Congress replaces the funding with new budget authority to continue these critical public health programs."

TRUMP TELLS PLANNED PARENTHOOD ITS FUNDING CAN STAY IF ABORTION GOES
New York Times (3/6, Maggie Haberman)
The New York Times reports the White House "has proposed preserving federal payments" to Planned Parenthood "if it discontinues providing abortions." The New York Times reports that Ivanka Trump played a key role in nudging President Trump "toward a nuanced view of Planned Parenthood's work." In a statement to the Times, Trump confirmed the talks took place. The Times writes that Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) chided the Trump Administration for playing "political games" with the organization and she described the proposal as a way to interfere with women's medical choices that should be left between women and their doctors.

More Coverage. Planned Parenthood Tells Trump It Won't End Abortions In Exchange For Continued Funding (The Hill, 3/6, Jessie Hellmann), White House Offers To Let Planned Parenthood Keep Federal Funding If It Halts Abortions (U.S. News & World Report, 3/6, Gabrielle Levy), Trump Offers Planned Parenthood Funds If It Halts Abortions (Associated Press, 3/6)

WARREN OPPOSES POST-ACA BLOCK GRANT FUNDING
Politico (3/6)
Politico reports Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) "made it clear Monday that she is opposed to funding any future iterations of the health system through block grants." Warren pointed out she made the same argument to Trump's nominee to head CMS, Seema Verma. Warren told reporters she was "very concerned" with Verma's "record and her willingness to try to put caps on Medicaid and the kind of health care financing that we need in this country."

Blogs:

"ACA VS. ACA REPLACEMENT" WAS TRENDING ON TWITTER AND WAS HILARIOUS
Business Insider (3/6)
In a blog post for Business Insider, Sheehan Perkins writes that Twitter users created "ACA vs. ACA replacement" tweets to demonstrate the difference between the Republican alternative and the original.

HOUSE GOP OBAMACARE REPEAL REPLACE PLAN DEFUNDS PLANNED PARENTHOOD
Business Insider (3/6)
In a blog post for Business Insider, Bob Bryan writes that the ACA alternative aims to eliminated funding for women's health group Planned Parenthood. Bryan points out the defunding effort is not guaranteed because Democrats and Planned Parenthood's Action Fund plan to vigorously fight back.

HOUSE GOP OBAMACARE REPLACEMENT NO PLAN TO PAY FOR IT
Business Insider (3/6)
In a blog post for Business Insider, Bob Bryan writes the GOP plan to repeal the ACA is missing a major aspect of the law: how to pay for it. Despite their claims of moving forward in a fiscally responsible manner, the lack of detail on how to pay for the legislation may impact lawmakers' willingness to vote in favor of the legislation.

THE HOUSE GOP JUST FINALLY REVEALED THEIR SECRET BILL TO REPEAL OBAMACARE
Mother Jones (3/6)
In a blog post for Mother Jones, Hannah Levintova writes that the GOP has finally revealed its plan to repeal and replace the ACA after keeping it "under lock and key" in the basement of the Capitol building. The proposal eliminates the individual mandate and defunds Planned Parenthood, Levintova highlights.

REPUBLICANS' PLAN TO REPLACE OBAMACARE COULD BE A TOUGH SELL IN CONGRESS
BuzzFeed (3/6)

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In a blog post for BuzzFeed Tarini Parti and Alexis Levinson write that the divisions within the GOP will make passing an ACA replacement bill very difficult. Some conservative members of the GOP have derided the proposal as "Obamacare-lite" or "Obamacare 2.0."

HOUSE REPUBLICANS UNVEIL OBAMACARE REPEAL LEGISLATION ... AT LONG LAST

Talking Points Memo (3/6)

In a blog post for Talking Points Memo Tierney Sneed writes that the GOP alternative to the ACA has finally been unveiled, and it includes transforming Medicaid into a block grant program with a per capita cap, leaves the exchanges in tact until 2020, and dismantles the individual mandate.

GOP RELEASES VAGUE HEALTH PLAN TO REPLACE OBAMACARE.

Slate (3/6)

Elliot Hannon writes for Slate in its "The Slatest" blog that the GOP alternative to the ACA was unveiled on Monday and it "gets rid of the individual mandate requiring individuals to have health insurance, but keeps popular provisions that disallow insurers from denying coverage based on pre-existing conditions and allow young adults up to the age of 26 stay on their parents' health plans." Hannon continues that the introduction of the alternative appears to be just the beginning of a long, contentious process.

REPUBLICAN PLAN TO REPEAL OBAMACARE

Business Insider (3/6)

In a blog entry for the Business Insider, Bob Bryan writes that on the evening of March 6, House Republicans "unveiled long-awaited legislation to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA)." According to Bryan, "the basic structure of the plan appears similar to previous Republican efforts to dismantle the law and the draft of the bill that was leaked late last month."

OBAMACARE REPEAL: PORTMAN, MURKOWSKI, CAPITO, GARDNER OPPOSE MEDICAID REPEAL

Business Insider (3/6)

In a blog entry for the Business Insider, Bob Bryan writes that in a letter sent March 6 to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), "Republican Sens. Rob Portman [OH], Shelley Moore Capito [WV], Cory Gardner [CO], and Lisa Murkowski [AK] laid out concerns regarding the repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act." In their letter, the four senators, all of whom represent states that expanded Medicaid, "wrote that they were specifically concerned with the leaked draft version of the House GOP's Obamacare repeal and replacement bill as it pertains the expansion of the federal Medicaid program." Their letter stated that the senators "are concerned that the February 10th draft proposal from the House of Representatives does not provide stability and certainty for individuals and families in Medicaid expansion programs or the necessary flexibility for states."

More Coverage. 4 GOP Senators Flag Concerns With Medicaid Cuts In House O'Care Draft Bill (Talking Points Memo, 3/6), 4 Republican Senators Just Rebelled Against The House Plan To Repeal Obamacare (Mother Jones, 3/6)

PAUL RYAN OBAMACARE REPEAL BIGGEST FIGHTS

Business Insider (3/6)

In a blog entry for the Business Insider, Bob Bryan writes, "House Speaker Paul Ryan [R-WI] and the House GOP leadership are expected to roll out their plan to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA)...sometime over the next few days." But, "one of the biggest fights that face Ryan and Republicans are changes to the ACA's Medicaid expansion." Meanwhile, "Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer [D-NY] and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi [D-CA] have made it clear that they have no plans to cooperate on repeal and replace legislation."

MYTHS ABOUT THE MEDICAID EXPANSION AND THE 'ABLE-BODIED'

Health Affairs (3/6)

In the Health Affairs "Blog," Leighton Ku, Director of the Center for Health Policy Research at the George Washington University, and Erin Brantley, MPH, PhD(cand), a Senior Research Associate affiliated with the Center for Health Policy Research at the Milken Institute School of Public Health and the George Washington University, write about "a serious misunderstanding about Medicaid recipients and a flawed belief that employment effectively assures health insurance coverage." According to the authors, just "a small share of the adults covered by Medicaid expansions are in good health but not working, in school, or looking for work." What's more, "the types of low-wage jobs available to Medicaid enrollees are unlikely to offer meaningful health insurance coverage."

OBAMACARE COSTING THE FEDS A THIRD LESS THAN EXPECTED

Talking Points Memo (3/6)

In a blog entry for the Talking Points Memo, Tierney Sneed writes that on March 3, the Congressional Budget Office announced that "its projections for the federal government's spending on the Affordable Care Act's coverage provisions in

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2019 are now a third lower than what they were when the law was passed in 2010." In fact, "CBO Director Keith Hall said in written responses to questions posed by the House Budget Committee that the CBO expects the federal government to spend $148 billion in 2019 on the law's coverage provisions, down from the $214 billion estimated when the law was passed."

KOCH-BACKED GROUPS STEPPING UP OBAMACARE REPEAL PRESSURE CAMPAIGN
Talking Points Memo (3/6)
In a blog entry for the Talking Points Memo, Tierney Sneed writes, "Outside groups backed by the Koch brothers, as well as other conservative organizations, are amping up their campaigns to pressure Republicans into repealing the Affordable Care Act, the New York Times reported" on March 5.

Opinion:

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S BLINKERED FISCAL VISION
New York Times (3/7)
The New York Times says in an editorial that President Trump "may have veered from self-inflicted crisis to self-inflicted crisis over the course of his young presidency, but he has kept one policy goal steadily before him: tax cuts for the wealthy." The paper adds that the President "has essentially called for three tax cuts: a personal income tax cut, a corporate income tax cut and a cut achieved by repealing the Affordable Care Act." While "specifics are scant...one thing is clear: All three would overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest Americans," which "would create more of the resentment and inequality Mr. Trump has promised to address."

OBAMACARE MAY SURVIVE AFTER ALL
Washington Post (3/6, Jennifer Rubin)
In an opinion piece, the Washington Post "Right Turn" blog contributor Jennifer Rubin writes that the Affordable Care Act may survive because "Republicans now realize what they are offering might in some cases be less generous than what millions enjoy under Obamacare." Rubin argues that Republicans should "be concerned" because recent analyses suggest that the GOP plan could significantly increase healthcare costs for Americans.

HERE'S WHY REPUBLICANS ARE FINDING IT SO HARD TO COME UP WITH A REPLACEMENT FOR OBAMACARE
Washington Post (3/6, Jared Bernstein)
Jared Bernstein, a senior fellow at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, writes in an opinion piece in the Washington Post that Republicans "have been struggling" to replace the Affordable Care Act, because the law "set a new baseline," which President Trump has promised to surpass, and that "affordable coverage for all goes against their basic brand such that they've set up an impossible goal: better, cheaper coverage than Obamacare that reduces the government's footprint in the sector." Bernstein argues that Republicans seem to be considering ideas that "will fail to deliver what their constituents want in terms of their health coverage."

DEMOCRATS' HYPOCRISY ON MEDICAID REFORM
Washington Post (3/6, Brett Guthrie)
Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY) writes in an opinion piece in the Washington Post that Democrats' criticism of proposals to change Medicaid to a per-capita program are hypocritical, because Democrats once supported such a proposal during the Clinton Administration. Guthrie specifically criticizes former Rep. Henry Waxman for criticizing such proposals, because Waxman supported former President Bill Clinton's plan to change Medicaid to a per-capita program.

NEXT TIME, TRUMP SUPPORTERS WHO LIKE OBAMACARE SHOULD TAKE A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE AT HIS WORD
Los Angeles Times (3/6)
In three letters to the editor, readers of the Los Angeles Times respond to an article published back in February that outlined the story of a woman who credits the Affordable Care Act with saving her life, but voted for President Donald Trump in part because she believed his campaign pledges to repeal the law were "bluster." In the letters to the editor, the three readers comment on the woman's perspective and also the potential repeal of the ACA.

SELLING HEALTH INSURANCE ACROSS STATE LINES WON'T SAVE MONEY
Bloomberg View (3/6, Peter Orszag)
Peter Orszag writes in his column in Bloomberg View criticizing those who argue that "allowing people to buy health insurance across state lines" will reduce healthcare costs. Orszag points out that selling across state lines "is already allowed – and yet basically doesn't happen," because healthcare is largely delivered locally.

AN ANGRY DOCTOR'S PLEA: STOP BICKERING AND FIX THE OBAMACARE MESS

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Fox News (3/6, Dr. Kevin Campbell)
Dr. Kevin Campbell, an assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of North Carolina, writes in an opinion piece on the Fox News website that "lawmakers on both sides are putting their OWN interests ahead of the health of the American people." Campbell argues that "the status quo is no longer acceptable," and that "it is no longer acceptable to allow lawmakers to behave like toddlers fighting over a toy when it comes to our health care."

DONALD TRUMP MEDICAID: SEEMA VERMA, PATIENT RESPONSIBILITY
TIME (3/6, Dr. Sandeep Jauhar)
Dr. Sandeep Jauhar, a cardiologist, writes in an opinion piece in TIME that Seema Verma, President Trump's nominee to head the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, believes that Medicaid beneficiaries should take more responsibility for their health. Jauhar argues that personal responsibility is important, but that people's health is also affected by factors outside their control.

THE HEALTH BILL YOU'VE WAITED FOR
Wall Street Journal (3/6, Kevin Brady and Greg Walden)
In an op-ed piece for the Wall Street Journal, Reps. Kevin Brady (R-TX) And Greg Walden (R-OR) describe their plan as an effort to help lower costs and return control from Washington to the states. The Brady-Walden Plan would eliminate penalties for not having insurance as well as the individual and employer mandate. Brady and Walden claim their plan would strengthen Medicaid by freezing enrollment in the Medicaid expansion and institute per-capita allotments to determine funding for each state based on the total number of enrollees. They also claim their plan would expand and strengthen Health Savings Accounts by doubling the amount people are allowed to contribute to the program. The Representatives have posted their bill online and the committees they chair will consider the legislation later in the week.

THE GOP'S OBAMACARE REPEAL BILL IS OUT – AND IT'S EVEN WORSE THAN ANYONE EXPECTED
Los Angeles Times (3/6, Michael Hiltzik)
In an opinion piece for the Los Angeles Times Michael Hiltzik writes the Republican alternative to the ACA is "a nastier, more consumer-unfriendly measure than even close followers could have expected." Hiltzik argues that despite House Speaker Paul Ryan's (R-WI) claims, the legislation will "destroy the ability of millions of Americans to access any healthcare worth the name." Hiltzik claims that even after the CBO scores the legislation, which it has yet to do, "The chances are almost nil that closer examination will find much, if anything, good about it."

ESCAPING OBAMACARE PURGATORY
Washington Times (3/6, Michael T. Hamilton)
In an opinion piece for the Washington Times research fellow at the Heartland Institute Michael Hamilton writes that replacing the ACA with a Republican alternative would "more sustainably give patients financial assistance, expand treatment and insurance options, and establish safety nets for people with pre-existing conditions." Hamilton concludes that after eight years of the ACA, "most patients confess they're ready for a change."

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Justices Send Transgender Case Back To Lower Court

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TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2017 7:30 AM EST

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Leading the News:

GOP LAWMAKERS TO INTRODUCE ACA REPEAL THIS WEEK, DESPITE DIVIDE OVER FINAL PRODUCT. The Los Angeles Times (3/5, Levey, Mascaro, 4.52M) reports House Republicans are "readying an ambitious push this week to begin moving legislation to replace major parts of the Affordable Care Act." The move creates a crucial test for Republican leadership as they try to maintain party unity over their biggest campaign promise. Republicans plan to remove most, if not all, of the taxes associated with the ACA and replace them by removing the tax exempt status of employer-based coverage, causing the price of insurance they get from their employers to go up. Vice President Pence told reporters on Friday that they are putting "the finishing touches on our plan," despite not reaching a consensus among Congressional Republicans. Advocacy groups representing patients, doctors, hospitals, and businesses have come out to oppose many of the proposals in the Republican plan. Compounding the problem is the fact that the CBO has not yet scored the GOP proposal.

The Washington Post (3/5, A1, Rucker, Costa, Parker, 11.43M) reports the Trump Administration has tapped OMB director Mick Mulvaney as de facto "point person" on the ACA replacement, while White House officials argue HHS Secretary Tom Price has not been sidelined.

The New York Times (3/5, Steinhauer, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports Sen. Shelley Capito (R-WV) has become increasingly cautious about her support for repealing the ACA after hearing stories from her constituents. Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) has pledged to keep the Medicaid expansion as long as lawmakers in her home state support keeping the expansion. Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH) has vocalized his support for keeping parts of the ACA to help combat the growing opioid epidemic in his state. Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) argues that the debate over the ACA has helped to educate many in his state on the benefits they've received as a result of the law.

The Washington Times (3/5, Howell, 272K) reports Pence said the Trump Administration was fine-tuning its plan over the weekend, which would allow them to begin dismantling the ACA in a few days. However, the plan has yet to solve the divide among many Republicans who fear the alternative goes too far or not far enough. The Times reports some of the changes Republicans are still working out are the income-based versus age-based tax credits and the future of the Medicaid expansion.

Also covering the story are Fox News (3/6, 11.07M), ABC News (3/5, 3.09M) and Reuters (3/5, Cornwell, Dunham).

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The Secretary in the News:

PRICE DISCUSSES ACA, MEDICARE DURING INTERVIEW. On CBS' Face The Nation (3/5, 4.61M), HHS Secretary Tom Price said HHS' mission "is to improve the health and safety and well-being of the American people, and right now, across the country, there are many" people in the individual and small-group insurance markets for whom cost and access to healthcare are a challenge. He added that the Trump Administration is working on a plan, which will be unveiled "very, very soon," that will address these issues. Asked if the roughly 20 million Americans who have insurance through the Affordable Care Act will be able to keep it, Price said, "What our goal is, what the President's goal is, is to give people choices, to let them purchase the kind of insurance that they want for themselves and for their family, not what Washington forces them to buy." Price also said some consumers may not have real access to healthcare because certain ACA plans have very high deductibles. He stated, "You may have an insurance card, but you don't have care because you can't afford the deductible in order to get the kind of care that you need. So our goal is to bring those costs down."

On its website, CBS News (3/5, Schultheis, 4.4M) reports that President Trump continues to insist that he will not overhaul Medicare, but some Republicans, including House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI), say the issue is still up for debate. During his interview on "Face The Nation" on Sunday, Price said, "I'll tell you what's not an open question, is that we believe in the guarantee of Medicare for our seniors." He added, "The challenge that we have, as you well know and your viewers know, is that Medicare is, as some folks have said, going insolvent or going broke. … So we believe strongly in the guarantee of Medicare and" in making "certain that it's a viable, financially secure program going forward so that seniors now and in the future know that it will be there for them."

The Hill (3/5, Shelbourne, 1.25M) and the Washington Examiner (3/5, King, 400K) also cover the story.

PENCE, RYAN, PRICE TOUT GOP ACA REPLACEMENT PLAN DURING VISIT TO WISCONSIN. The AP (3/3) reported that Vice President Mike Pence and HHS Secretary Tom Price joined House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) on Friday in Janesville, Wisconsin, "promising during an invite-only speech that a replacement plan for the Affordable Care Act would come within days, while dismissing recent protests at Republican town halls by people opposed to repealing it." Price "said the Senate, House and administration w[ere] working together on the repeal and replacement plan," and he insisted, "Our goal is to make sure no one falls through the cracks in this transition."

The Washington Times (3/3, Howell, 272K) reported Pence asserted the Administration is "putting the finishing touches" on its healthcare plan, which he "said...is being finalize[d] over the weekend so Republicans can start to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act in 'just a matter of days.'"

On its website, CNBC (3/3, Mangan, 2.17M) reported that Pence also said, "Look, we're going to repeal and replace Obamacare, we're going to do it at the same time. ... We're going to replace Obamacare with the kinds of solutions that will lower the cost of health insurance for every American."

The Hill (3/3, Sullivan, 1.25M) reported that earlier in the week, "governors of both parties came away from a meeting with President Trump at the White House under the impression that the administration was developing its own ObamaCare plan." Yet, on Friday, Pence indicated "there is just one joint plan between the administration and Congress," although he provided no details.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (3/3, Stein, Carpenter, 513K) quoted Price as saying during the event, "Wisconsin can't afford this mess and neither can the rest of the country. We've got to fix it right now."

On its website, CNN (3/3, Fox, 29.79M) reported prior to the event in Janesville that Ryan, Pence and Price intended "to rally public support for their repeal and replace plans Friday in Ryan's hometown of Janesville, Wisconsin, a messaging spectacle as a flurry of legislative discussion continues back on Capitol Hill behind closed doors." The article pointed out that GOP leaders must "please both conservatives and moderates because they cannot depend on Democrats to pick up any slack, creating a delicate balance to prevent loss of any one of their constituencies en masse."

Politico (3/3, Bade, Cheney, Bresnahan, 2.46M) reported that this joint effort by Ryan, Price and Pence is "the clearest display of unity yet between the White House and GOP leadership on an Obamacare replacement strategy." The piece added that Price has been meeting with "conservative agitators who oppose Ryan's draft proposal. While Price didn't try to strong-arm them into standing down, the meetings themselves send a signal that the White House is in Ryan's corner."

Meanwhile, Ricochet (3/3, Gawron) reported that during an exclusive interview, Ryan "outlined a GOP replacement to Obamacare, explaining that the Republican alternative will largely resemble the comprehensive the Empowering Patients First Act introduced by now-Secretary of Health and Human Services Tom Price, M.D."

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Also covering the story were the New York Daily News (3/3, Joseph, 4.45M), the Janesville (WI) Gazette (3/3, 55K), the Beloit (WI) Daily News (3/4, Montgomery, 43K), the Washington Examiner (3/3, King, 400K), the Wisconsin State Journal (3/3, Sommerhauser, 264K), Wisconsin Public Radio (3/3, Quirmbach, 6K), WCLO-AM Janesville, WI (3/3), WISC-TV Madison, WI (3/3, 185K), WITI-TV Milwaukee (3/3, Bayatpour, 162K), and WMTV-TV Madison, WI (3/3, Flood, 31K). Meanwhile, WDJT-TV Milwaukee (3/3, 21K), WGBA-TV Green Bay, WI (3/3, 1K), WISC-TV Madison, WI (3/3, 185K), WITI-TV Milwaukee (3/4, 162K), WMSN-TV Madison, WI (3/3, 43), and WMTV-TV Madison, WI (3/3, 31K) also broadcast the story.

PRICE ACCUSED OF "OVERSELLING" ACA PREMIUM HIKES. The Daily Caller (3/3, Hurtubise, 898K) reported that according to Axios, HHS Secretary Tom Price recently "put out a video...making the Trump administration's case for replacing Obamacare – but if you watch it and say, 'I didn't know my premiums went up that much,' that's because they didn't." In the video, Price stated, "In the past year alone, the average premium has gone up 25 percent. And since the current health law started, premiums have gone up an amazing 99 percent." Axios argued that Price is "overselling the premium hikes."

PRICE: LAWMAKERS ARE "VERY, VERY CLOSE" TO FINALIZING ACA REPLACEMENT. The Daily Caller (3/3, Donachie, 898K) reported HHS Secretary Tom Price released a video on Thursday "detailing the problems in the U.S. health care system and his commitment to improving healthcare for 'all Americans.'" Price has not detailed what would be included in the ACA replacement legislation, but he stated lawmakers are "getting very, very close" to finalizing a plan. Price claimed in the video that the ACA alternative would allow for more "real money" to remain in Americans' pockets.

Zika Virus News:

PREGNANT, ZIKA-INFECTED CANADIANS HAVE HIGHER-THAN-EXPECTED RATE OF SERIOUS COMPLICATIONS, STUDY SUGGESTS. The Globe and Mail (CAN) (3/6, Grant, 1.09M) reports pregnant, Zika-infected Candians have "a higher-than-expected rate of serious complications caused by the virus," according to the first study done in the country. However, "researchers are cautioning against alarm over the study's findings" due to its small sample size. The article notes that another major study "is about to begin April 1," which will track "the health outcomes of babies with birth defects born to Zika-infected mothers."

HHS in the News:

FDA DIDN'T ISSUE WARNING ABOUT RAT MEAT, DESPITE CLAIMS. The AP (3/3) reported the Food and Drug Administration did not warn "that some 300,000 pounds of rat meat could still be in circulation as Super Bowl parties approached," as was reported by the website World News Daily Report and circulated elsewhere. FDA spokesperson Peter Cassell said the agency "is not aware of the seizure of rat meat referenced" and never issued such a warning.

FDA: RAT MEAT STORY WAS "FAKE NEWS." The AP (3/5) reports the Food and Drug Administration said Sunday that reports last month that the agency "had issued a warning saying restaurants and food stores could be selling" rat meat "as chicken wings" before the Super Bowl "were a case of fake news." The stories "appear to have originated on World News Daily Report, a site that creates fictional news," and FDA spokesman Peter Cassell said the agency "is not aware of the seizure of rat meat referenced."

COMMENTARY CRITICIZES FDA'S DEEMING RULE, SUPPORTS BILL THAT WOULD MOVE UP EFFECTIVE DATE FOR VAPING PRODUCTS. The Hill (3/3, 1.25M) featured commentary in its Pundits blog from Reason Foundation associate Guy Bentley in which he once again criticized the FDA's deeming rule for their deleterious effects on the vaping industry, followed by his expression of support for a House bill that would move the effective date of the laws up from February 2007 to August 2016. According to Bentley, "The bill is a welcome step not only to save an industry from near complete destruction but could also serve as the trigger for a pause and rethink about the direction of federal tobacco policy."

COMMENTARY CRITICIZES FDA RULE CALLING FOR REDUCTIONS IN CARCINOGENS IN SMOKELESS TOBACCO PRODUCTS. The Hill (3/3, Nitzkin, Rodu, 1.25M) featured in its Pundits blog commentary from Dr. Joel Nitzkin and Dr. Brad Rodu, both of whom are fellows with the R Institute, concerning the FDA's recently proposed rule that would require smokeless tobacco product manufacturers to significantly reduce cancer-causing chemicals in their products. According to Nitzkin and Rodu, the FDA is ensuring that smokeless tobacco product manufacturers will have to reformulate their products and therefore go through the agency's costly application process, posing a threat to these companies' capacity to continue to offer smoking alternatives to consumers. Nitzkin and Rodu conclude, "Federal regulation of any consumer product should focus on predatory marketing and eliminating shoddy products from the

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market. It should not be used to eliminate entire classes of products without explicit congressional authorization and convincing evidence of harm."

RARE-DISEASE ENTREPRENEUR CROWLEY SAYS TRUMP DOESN'T WANT TO SLASH FDA. STAT (3/3, Silverman) reports that biotech entrepreneur John Crowley, who started a company to develop treatments for the Pompe disease that affects two of his children, said that he met privately with President Donald Trump last week, and his sense was that Trump "does not really want to unravel the FDA." Crowley "shares Trump's view that the FDA could be more nimble when it comes to drug approvals," but he said of Trump, "From listening to him, I don't get the sense that means that it's about slash and burn, and that he wants to get rid of all the regulations."

LATEST INCARNATION OF AUTHENTIC FOOD BATTLE INVOLVES DAIRY PRODUCERS, MILK'S PLANT-BASED ALTERNATIVES. The AP (3/3, Choi) reported a fight between dairy producers and suppliers of plant-based alternatives is the latest dispute over the authenticity and correct labeling of different foods. In this instance, dairy producers are calling on the FDA to more stringently enforce the definition of milk as resulting from a milking process as applied to an animal, in order to crack down on a proliferation of alternatives such as soy milk and almond milk. The article also discussed previous instances of this dispute, including when it involved eggless "mayo," non-strained Greek yogurt, and "Wyngz" that were not actually made from the wing of poultry.

CDC-BACKED NATIONAL HEALTH WEBSITE SCORES BALTIMORE HEALTH RATES. The Baltimore Sun (3/4, Cohn, 714K) reported a new website launched by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the CDC Foundation, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation found Baltimore scored better than the national average in 11 of 28 health measures. The below-average rates included obesity, cancer and heart disease, while above-average rankings appeared for routine flu shots, colonoscopies and other medical checkups. The website "is a game changer," CDC Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention director Dr. Wayne H. Giles stated, pointing out that it offers "the ability to report and map health data at city and neighborhood levels."

GOP LAWMAKER WORRIES THAT DEFENSE PLAN COULD LEAD TO NIH CUTS. STAT (3/3, Scott) reports that Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK) "sounds worried" about the potential for budget cuts to the National Institutes of Health, an agency for which an appropriations committee he chairs has boosted funds and in which "many Republicans would rather invest more money." Cole's worries are over President Trump's plan to increase defense spending, which "would mean cuts for almost every other department." STAT points out that NIH got a $2 billion budget increase in 2015, and "Cole and his Senate counterpart, Roy Blunt of Missouri, have repeatedly said they want to make that kind of increase routine."

Health Reform:

HOUSE, SENATE CONSERVATIVES ENGAGING IN "OPEN REBELLION" OVER ACA REPEAL PLAN. The AP (3/3, Werner) reported that Washington "is suddenly awash with troublemakers and rebels – and that's just the Republicans." The article pointed out that any "GOP unity [which] was produced by Donald Trump's victory in November has all but disappeared, and Republican leaders are confronting open rebellion in their ranks as they try to finalize health care legislation." For instance, in the Senate, Rand Paul, Mike Lee, and Ted Cruz, "a trio of conservatives that's been a thorn in the side of leadership is back at it again," while in the House, "recalcitrant conservatives" including Reps. Mark Meadows, the chairman of the conservative House Freedom Caucus, and Rep. Thomas Massie, "are banding together and threatening to foil House Speaker Paul Ryan's plans for swift passage of the legislation to repeal and replace former President Barack Obama's health law."

On its website, CNN Money (3/3, Luhby, 3.59M) reported that the GOP is "fractured over whether to replace Obamacare subsidies with refundable tax credits that would be based on a person's age rather than their income." Some conservatives "don't like that these credits would be paid out to everyone buying coverage in the individual market," and they are labeling "it an entitlement program that would potentially be open to millions of Americans who are currently uninsured or receiving assistance through Obamacare."

The Dallas Morning News (3/3, Leslie, 1.12M) reported that Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX), along with Republican Sens. Mike Lee and Rand Paul, "blasted a leaked draft replacement proposal crafted by Speaker Paul Ryan and other House GOP leaders, including Texas Rep. Kevin Brady, arguing it doesn't go far enough to repeal the law." The piece added that House conservatives and other groups are calling the plan "Obamacare-Lite."

The Huffington Post (3/3, Fuller, 237K) reported that House GOP "leaders are hoping recalcitrant conservatives in their party who claim they can sink those efforts won't be willing to cross President Donald Trump." The article says House leaders insist Trump supports their plan, but "nobody is quite certain where the president stands on the current repeal bill – or where he ultimately will be."

The Washington Examiner (3/4, King, 400K) also covered the story.

SOME SENIOR HOUSE MEMBERS WORRIED GOP LAWMAKERS' TENDENCY TO VOTE NO WILL HURT TRUMP'S AGENDA. The Washington Post (3/4, Kane, 11.43M) reported "some GOP elder statesmen are worried" that the "block-everything mentality" adopted by the "new generation of Republicans" in the House and Senate since 2004 "is still the mind-set dominating several dozen" lawmakers. In an interview, former Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott said conservatives have "to get in line" behind the Administration's agenda, and warned that the leadership will "have to be prepared to crush" members who refuse to comply. The article pointed out that this is also an issue in the Senate, where three conservative lawmakers have vowed to block the Affordable Care Act proposal being crafted by the House.

Meanwhile, the Wall Street Journal (3/5, Hackman, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports conservative groups are expressing concern over House Republicans' plan to repeal the Affordable Care Act, and are calling on lawmakers to oppose the proposal. The groups are worried about the potential use of tax credits to help consumers pay for insurance, and they are also opposed to the plan to temporarily keep an expanded form of Medicaid.

REPUBLICANS MOVING FORWARD WITH ACA REPEAL LEGISLATION, BUT SUCCESS IS NOT A CERTAINTY. The AP (3/4, Fram) reported that GOP lawmakers "seem set to start muscling legislation through Congress reshaping the country's health care system after seven years of saber rattling," given that the House Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means Committees intend "to begin voting Wednesday on their portions of the legislation, barring late problems." The article said the measures will likely pass in committee due to the absence of conservatives on those panels, but "rockier problems loom in the full House and Senate. If 22 House Republicans or three Senate Republicans join united Democrats and oppose health legislation," the GOP's plans to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act "would fail."

LATEST VERSION OF HOUSE ACA REPEAL AND REPLACEMENT BILL LEAKED. Politico (3/3, Demko, 2.46M) reported the newest "version of the House's Obamacare repeal bill – which has yet to be publicly released – contains few significant changes to a previously leaked draft, according to documents obtained by" Politico, and it appears that House Republican leaders "aren't backing down from their Obamacare repeal plan that sparked backlash from the party's conservative wing." While the draft, dated Feb. 24, "still includes new tax credits for individuals based on age," there is "one significant change to the tax credit...being considered: not allowing wealthier Americans to qualify for assistance."

The Daily Caller (3/3, Brufke, 898K) reported that the updated version shows "tweaks to the language on tax credits and changes to 'state innovation grants.'" The piece added that compared to the previous draft, "significant changes" have been made in deference to the concerns of conservatives who charged that the earlier version was "Obamacare lite."

The Hill (3/3, Sullivan, 1.25M), the Washington Examiner (3/3, King, 400K) and Modern Healthcare (3/3, Meyer, Subscription Publication, 241K) also covered the story.

HOUSE GOP'S REPLACEMENT BILL WOULD ELIMINATE "CENTRAL ELEMENTS" OF THE ACA. The Hill (3/4, Sullivan, 1.25M) reported that that according to an "outline and a leaked draft from last month," the Affordable Care Act replacement bill proposed by House Republicans "would repeal all of ObamaCare's taxes, including the Health Insurance Tax and the excise tax on medical devices." The measure "would dismantle the central elements of ObamaCare, including its subsidies to help people afford coverage, its expansion of Medicaid, and its mandates and taxes." The article points out that Democrats are warning the proposal "would jeopardize coverage for the 20 million people who have gained it from ObamaCare, while Republicans argue the health law has failed and needs to be replaced with a less intrusive system."

REP. MICHAEL BURGESS TASKED WITH DETERMINING WHICH ACA PROVISIONS CAN BE PRESERVED. In a nearly 1,500-word profile of Rep. Michael Burgess, McClatchy (3/3, Daugherty, 74K) reported that he is the "chairman of the House of Representatives health subcommittee tasked with determining what parts – if any – of Barack Obama's signature health care law would remain in Trump's America." In an interview, Burgess said, "I favor success over and above everything else. To me, success means we got rid of the individual mandate and then whatever other parts we can take care of." The article pointed out that the American College of Emergency Physicians is "Burgess' largest campaign contributor," with total contributions of "$15,900 to his 2016 campaign." Dr. Rebecca Parker, president of the American College of Emergency Physicians, stated, "Mike's very well informed and knows the current legislation very well. ... I definitely see Mike as sort of that thoughtful leader, a thoughtful expert, and I look forward to seeing what his ideas are."

GOP METAPHORS FOR ACA REPEAL EFFORTS HIGHLIGHTED. In the New York Times (3/3, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) "The Upshot" blog, Margot Sanger-Katz discussed the metaphors GOP lawmakers have been using to discuss efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act. For instance, Rep. Frank James "Jim" Sensenbrenner (R-WI) said, "It's kind of like, you know, getting a 30,000-piece jigsaw puzzle for Christmas. ... And, you know, cleaning off the dining room table and seeing how long it takes to put all the 30,000 pieces together in the right place. It's not going to be easy." Meanwhile, House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) stated, "Obamacare is built on a house of sand that is quickly collapsing."

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SOME GOP LAWMAKERS WORRIED LINKING PLANNED PARENTHOOD TO ACA REPEAL COULD BE PROBLEMATIC. The Hill (3/3, Hellmann, 1.25M) reported "some congressional Republicans," including Sens. Susan Collins (R-ME) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), as well as Rep. John Faso (R-NY), "think tying the defunding of Planned Parenthood to an ObamaCare repeal bill could jeopardize the healthcare law rollback that they've been working on for eight years."

Reuters (3/3, Malone) reported Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker pledged Friday that his Administration "will plug any holes in the budget of the state chapter of Planned Parenthood if the U.S. Congress moves to block the use of Medicaid funds for treatment at the women's health care organization."

The Boston Globe (3/3, McCluskey, 1.08M) reported that "Baker's pledge to make up for any federal cuts to Planned Parenthood could help burnish his image as a middle-of-the-road Republican in a state with a largely Democratic base of voters."

HOUSE GOP'S ACA PROPOSAL WOULD ALLOW STATES WHICH EXPANDED MEDICAID TO BE FULLY FUNDED THROUGH 2020. The Wall Street Journal (3/3, Peterson, Hackman, Armour, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reported the House Energy and Commerce Committee is drafting legislation to reshape Medicaid that would allow states which expanded the program under the Affordable Care Act to receive Federal funding at current levels until 2020. The bill is expected to be released next week.

The Chicago Tribune (3/3, Schencker, 2.54M) reported that "more than 3 million Illinois residents – about 1 of out of every 4 people in the state – have health insurance through Medicaid." The article shared the experience of one Chicagoan who had gone without regular dental care for nearly 20 years until she gained coverage through Medicaid expansion.

RUBIO SAYS HE WANTS TO REPEAL THE HEALTHCARE LAW, BUT NOT RETURN TO THE PRE-ACA ERA. On CNN's State of the Union (3/5, Tapper, 420K), Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) said, "I want to repeal Obamacare but I also don't want to go back to the system we had in 2009. That didn't work either." He explained that "when people talk about partial repeal, it's because the process being used for repeal is reconciliation. There are things you can do through reconciliation and [things you] cannot." Rubio added, "We don't have 60 votes in the Senate to do things outside of that reconciliation product. I think that needs to happen. Obamacare does need to be repealed and we need to put something better in place because what I don't support is going back to 2009 because that system had problems as well."

The Hill (3/5, Beavers, 1.25M) also covers the story.

COLLINS SAYS THERE IS STILL NO AGREEMENT AMONG GOP ON ACA REPLACEMENT. On CBS' Face the Nation (3/5, Dickerson, 4.61M), Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) said there "is not a consensus" on replacing the Affordable Care Act. Collins added, "I put forth a plan with Senator Cassidy, who is a physician, that is a comprehensive plan that gives states the options of doing what is best for their citizens, and we believe would actually expand the access to health insurance. That is our goal. But there is not a consensus at this point." She also said the process is "very complicated and we shouldn't rush it. We need to get this right."

The Washington Examiner (3/5, King, 400K) reports Collins also stated that the ACA has caused many problems for the individual insurance market. She added, "Regardless of who was elected president we were going to have to do major repairs of" the ACA.

SANFORD SAYS BIGGEST "PIVOT POINT" ON ACA REPLACEMENT IS REFUNDABLE TAX CREDITS. On Fox News's Sunday Morning Futures (3/5, Bartiromo), Rep. Mark Sanford (R-SC), a member of the House Freedom Caucus, discussed efforts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, saying he expected the House to produce a bill before the Easter recess. Sanford stated, "I would say the biggest pivot point at this" juncture "is on the notion of refundable tax credits versus not. The leadership plan – what we know about it at this point – includes refundable tax credits." He added, "The plan for instance that I've introduced with Senator Paul does not. I think that's a pretty big divide."

SEN. PAUL SAYS CONSERVATIVES TOLD TO "TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT" AS FAR AS THE ACA REPEAL PLAN IS CONCERNED. The Washington Times (3/3, Howell, 272K) reported that on Friday, Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) "said conservatives are being told to 'take it or leave it' when it comes to the emerging House GOP plan to repeal and replace Obamacare, setting up a major clash with leaders hoping to mark up legislation as soon as next week." Paul argued that "conservatives are inclined to leave it," because they "want a complete repeal bill, and the replacement bill should be separate," due to differences of opinion on the matter. The article pointed out that three Senate conservatives are opposed "to the House GOP approach, on top of centrists who are worried about unwinding Obamacare's expansion of Medicaid for the poor or defunding Planned Parenthood over its abortion practice as part of the draft plan."

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SEN. PAUL SEARCHES IN VAIN FOR HOUSE GOP ACA REPLACEMENT BILL. In continuing coverage, Fox News (3/4, Pergram, 11.07M) reported that on Thursday, Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) went in search of a House proposal to replace the Affordable Care Act. He searched several rooms in the Capitol, to no avail. The article said "with the press in tow and cameras rolling, an enterprise like Paul's to locate the bill can devolve into boffo theatre. That's when a Paul staffer wheeled up a portable Xerox machine to potentially photocopy sections of the legislation – in case the senator ever got his hands on the bill."

Ryan Criticizes Paul Over Search Of Capitol For ACA Repeal Bill, Calling It A "Publicity Stunt." The Hill (3/3, Hagen, 1.25M) reported that on Friday, House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) "blasted" Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) for his "hunt for House Republicans' closely held draft bill to repeal and replace ObamaCare," which Ryan told Fox News' Bret Baier appears to be a "publicity stunt" because what Paul "described are just not accurate." According to The Hill, "Ryan pushed back on Paul, saying that the draft will be made public once 'fine-tuning' is finished."

PROTESTERS CHANT "COWARD" DURING RYAN'S VISIT TO RHODE ISLAND. The Hill (3/3, Hensch, 1.25M) reported that on Thursday, during a visit to Rhode Island, House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) "was met with protests," and some 200 people chanted "coward" at him. In response, Ryan said, "It is unfortunate protesters chose to demonstrate at Year Up," referring to "the nonprofit career training organization" he was visiting. The article added that Ryan toured the nonprofit's "facilities and took questions from students during his visit Thursday evening."

LAWMAKER ARGUES SOME PEOPLE SIMPLY DO NOT WANT HEALTHCARE COVERAGE. The Hill (3/3, Sullivan, 1.25M) reported that on Friday, Rep. Roger Marshall (R-KS) said, "Just like homeless people...I think just morally, spiritually, socially, [some people] just don't want health care." He argued that this "group of people that just don't want healthcare and aren't going to take care of themselves." According to Marshall, Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act has not helped the problem.

Meanwhile, STAT (3/3, Facher) interviewed Marshall, pointing out that "a few months ago, [he was] just another doctor from Kansas," but now, he is a member of Congress. Marshall criticized the Affordable Care Act, saying that allowing "the government run anything, including health care, what happens is prices go up and competition goes down. ... What we were doing was not working." The article said that in January, Marshall "found himself across a breakfast table from Tom Price, offering emotional support to the Georgia congressman as he endured a contentious confirmation process to become the top health official in the new Trump administration."

SEN. GRAHAM SAYS HE DOES NOT KNOW DETAILS OF LATEST GOP ACA REPEAL PLAN. The AP (3/4, Collins) reported Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) on Saturday "told a rowdy town hall" of "roughly 1,000 people" at Clemson University in South Carolina "that health care is going to change in the United States," but he admitted, "I don't know what the GOP plan is." While Graham remains "vehemently against a single-payer, government-run health care program," and "many of Graham's proposals were met by boos and jeers," the senator "briefly won" the crowd "back by promising to push for the health care debate to be held publicly." According to the AP, Graham "said he was bothered that Republicans seemed to be making the same mistake" former President Obama "made: of coming up with a plan and trying to pass it quickly with as little discussion as possible."

DEMOCRATIC SENATOR MOCKS GOP LAWMAKERS FOR KEEPING ACA REPLACEMENT PLAN A SECRET. The Hill (3/3, Carney, 1.25M) reported in its "Floor Action" blog that Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT) on Friday "poked fun at a frenzy surrounding a forthcoming House GOP ObamaCare replacement bill, urging Republicans to instead work with Democrats." During the weekly Democratic address, Murphy lauded Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) for his "spectacle" over healthcare in response to Republican leaders "keeping their proposal secret – even from their own members and staff." Murphy also suggested the "Republicans are waiting to publicly release the bill is because they are worried about backlash."

The Washington Examiner (3/4, Giaritelli, 400K) reported Murphy said perhaps "it's no surprise that Republicans are hiding this bill. ... If Washington Republicans thought their plan would get praise, they'd let in the cameras."

UTAH DATA INDICATE ENROLLMENT IN ACA PLANS ROSE THIS YEAR, ALONG WITH SUPPORT FOR THE HEALTHCARE LAW. The New York Times (3/3, Goodnough, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reported that while Republican officials in Utah "have been eager to squash it," the state this year "recorded one of the biggest increases of any state in residents who signed up for A.C.A. coverage," and now, "is seeing a surprising burst of activism against repealing the law – including from Republicans." According to the Times, "The activity here, and in other politically conservative states, highlights the challenges Republicans and the White House face as they struggle to come up with a palatable replacement to the law."

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HOSPITAL EXECUTIVES TELL BOSTON MAYOR ACA REPEAL WOULD RESULT IN JOB CUTS. The Boston Globe (3/4, McCluskey, 1.08M) reported that Boston Mayor Martin Walsh met Friday "with leaders of the city's biggest hospitals to talk about the potential impact of a repeal of President Obama's signature health care law," and the news he heard "wasn't comforting." According to the Globe, "The executives told Walsh that policies Republicans in Washington are considering to replace the Affordable Care Act could destabilize their organizations and lead to job cuts."

CEOS WARN ACA REPEAL WILL NEGATIVELY IMPACT HOSPITALS IN SOUTH FLORIDA. The Miami Herald (3/3, Chang, 856K) reported that "a panel of hospital CEOs said Friday at a healthcare conference at the University of Miami" that Republican proposals to repeal the Affordable Care Act and enact a replacement "likely mean that South Florida hospitals will be forced to find ways to deliver medical care to more people with less money." The South Florida hospital CEOs also "said they expect to see more partnerships between competing hospitals, an emphasis on technology such as doctor visits via remote video conferencing, and greater financial risks for keeping patients healthy."

CONSERVATIVE ACTIVISTS PUSH FOR REPEAL OF AFFORDABLE CARE ACT. The New York Times (3/5, A15, Peters, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports, "Conservative activist groups backed by the billionaire Koch brothers and other powerful interests on the right are mobilizing to pressure Republicans to fulfill their promise to swiftly repeal the Affordable Care Act." Tim Philips, the president of Americans for Prosperity, said, "We've been patient this year, but it is past time to act and to act decisively. Our network has spent more money, more time and more years fighting Obamacare than anything else. And now with the finish line in sight, we cannot allow some folks to pull up and give up."

The Washington Examiner (3/4, Crabtree, 400K) reported conservative activists are also pressuring Congressional Republicans "to scrap the budget reconciliation process they think will lead to an imperfect overhaul of Obamacare, and completely eliminate the Senate filibuster in order to completely repeal the law." Rick Manning, the president of Americans for Limited Government, said that Congressional Republicans are making a mistake by drafting an ACA replacement plan using the budget reconciliation process as the Democrats did to pass the law.

OHIO GOVERNOR SPEAKS WITH VICE PRESIDENT ABOUT ACA ALTERNATIVE. The Columbus (OH) Dispatch (3/3, Candisky, 529K) reported Ohio Gov. John Kasich (R) spoke with Vice President Mike Pence on Thursday via telephone concerning healthcare reform. The article reported that Kasich is advocating "for his own version of an Obamacare replacement."

TENNESSEE HIGHLIGHTED AS EXAMPLE OF ACA'S FAILURE, BUT ALSO SOURCE OF GROWING SUPPORT FOR THE LAW. Politico (3/5, Demko, 2.46M) reported, "Republicans point to Tennessee" in order "to make the case that Obamacare is collapsing." The article explained that many Republicans have called attention to the insurers leaving the Tennessee market as a sign that the exchanges created by the law are collapsing, but at the same time, there is growing support for the law in the state.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY HEALTH AGENCY DIRECTOR CONCERNED ABOUT POTENTIAL REPEAL OF ACA. The Los Angeles Daily News (3/4, Bazar, 315K) reported Dr. Mitch Katz, the director of the Los Angeles County Health Agency, is particularly concerned about the potential repeal of the Affordable Care Act, because 1.2 million county residents have signed up for Medi-Cal, the state's Medicaid program, since the state expanded Medicaid. The article featured an interview with Katz discussing the impact of the Affordable Care Act in Los Angeles and the potential consequences if the law is repealed.

REP. BRAT SAYS REPUBLICANS SHOULD UNVEIL ACA REPEAL BILL. The Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (3/3, Wilson, 324K) reported Rep. Dave Brat (R-VA) said he is concerned Congress may soon vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act without unveiling the bill that would repeal the law to the public. Brat said, "We haven't seen the bill yet. Leadership is pushing this big, complex package that no one knows what it is yet, and we're going to vote in three weeks."

MULTIPLE POLLS SHOW INCREASING SUPPORT FOR ACA. Kaiser Health News (3/3, Hancock, 2K) reported that "multiple polls show rising support for the ACA, including two recent ones indicating Americans feel more positively about it than ever." The article suggested that even though many voters supported calls for the law to be repealed during President Donald Trump's campaign, "many" now "appear to be having second thoughts."

NEW YORK LEADERS CONSIDERING ALTERNATIVES IF ACA REPEALED. POLITICO New York (3/3, Velasquez, Goldberg, 53K) reported New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) said there is no "plan B" if the Affordable Care Act is repealed, but there is "a whole continuum of possible proposals," and Cuomo's chief counsel Alphonso David said state leaders are considering using state funds to help those affected if the law is repealed. David later said that all such discussions were preliminary given that it is still unknown what will happen to the ACA.

REP. NOLAN HEARS FROM OFFICIALS AND RESIDENTS DURING FORUM ON HEALTHCARE ACCESS IN

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MINNESOTA. The Duluth (MN) News Tribune (3/3, Kaczke, 134K) reported Rep. Rick Nolan (D-MN) heard from officials and residents during a forum on healthcare access "hosted by the Head of the Lakes United Way." Nolan spoke briefly at the forum, but "most of the time" was "devoted to hearing from panelists from health-care organizations and advocacy groups, and audience comments."

SOME PHYSICIANS CONCERNED MACRA RULE OVERLOOKS IMPACT OF PATIENTS' CHOICES IN DETERMINING PHYSICIAN PAYMENTS. USA Today (3/3, O'Donnell, 5.28M) reported some physicians are concerned that a final rule issued under MACRA that links payments to physicians with "the quality of their service" overlooks the effects of patients' choices on their health. The article quoted Dr. Mark Miller of Arkansas who said, "I can make all the recommendations, but if the patient doesn't comply, I may not meet the goals."

NEVADA BILLS AIM TO FORCE ALL BUSINESS WHO PROVIDE INSURANCE TO PROVIDE CONTRACEPTIVE COVERAGE DESPITE RELIGIOUS OBJECTIONS. The AP (3/5, Noon) reports two bills have been introduced in the Nevada state legislature that would mandate "all health insurance plans cover birth control regardless of religious objections to contraceptives by family-owned businesses." When asked by reporters how the proposed legislation would not run afoul of a 2014 US Supreme Court ruling allowing an exemption to providing birth control, state Sen. Julia Ratti (D-Sparks) told reporters, "I have our legal teams doing some research on it." All 38 of the state's Democratic lawmakers have signed onto the legislation, and hearings are scheduled for Monday in both chambers.

ACA SUPPORTERS CONFRONT REP. BURGESS AT TEXAS TOWN HALL. The Dallas Morning News (3/4, Jeffers, 1.12M) reports at a town hall event in Flower Mound, Texas on Saturday, supporters of the ACA confronted Rep. Michael Burgess (R-TX) about his support for repealing the healthcare legislation. Burgess told attendees that coverage for contraceptives would not be part of the final reconciliation package. The Texas Tribune (3/4, Silver, 12K) reported Burgess told attendees that the ACA's individual mandate "doesn't have a place in a free society."

REPLACING ACA WHILE KEEPING CERTAIN PARTS SEEN AS DIFFICULT TASK FOR REPUBLICANS. The Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (3/3, Demeria, 324K) reports Republicans in Congress are facing a difficult task with repealing and replacing the ACA, particularly in that for every provision they decide to keep, they must adjust another aspect of the healthcare law to compensate. According to a recent Kaiser Family Foundation poll, the provision allowing children to stay on their parents' insurance plan until they turn 26 is the most popular aspect of the ACA. For some Republicans, shifting "sicker" patients to state-run high-risk pools appears to be the solution of choice. Were the Republicans to vote on a straight repeal of the ACA, about 410,000 Virginians would be at risk of losing their existing health insurance.

SEN. TESTER HOLDS TOWN HALL EVENT; ATTENDEES SHARE FEARS OVER ACA REPEAL. The Tennessean (3/4, Murray, 407K) reported 300 people attended a town hall session with Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) on Saturday to learn more about the future of the ACA. Tester was unable to provide specific answers about the replacement plans, but he was able to tell attendees that Republicans will begin moving on the legislation in the next few weeks. Attendees shared their personal stories about how the ACA has helped them obtain coverage, and a local firefighter told Tester he fears that if the ACA is repealed, citizens may begin to rely on local emergency services as opposed to seeking a doctor, which could put a strain on firefighting staff.

REPEALING ACA COULD IMPACT WOMEN HARDER THAN MEN. The Allentown (PA) Morning Call (3/5, Merlin, 307K) reports, "Women in particular have benefited from Obamacare" through requirements that plans "offer preventive care...pre-natal and deliveries coverage with no co-pays...birth control...and breast feeding supplies" free of charge. According to the Guttmacher Institute, the number of women with insurance coverage has grown under the ACA. Many women fear that repealing the ACA could force them to pay higher insurance premiums than men. The Kaiser Family Foundation claims that the average cost of a "normal birth" is just below $10,000.

SENS. PAUL, CRUZ, AND LEE COULD DERAIL ACA REPLACEMENT LEGISLATION. The Fiscal Times (3/5, Pianin, 49K) reports Sens. Rand Paul (R-KY), Ted Cruz (R-TX), and Mike Lee (R-UT) have "threatened to derail the House approach to repeal and replace Obamacare unless it is radically overhauled." Due to the narrow majority Republicans hold in the Senate, just three votes from Republicans against an alternative could derail the proposal altogether. Cruz wrote an op-ed in Politico on Friday arguing that while failure would be terrible, breaking their word to repeal the ACA in its entirety would be significantly worse. House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) told reporters they are putting "the finishing touches" on the ACA alternative.

COMMENTARY CONSIDERS HEALTH REFORM. Several outlets offer opinions on health reform.

Paul Krugman writes in a New York Times (3/6, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) op-ed that the Republican "party's failure so far to make significant progress toward any of its policy promises" does not only concern "Mr. Trump's inadequacies."

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Krugman adds that in terms of repealing the Affordable Care Act and tax reform, “the two lead items in the congressional G.O.P.’s agenda,” in both instances, “Republicans seem utterly shocked to find themselves facing reality.”

In a New York Times (3/4, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) column, Steven Rattner, who led President Obama’s auto industry task force in 2009, lamented that President Trump “came down firmly on the side of a structure that would leave millions of Americans with weaker health insurance or none at all” by proposing to give “tax credits to all individuals without other coverage to buy insurance, in place of the tax credits and subsidies that Obamacare affords lower and middle-income Americans.” He acknowledged that “in fairness,” Trump “has not yet provided details of how he would like to see the replacement crafted,” but House Republican leaders are “circulating a draft of their ideas for helping those without employer-based health insurance, and it is not a pretty picture.”

USA Today (3/5, 5.28M) editorializes that the ACA has been “a godsend for people with serious medical conditions who had been unable to find or afford coverage in the individual market.” USA Today argues that “high-risk pools” do not solve the problem of helping the chronically ill to gain coverage, and premiums for individuals in the pools tended to be almost three times higher and have more restrictions than those outside the pool. USA Today concludes that the GOP-backed alternative would have woefully underfunded the high-risk pools.

In an editorial for USA Today (3/5, 5.28M) Michael Cannon argues that high-risk pools can “help transition to a system that makes high-quality medical care affordable and secure for patients with high-cost conditions.” Cannon argues the GOP plan, as it stands now, is “woefully inadequate” and suffers from over-involvement of the government. He favors a shift towards health savings accounts as a means of reducing the government’s role in healthcare.

In his Los Angeles Times (3/3, 4.52M) column, David Lazarus suggested President Trump and Republican lawmakers in Congress may end up “vastly improv[ing]” California’s chances of successfully implementing a single-payer health insurance system. He argued that by embracing block grants for Medicaid, the GOP is “unintentionally...removing perhaps the biggest obstacle to California and other states establishing their own single-payer systems,” namely requiring “congressional approval to use Medicaid money for a broader insurance program.”

Contributor Bruce Japsen writes in a Forbes (3/5, 15.17M) piece that there is a widening rift among GOP lawmakers “over how to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act following escalating criticism from conservatives about secrecy, back room deals and legislation that could cost more than Obamacare.” He points out that not even two days after President Trump “urged a joint session of Congress to repeal and replace the ACA, momentum from an otherwise well received speech disappeared as Republicans continued to bicker over how to finance whatever coverage they pursue.”

James Coll, an adjunct professor of American and Constitutional history at Hofstra University, wrote in The Hill (3/4, 1.25M) “Pundits Blog” that Republicans now have the power to repeal the Affordable Care Act, and they “should consider looking to an unlikely source in finding its replacement.” He suggested that they use New York state’s catastrophic health coverage for low-income people as a possible template, because it works.

Michael Hiltzik wrote in his column in the Los Angeles Times (3/2, 4.52M) that Congressional Republicans’ secret ACA replacement bill “will screw the working class.” Hiltzik argued that “if it’s done in secret, the masses are getting screwed.”

Jake Novak wrote in his column in CNBC (3/3, 2.17M) “Commentary” that President Trump made the common mistake of conflating “better insurance choices with better care.” Novak argued that too many politicians are focused on reforming health insurance rather than improving the quality of healthcare that Americans receive.

The South Florida Sun Sentinel (3/3, 581K) editorialized that Republicans now realize that healthcare reform is complicated because President Trump won the election and people expect Republicans to keep their promise to repeal the Affordable Care Act and replace it with something better. The editorial suggested that many ideas being considered by Republicans “don’t provide the promised better replacement for Obamacare.”

Emily Mills, a freelance writer, wrote in an opinion piece in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (3/4, 513K) that the current Republican plan to replace the ACA “fails on almost every point.” Mills argued that there are ways to fix problems with the current healthcare system, but “GOP leadership instead aims to add to them, tenfold.”

Betsy McCaughey, the chairman of the Committee to Reduce Infection Deaths, wrote in an opinion piece in the New York Post (3/3, 3.82M) that “politicians have until early May to find a remedy” for the ACA’s “death spiral.” McCaughey argued that Republicans need to act before then to fix the problems, because insurers have to decide by then whether they will offer health plans on the exchanges for 2018.

The Portland (ME) Press Herald (3/5, 177K) editorialized that Republicans are having a hard time deciding how to replace

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the Affordable Care Act because they are realizing that while many Americans hate the ACA, "they all don't have the same reasons for hating it." The editorial contended that while Republicans cannot agree on why they hate the law, then they will not be able to "agree on how to fix it."

Josh Blackman, an adjunct scholar at the Cato Institute, wrote in an opinion piece in the Philadelphia Inquirer (3/5, 586K) that the Affordable Care Act is not a "disaster," but "needs far more than mere repairs." Blackman argued that claims the ACA is in a "death spiral" are exaggerated, but that the law is also unsustainable as is.

The Asbury Park (NJ) Press (3/3, 366K) editorialized that "tweaking" the Affordable Care Act may improve healthcare in the US, but repealing the law will not. The editorial asserted that many are arguing that the law should be kept as is or completely repealed, but that such an approach ignores that the law has had successes and failures.

Abbe R. Gluck, a professor of law at Yale Law School, wrote in an opinion piece in the Philadelphia Inquirer (3/5, 586K) that Republicans sabotaged the Affordable Care Act by challenging the law politically and legally. Gluck argued that "Congress never gave it a chance, or even a tweak, to help it work."

Adam Brandon, the CEO of FreedomWorks, wrote in an opinion piece in the Washington Examiner (3/3, 400K) that Rand Paul's Obamacare repeal plan "gets there" by repealing the ACA, including the Medicaid expansion, while Paul Ryan's plan does not, because it keeps parts of the ACA, like the individual mandate, in place. Brandon argued that Ryan's plan is "Obamacare Lite" and represents a failure "to keep campaign promises."

The Washington Examiner (3/4, 400K) editorialized that Republicans should not keep their healthcare reform bill private. The editorial argued that Democrats made a mistake by not being more transparent in the process of drafting and passing the ACA, and that Republicans should not make the same mistake by not releasing the draft of their healthcare bill to the public.

April Ponnuru, a senior adviser at the Conservative Reform Network, wrote in an opinion piece in the Washington Examiner (3/3, 400K) that Congress must repeal the regulations created under the Affordable Care Act to fully repeal the law. Ponnuru asserted that regulations are "the heart of Obamacare," and that "if Republicans leave them in place they will not have repealed Obamacare or liberated Americans from it."

Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) wrote in an opinion piece in the Memphis (TN) Commercial Appeal (3/4, 229K) that "Congress needs to act immediately to rescue Americans trapped in the failing Obamacare exchanges." Alexander argued that the health insurance market in Tennessee is failing because insurers are leaving and an increasing number of state residents have been left with only one option on the exchange.

LeeAnn Hall, the co-director of People's Action, writes in an opinion piece in The Hill (3/5, 1.25M) that if Congress repeals the Affordable Care Act, then it should be "ready for plenty of opposition – and not just in the expected places." Hall argued that Republicans plan to overhaul healthcare in a way that would create "chaos not just for patients, but for hospitals, clinics, small businesses, and local and regional economies."

Salena Zito wrote in her column in the Washington Examiner (3/5, 400K) that President Trump should be "hands-on" in the process of replacing the Affordable Care Act and not defer to Congress. Zito argued that former President Obama made a mistake by giving so much control to Democrats in Congress to design the 2009 stimulus bill, and that President Trump should not make the same mistake by allowing Republicans in Congress to lead efforts to repeal and replace the ACA.

Dr. Lynn R. Webster, the vice president of scientific affairs at PRA Health Sciences, wrote in an opinion blog for The Hill (3/4, Webster, 1.25M) that the Trump Administration, including the Department of Health and Human Services, is considering requiring "all physicians follow the CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2016," which "is based on Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Opioid Misuse Strategy 2016." Webster asserted that considering such a policy appears contradictory for officials who claim that the government is too involved in healthcare.

Lloyd Sederer, MD, the chief medical officer of the New York State Office of Mental Health, wrote in an opinion piece in U.S. News & World Report (3/3, 1.02M) that Republicans are trying to "con" America by repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act. Sederer argued that Republicans are taking advantage of "people with a desperate state of mind" by telling them that they will be better off without the ACA.

Dr. Alfred Abuhamad, the chairman of Eastern Virginia Medical School's department of obstetrics and gynecology, wrote in an opinion blog piece in The Hill (3/3, 1.25M)that the ACA "ensured access to healthcare for millions of women and

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their children, including those in need of high-risk pregnancy specialists and services." Abuhamad contended that political leaders "must protect and improve women and infant health coverage," and outlined several principles to guide such efforts.

Ed Kilgore wrote in the Daily Intelligencer (NY) (3/3, 795K) that as "panic about credible threats from House and Senate conservatives to thwart plans for Obamacare 'repeal-plus' legislation" grew, "the empire struck back with its own threats." Kilgore said GOP leaders in Congress used "the dependable Beltway bulletin-board of whispers to Politico" to make "it known they will crush the rebellion with help from the Trump administration. Take it to the bank, GOP leaders are all but declaring: The House will vote to repeal and replace by the end of this month."

In an opinion piece in the Huffington Post (3/4, 237K), senior national correspondent Jonathan Cohn wrote that the Republicans' healthcare reform plan "doesn't look like a replacement" for the Affordable Care Act "at all," because millions of people would likely lose coverage under the plan. Cohn suggested that legislation that takes away healthcare coverage from millions of people should not be referred to as a "replacement."

In an opinion piece for the Washington Times (3/5, Marshall, 272K), Rep. Roger Marshall (R-KS) writes that value pools are the way forward for healthcare. Value pools would be set up for individuals with preexisting conditions to assist them in getting the coverage necessary to treat their illnesses. Marshall argues value pools would make health insurance "more affordable" for those with preexisting conditions by isolating costs to a specific area.

Healthcare Fraud:

FLORIDA OPHTHALMOLOGIST'S MEDICARE FRAUD TRIAL TO BEGIN TODAY. The AP (3/5, Spencer) reported the trial of Dr. Salomon Melgen, a Florida ophthalmologist, is scheduled to begin March 6. Dr. Melgen faces 76 criminal counts concerning an alleged $190 million Medicare fraud scheme. The article added that Dr. Melgen is also facing bribery charges in New Jersey because he allegedly paid bribes to Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ).

Healthcare News:

KRISTOF CRITICIZES GOP FOR EFFORT TO DEFUND CLINICS TANGENTIALLY LINKED TO ABORTION. Nicholas Kristof writes in his New York Times (3/4, Kristof, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) column that Vice President Pence and Congressional Republicans are seeking to cut Federal funding "for clinics that have ties to abortion, even tangential ones." Kristof says, "this isn't about the government paying for abortions. That's already mostly banned. This is about paying for birth control and cancer screenings when the provider has some connection, even a remote one, to abortions." He highlights a clinic in Lewiston, Maine that is under threat "because it is operated by Maine Family Planning, a nonprofit that provides some abortions." Clinic patients, he notes, "are anxious" and staff "say that some women have asked to get their IUDs replaced early, so that they don't expire a couple of years from now when there might be less coverage."

GOP EFFORTS TO DEFUND PLANNED PARENTHOOD COULD SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACT CALIFORNIA. The San Jose (CA) Mercury News (3/5, Young, 654K) reports that President Trump and conservative GOP lawmakers in Congress are planning to cut any Federal funding for Planned Parenthood. The article says the government already "prohibits any federal dollars from paying for abortions except in cases of rape, incest or to save the mother's life," yet "the new effort seeks to block federal funds from paying for any other kind of health care by providers who also perform abortions." If this effort proves to be successful, "the impact would be particularly strong in California – a state where legislators over the years have interpreted federal laws and rules in ways that have allowed more federal dollars to flow to Planned Parenthood clinics."

PENNSYLVANIA ABORTION BILL DRAWS HEAVY OPPOSITION FROM ACTIVISTS, PHYSICIANS, MEDICAL GROUPS. The Huffington Post (3/3, Fang, 237K) reported Pennsylvania's state legislature "could pass one of the nation's most restrictive anti-abortion bills," which would ban most abortions at or after 20 weeks, while criminalizing the medical procedure. Opponents of the measure include activists, physicians and Gov. Tom Wolf (D) – who "has repeatedly pledged to veto the legislation" – yet, Republicans may be able to secure a veto override vote. The article pointed out that many physicians "and medical organizations across the state – including the state's branch of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the Pennsylvania Medical Society – have warned against passing the bill."

OPINION DECRIES INDIANA ABORTION REVERSAL BILL AS MEDICALLY UNSOUND. An op-ed in USA Today (3/5, 5.28M) by Jon Webb questions the legality of an Indiana bill seeking to require abortion providers to inform patients about an "abortion reversal procedure." According to the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, patients reconsidering an abortion after taking mifepristone could avoid taking misoprostol, and instead take progesterone. While Americans United for Life leader Clark Forsythe has stated the procedure produces "a 55-60 percent success rate," the

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ACOG has stated “it doesn’t work.” ACOG further explained, “Because medication abortion requires this combination of medications, many women will not abort just from using the first medication. ... In 30-50 percent of women who take mifepristone alone, the pregnancy will continue.”

GEORGIA LEGISLATURE CONSIDERS TWO MEASURES ADDRESSING “SURPRISE BILLINGS” FOR HOSPITAL PATIENTS. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (3/3, Hart, 1.41M) reported that the Georgia Legislature is considering two proposals with possible solutions to “surprise billings” for hospital patients. While House Bill 71 “was tabled early in the day on Friday,” signifying “it’s likely dead for the year,” the second – Senate Bill 8 – passed the Senate and has “momentum and a sponsor with ranking and passion for the issue.” The measure, which is not guaranteed to pass, would place a cap on the amount physicians can bill for services.

TENNESSEE LEGISLATION TO ALLOW HEALTH INSURANCE BROKERS TO CHARGE FEES PASSES HOUSE FLOOR VOTE. The Tennessean (3/3, Fletcher, 407K) reported Tennessee legislation that would “allow insurance brokers to charge customers a fee in [the] absence of a commission passed a vote on the House floor.” The measure, HB0428 and SB0561, is set to be in the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee on March 7. Brokers had initially received commissions from Aetna, BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, Cigna, and Humana, “but drastic changes to the health insurance market eliminated the payments.”

MARYLAND PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL RESCINDED. The Washington Post (3/3, Wiggins, 11.43M) reported a Maryland bill allowing terminally ill adults to elect physician-assisted suicide “will not make it out of committee.” The bill has attracted strong support from families of and advocates for the terminally ill, as well as “equally passionate opposition” from disability rights groups, the Roman Catholic Church, and others. Sen. Guy Guzzone (D-Howard) withdrew the bill before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee opened it to a hearing, citing a lack of votes needed to advance it.

The Baltimore Sun (3/3, Cox, 714K) also covered the story.

Food & Import Safety:

BIRD FLU DETECTED IN A CHICKEN BREEDER FLOCK ON A TENNESSEE FARM CONTRACTED TO TYSON FOODS. Reuters (3/5, Winterbottom) reports the detection of a “strain of bird flu...in a chicken breeder flock on a Tennessee farm contracted to US food giant Tyson Foods Inc, and the 73,500 birds will be culled to stop the virus from entering the food system, government and company officials” announced on March 5. According to Reuters, “the US Department of Agriculture said this represented the first confirmed case of highly pathogenic H7 avian influenza (HPAI) in commercial poultry in the” US for 2017. What’s more, it is “the first time HPAI has been found in Tennessee, the state government said.”

The AP (3/5) reports, “Officials said HPAI poses no risk to the food supply, and no affected chickens entered the food chain.” But, “according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, HPAI can cause up to 100 percent mortality in flocks, often within 48 hours.” The Wall Street Journal (3/5, Bunge, Subscription Publication, 6.37M), Bloomberg News (3/6, Durisin, 2.41M), and CNN (3/5, Ellis, 29.79M) also cover the story.

IM HEALTH SOYNUT BUTTER CO. RECALLING PRODUCTS FOLLOWING E. COLI OUTBREAK. The AP (3/4) reported IM Health SoyNut Butter Co. is voluntarily recalling its SoyNut Butter products after 12 cases of E. coli have been connected to the products. Cases of E. coli were reported in Arizona, California, Maryland, New Jersey, and Oregon.

The Huffington Post (3/3, Almendrala, 237K), the Oregonian (3/3, Terry, 894K), the Newark (NJ) Star-Ledger (3/3, O'Brien, 438K), the Arizona Republic (3/3, Restrepo, 1.1M), the Bergen (NJ) Record (3/3, Washburn), and the Miami Herald (3/5, Neal, 856K) also provided coverage.

Medicare:

MEDPAC TO CONSIDER BENEFITS, DRAWBACKS OF GOP PROPOSAL TO OVERHAUL MEDICARE. Congressional Quarterly (3/3, Young, Subscription Publication, 967) reported that the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) seeks “to identify pitfalls and potential advantages in a major shift in Medicare that House Republicans would like to make.” Ultimately, “GOP lawmakers would...like to give senior citizens a set amount of money to buy insurance rather than cover benefits as the entitlement program does now.” On Friday, MedPAC “reviewed the challenges for federal officials and lawmakers if congressional Republicans were to proceed with their desired overhaul of the giant federal health program.” Instead of recommendations, MedPAC “intends to offer further information on the issues surrounding a shift to so-called premium support in its June report to Congress.”

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CMS ACCUSED WELLCARE OF FAILING TO MEET FEDERAL REGULATIONS. The Tampa Bay (FL) Business Journal (3/3, Manning, Subscription Publication, 63K) reported that according to Federal regulators, "WellCare Health Plans Inc. failed to meet its responsibility to provide some Medicare enrollees with medical services and prescription drug benefits." The Business Journal continued that CMS accused WellCare of lacking the proper outreach to doctors to gather information needed to make proper clinical decisions about drugs. CMS has given WellCare until April 25 to request a hearing to appeal the findings. Failing to do so could result in the company being assessed a $1 million fine by CMS.

Medicaid & CHIP:

REPUBLICAN SENATOR SAYS MEDICAID EXPANSION HAD "BETTER BE" INCLUDED IN REPUBLICAN REPLACEMENT PLAN. CNN (3/3, Wright, 29.79M) reported Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) said on CNN's "New Day" program on Friday that Medicaid expansion had "better be" in Republicans' plan to replace the Affordable Care Act. Capito added, "I have been very forceful in repeatedly saying that the expansion of Medicaid is tremendously important to 184,000 West Virginians. That is something – every time we talk about how has it moved to change – I am constantly talking about."

EDITORIAL: REPUBLICANS SHOULD NOT "RUSH" A MEDICAID OVERHAUL. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (3/4, 1.27M) editorialized that Congressional Republicans should not "rush an ACA replacement plan" that would overhaul Medicaid. The editorial argues that those considering such a plan should carefully consider the role Medicaid plays in supporting "families and communities."

EDITORIAL: REPUBLICANS SHOULD CONSIDER MICHIGAN'S EXPANDED MEDICAID PROGRAM AS POSSIBLE TEMPLATE FOR OVERHAUL. The Detroit News (3/4, 473K) editorialized that Republicans should consider Michigan's expanded Medicaid program as an example for a federal Medicaid overhaul. The editorial argued that Michigan may have "figured out how to encourage smarter health decisions under Medicaid and keep costs down."

OPINION: REPUBLICAN VOTERS IN OHIO COULD LOSE HEALTHCARE COVERAGE IF ACA'S MEDICAID EXPANSION IS REPEALED. Thomas Suddes, a member of the newspaper's editorial board, wrote in an opinion piece in the Cleveland Plain Dealer (3/4, 976K) that if the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion is repealed or frozen, then hundreds of thousands of Ohio residents, including many Republican voters, could lose their healthcare coverage. Suddes argued that Republican members of Ohio's Congressional delegation should be wary of repealing the expansion, because many of their voters may have benefited from it.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS' HEALTHCARE PLAN WOULD SHIFT $560 BILLION IN MEDICAID COSTS FROM FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO STATES OVER NEXT DECADE. The Huffington Post (3/3, Park, 237K) reported the House Republicans' healthcare reform plan "would shift an estimated $560 billion in Medicaid costs to states over the next ten years, effectively ending the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) Medicaid expansion and harming tens of millions of additional seniors, people with disabilities who rely on Medicaid today – based on new details that the Wall Street Journal reported today as well as the leaked bill draft from last week." The article explained that the legislation would end the ACA's Medicaid expansion and change Medicaid funding to a per capita basis.

GENETIC DISORDER PATIENT: ACA INCENTIVIZES PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES TO WORK. Paul Cain, an Ohio University graduate with the genetic disorder neurofibromatosis Type II, wrote in an opinion piece in the Cleveland Plain Dealer (3/5, 976K) that the Affordable Care Act incentivizes people with disabilities to work, because the law prohibits insurers from discriminating against people with pre-existing conditions. Cain argued that before the law it would have been risky for him to take a job which paid him more than the state's Medicaid eligibility cap, because he may not have been able to find private health coverage because of his condition.

ONLY PHYSICIAN IN RURAL COLORADO AREA ORDERED TO STOP TREATING MEDICAID PATIENTS. The Boulder (CO) Daily Camera (3/4, Brennan, 152K) reported that Dr. Michael Camarata, the only physician serving Nederland, Colorado and the surrounding area of about 500 square miles, "has been ordered to stop treating Medicaid patients, leaving more than a thousand clients with few easy options." Camarata received notice in February from the state's Department of Health Care Policy and Financing that the prohibition would take effect on March 1.

NORTH DAKOTA HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATORS CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE LOSS OF EXPANDED MEDICAID FUNDING. The Bismarck (ND) Tribune (3/4, Springer, 90K) reported hospital administrators in North Dakota are concerned about the potential loss of the state's Medicaid expansion. The article explained that the state expanded Medicaid in 2014, but state legislators are currently debating whether to continue funding that expansion.

EDITORIAL: ILLINOIS GOVERNOR SHOULD OVERHAUL STATE'S MEDICAID MANAGED CARE PROGRAM.

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Crain's Chicago Business (3/3, 192K) editorialized that Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner [R] should continue his efforts to overhaul the state's Medicaid managed care program. The editorial argued that Rauner should follow the example of Ohio, which "did the same thing and reports that the results are promising."

MEDICAID AND CHIP PAYMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION CONSIDERS DRUG SPENDING PROPOSALS. Congressional Quarterly (3/3, Siddons, Subscription Publication, 967) reported that during a meeting on Friday, the Medicaid and CHIP Payment Advisory Commission "considered ways that states might try to control prescription drug spending, at a time when not only drug costs are rising but cuts to the federal contribution to Medicaid may be looming as well." The commission heard "from a pair of researchers who study strategies that states have taken to manage spending on high-cost drugs."

INDIANA YET TO RESPOND TO ALLEGATIONS THAT OFFICIALS PUBLISHED MISLEADING INFORMATION ABOUT STATE'S HIP 2.0 PROGRAM. Modern Healthcare (3/4, Subscription Publication, 241K) reported Indiana officials have not responded to NPR's reporting that the state may have published "misleading and inaccurate information" to justify expanding the state's Healthy Indiana Plan 2.0 beyond Jan. 31, 2018. The program was co-designed by then governor, now Vice President, Mike Pence. Modern Healthcare says the program helped as many as 350,000 Indiana residents obtain coverage.

MEDICAID EXPANSION HELPED 713,000 OHIOANS OBTAIN COVERAGE; 47 PERCENT REPORTED HEALTH IMPROVEMENTS. The Mansfield (OH) News Journal (3/3, Martz, 75K) reported Ohio Medicaid Director Barbara Sears has worked to preserve healthcare access for citizens who have benefited from the state's expansion of Medicaid under the ACA. Since the expansion, 47 percent of new enrollees reported "improvements in their overall health since enrolling and 27 percent were diagnosed with at least one health condition. ... Enrollees with opioid use disorders reported the greatest improvement to access to health care of any group, 82 percent." Since the Medicaid expansion in Ohio, 713,000 Ohioans have enrolled.

SEN. HASSAN: STOP PARTISAN APPROACH TO HEALTHCARE. In a guest article for Seacoast Online (NH) (3/3, 47K), Sen. Maggie Hassan (D-NH) wrote that many in Washington have abandoned a bi-partisan approach to healthcare in favor of a "partisan agenda of repealing the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid expansion." Hassan called on her fellow members of Congress to work together to bring down costs. Hassan also urged members of Congress to support legislation she co-sponsored to bring down the cost of prescription drugs. Hassan concludes by stating healthcare should not be about partisan politics but rather about helping individuals obtain the services necessary to stay healthy.

EDITORIAL: ILLINOIS LAWMAKERS SHOULD GET TO WORK ON NEW MEDICAID LEGISLATION. The Chicago Tribune (3/3, 2.54M) editorialized that Democrats and Republicans in Illinois are concerned with the possibility that the Federal funds for the state's Medicaid expansion may dry up, and the Tribune called on Federal legislators to back off their proposal to block grant Medicaid funding to the states. The state did build in an opt-out clause in 2013, which states that if the Federal government provides less than 90 percent of the funding for Medicaid's expansion, Illinois can withdraw. However, the Tribune argues pulling out is not likely, concluding, "Lawmakers should get to work on a sequel now."

$10 MILLION MEDICAID GAP FUNDING BILL REINTRODUCED IN IDAHO LEGISLATURE. The AP (3/3) reported Idaho State Sen. Marv Hagedorn introduced legislation to the State Senate on Friday that would offer $10 million in state funds to help citizens who "earn too much to qualify for Medicaid and too little to qualify for health insurance premium subsidies" obtain healthcare. The initial proposal by Rep. Fred Wood was withdrawn earlier this week citing a lack of support, which prompted Hagedorn to introduce an almost identical piece of legislation.

PENNSYLVANIA DHS ANNOUNCED DELAY IN MEDICAID MANAGEMENT CONTRACT START DATE. The Philadelphia Inquirer (3/3, Brubaker, 586K) reported "The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services on Friday announced another delay in the start day for new Medicaid management contracts covering about $12 billion in annual benefits." The state will be staggering the start dates based on region of the state.

ARKANSAS PRIVATE-OPTION PER-PERSON COSTS UP 7.5% OVER LAST YEAR. The Arkansas Democrat Gazette (3/4, Davis, 278K) reported according to the Arkansas DHS figures released Friday, "The average per-person cost of Arkansas' private-option Medicaid program has increased about 7.5 percent from last year." DHS Spokeswoman said Friday that the state has terminated coverage for 21,280 Arkansans as a result of efforts to remove enrollees who are no longer eligible for coverage. Republican Gov. Asa Hutchinson's spokesman called the move "good news."

NEW MEXICO HOSPITALS URGING LAWMAKERS TO INSTITUTE ONE PERCENT TAX ON THEMSELVES TO ASSIST STATE MEDICAID TRUST FUND. The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (3/3, Sinovic, 234K) reported the hospital industry in New Mexico stated it would voluntarily accept a one percent tax for two years to help assist the state's

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Medicaid Trust Fund. The New Mexico Hospital Association estimated the tax would generate about $52 million over two years.

Health & Medical News:

WHO REPORTS SUGGESTS POLLUTION KILLS 1.7 MILLION CHILDREN EACH YEAR. The Washington Post (3/5, Naqvi, 11.43M) reports environmental pollution "is associated with more than one in four deaths among children younger than 5," according to two World Health Organization reports. The WHO found that "weaker immune systems make children's health more vulnerable to harmful effects of polluted environments," and provided a breakdown of the 1.7 million children killed each year by pollution.

Reuters (3/5, Kelland) reports WHO public health expert Maria Neira "urged governments to do more to make all places safe for children," adding that "investing in the removal of environmental risks to health, such as improving water quality or using cleaner fuels, will result in massive health benefits."

CNN (3/5, Senthilingam, 29.79M) also provides coverage.

WPost Stresses Global Need For Environmental Enforcement Measures. In an editorial, the Washington Post (3/5, 11.43M) warns President Trump's efforts to reduce Environmental Protection Agency staff and cut "superfluous" EPA programs, including "those addressing climate change," will result in his Administration throwing "out only bathwater and no baby," because ignoring present and future pollution challenges "ignores vast volumes of evidence on the ecological and human damage various types of pollution still cause." The Post cites a recent study's "finding that two major types of air pollution were associated with 4.2 million deaths in 2015," with a disproportionate death toll in China and India. If developing nations rely too heavily on "coal burning, people's health will still be threatened," the Post writes, and says these nations must grow their economies in ways that do not threaten air quality. The Post also says the negative impact of air pollution reinforces an "appreciation for effective environmental enforcement" in the US, and necessitates that world governments "press major developing nations on cross-border pollution matters."

PEOPLE WITH MENTAL DISABILITIES MAY FACE BIAS IN RECEIVING TRANSPLANTS. In a front-page article, the Washington Post (3/4, A1, Bernstein, 11.43M) reports the rights of those suffering from mental disabilities to receive transplants is "emerging [as an] ethical issue" in medicine. Currently, physicians, "nurses, psychologists and social workers at 815 US transplant programs are free to take neurocognitive disabilities such as autism into consideration any way they want," which the Post says has led to a wide range of variation across these programs. A spokesperson for Health and Human Services said in a statement that the department has been working "to clarify the obligations of covered entities participating in the transplant process and to provide equal access to their programs to individuals with disabilities."

PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGERS BLAMED FOR HIGH DRUG PRICES. Bloomberg News (3/3, Weinberg, Langreth, 2.53M) reported on an experiment from Caterpillar Inc. to rein in its pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) and provide its employees with its own hired physicians and pharmacists and saved "tens of millions of dollars a year." Ravi Mehrotra of MTS Health Partners estimated that $15 out of every $100 spent in the US on brand-name drugs go to "middlemen" in PBMs who do the negotiating, as the benefit managers "keep about 10 percent of the rebates from manufacturers vying to get their medicines covered."

OP-ED SAYS MANY PARENTS ARE MISSING A CRUCIAL ASPECT OF THEIR CHILDREN'S BRAIN DEVELOPMENT. Jennifer Bryan, co-founder and a board member of Read Aloud 15 MINUTES, writes in a USA Today (3/6, 5.28M) op-ed that few parents are taught that the development of children's brains is as important as physical growth. She says "too few understand the window of rapid brain development that occurs between birth and age 3," which is "a problem leading to a public health crisis." According to Bryan, about "85% of American parents are failing to give their children a basic building block that is as key to early brain development as tummy time is to physical development, and which has been recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics since 2014: Reading aloud daily right from birth."

JESSE VENTURA: "WRONG AND UNETHICAL" TO OVERRULE STATES ON MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION. In a CNBC (3/3, Ventura, 2.17M) op-ed, former Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura condemns President Trump's plans to use the DEA to prosecute legal recreational marijuana users. He asserts "It is completely wrong and unethical – not to mention unconstitutional – to reverse state law just because you feel like it. Shame on President Trump for even considering this."

PALMIERI REMEMBERS SISTER WHO DIED OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE. In a Washington Post (3/3, Palmieri, 11.43M) op-ed, Jennifer Palmieri, former White House communications director and communications director for Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign, says her sister passed away last month at 58 from early-onset Alzheimer's disease. She acknowledges "for now, there is not a lot of hope for recovery," but says "I do hope that by relaying the story of my

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sister's journey, I can offer" other families affected by the disease "some peace." She concludes, "My hope for you is that you get to share the heavenly peace and love our family was able to share with our sister while she was with us. It is a blessing."

KESSLER HIGHLIGHTS NEW EARLY HEART ATTACK TEST. In a Wall Street Journal (3/3, Kessler, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) op-ed, former hedge-fund manager Andy Kessler recounts how his son two years ago underwent sudden cardiac arrest and after his son recovered, his family became advocates for teen heart testing. He laments that most schools and the NCAA do not require electrocardiograms for high school and collegiate athletes, but he lauds a new 12-lead EKG developed by Cardiac Insight that features an algorithm to better detect heart abnormalities.

FAMILIES CONCERNED OVER CHEMICAL EXPOSURE FROM CONTAMINATED WATER AT FORMER AIR BASE. The AP (3/4, Casey) reports on the families who are having to come to terms with the hidden risks of having lived at the Pease International Tradeport, an air base that underwent redevelopment. The AP says the drinking water are the base was "contaminated by military firefighting foam that contained perfluorinated compounds, or PFCs." This exposure, the piece says, was in everything from "nonstick cookware and stain-resistant carpet." The PFCs have also been "linked in animal studies to low birth weight, accelerated puberty, cancer and thyroid problems, among other maladies, according to the Environmental Protection Agency." The AP indicates, however, that how problems may be manifesting themselves in humans isn't clear and that this is not "sitting well with the Pease parents whose children were found to have elevated levels of PFCs in their blood."

NEUROSCIENTIST RECOMMENDS SHARING HEALTH INFORMATION WHEN SUFFERING FROM ILLNESS OR PRIOR TO SURGERY. In an article about how much health information people should share when they suffer from a serious illness or have to undergo surgery, the New York Times (3/4, Feiler, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports Paul Wicks, PhD, a neuroscientist and A.L.S. specialist who currently serves as a vice president of the online support network Patients Like Me, "comes down strongly in favor of disclosure. His reason: You never know where you can learn something that might save your life." According to the Times, his research also "shows that patients who participate in peer groups have learned tips about drug sequencing or little-known specialists that proved critical to their care."

WPOST: MARYLAND'S MEDICAL MARIJUANA PROGRAM ROLLOUT PLAGUED BY BIAS, POLITICS. The Washington Post (3/4, Board, 11.43M) editorializes that the slow rollout of Maryland's medical marijuana program has not translated into "careful planning and follow-through." Rather, the Post says "the process has been tainted by self-dealing and complaints of racial bias, secrecy and political interference." It notes that Del. Dan K. Morhaim, who has pushed for medical marijuana, was reprimanded by the House of Delegates for not" disclosing his role as a paid consultant to a prospective cannabis dispensary." Additionally, the piece says there should be "equal concern...directed at the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission and how it selected the businesses to receive the limited number of lucrative licenses to grow and process cannabis."

SOY CONSUMPTION DOES NOT INCREASE MORTALITY FOR WOMEN WITH BREAST CANCER, DECREASES MORTALITY FOR SOME TYPES, STUDY SUGGESTS. TIME (3/5, Park, 6.98M) reports that "women diagnosed with breast cancer who consumed more soy did not have a higher risk of dying over nine years than women who ate less," and for "a certain type of breast cancer, soy actually lowered their risk of dying from any cause," Tufts University researchers found in a study of "more than 6,200 women diagnosed with different types of breast cancer...who also reported on their diet." Researchers noted that even at a "lower amount of soy consumption, there appeared to be some benefit." Their findings were published in the journal Cancer.

MEDITERRANEAN DIET REDUCES RISK OF ESTROGEN-RECEPTOR NEGATIVE BREAST CANCER BY 40 PERCENT, STUDY SUGGESTS. The Telegraph (UK) (3/6, Donnelly, 1.04M) reports "eating a Mediterranean diet can help reduce risk of" estrogen-receptor negative breast cancer by 40 percent researchers found in a study of "more than 60,000 women over two decades." Though the diet usually "involves moderate consumption of alcohol, in this study alcohol was excluded from the criteria, as this is a known risk factor for breast cancer." The Guardian (UK) (3/5, Siddique, 4.07M) reports the researchers concluded that "if everyone ate the highest defined Mediterranean diet, around a third (32.4%) of ER-negative breast cancer cases and 2.3% of all breast cancer cases could be avoided." Their findings were published in the International Journal of Cancer.

SENATORS QUESTION MARATHON PHARMACEUTICALS OVER HIGHER PRICE FOR STEROID DRUG. The Wall Street Journal (3/5, Walker, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports Democratic US Senators are questioning Marathon Pharmaceuticals' decision to charge US customers $89,000 Emflaza, an old steroidal drug, despite only charging $1,200 overseas. In a letter, the Senators asked Marathon's CEO if the price was based on the company's investment in development, and requested information on how much the company spent to bring the drug to the US.

GILEAD EXECUTIVE SUGGESTS DRUG MIDDLEMEN PREFER HIGHER PRICES. Bloomberg News (3/3, Chen,

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Langreth, 2.53M) reported Gilead Sciences executive vice president of worldwide commercial operations Jim Meyers said "the company can't cut the" price of its hepatitis C cure Sovaldi "because middlemen who manage drug benefits would refuse to cover it." He suggested that pharmacy benefit managers "prefer higher list prices" with rebates to sustain their revenues. A spokesman for one PBM explained middlemen are "needed 'because employers and health plans want to have some way to push back against drugmakers who continually raise their prices,'" adding that the current system incentivizes rebate revenue.

STATE GOVERNMENTS PUSHING FOR GREATER TRANSPARENCY IN PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES. The Hill (3/3, Chacko, 1.25M) reported that 15 states "have filed measures related to drug price transparency thus far this year," according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Some experts say that states are turning to transparency measures to respond to drug price increases because they are more politically palatable than measures that limit price directly.

OPIOID OVERDOSE DEATHS LINKED TO UNEMPLOYMENT, STUDY FINDS. The Washington Post (3/3, Guo, 11.43M) reported a study published by the National Bureau of Economic Research finds "that rates of opioid deaths grew faster in countries where the unemployment rate climbed faster than average." Specifically, "a one percentage-point increase in the unemployment rate, above and beyond the trend, was associated with an approximate 3.6 percent increase in the rate of fatal opioid overdoses, and a 7 percent increase in emergency room visits related to opioid overdoses."

FDA APPROVES MEDICATION TO REDUCE FREQUENT WAKING TO URINATE. The AP (3/3) reported the Food and Drug Administration on Friday approved the nasal spray Noctiva (desmopressin acetate nasal spray), "the first drug to reduce nighttime trips to the bathroom." However, the FDA warned that the spray "is not approved to treat all causes of frequent nighttime urination, so doctors must determine the cause and best treatment for each person."

REP. LOWEY CRITICAL OF TRUMP'S PLAN TO CUT NONDEFENSE SPENDING. The New York Times (3/6, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY) wrote in a response to an article by Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK) that President Trump's proposal to cut $54 billion in nondefense spending "would result in cuts of more than 20 percent for priorities like early childhood education, clean drinking water, food and drug safety, pandemic preparedness, job training, rail safety, diplomacy and development, and much more." Lowey argues the move could "eliminate jobs, cost lives and make Americans less safe and financially secure."

PERRIGO BEING INVESTIGATED BY FEDERAL GENERIC DRUGS PROBE. Bloomberg News (3/3, McLaughlin, Chen, 2.41M) reported that Federal prosecutors are "examining the prices of skin treatments made by Perrigo Co. and a handful of other companies as part of a sweeping criminal investigation into possible collusion in the generic drug business, according to a document filed in court" last week. A letter filed in a federal court in Manhattan "asks a judge to pause discovery against generic-drug manufacturers over claims they fixed prices for fluocinonide, desonide and clobetasol, which treat skin disorders like eczema and psoriasis" and refers to Perrigo, Akorn Inc., Taro Pharmaceutical Industries, Novartis AG's Sandoz unit, Wockhardt Ltd, and Teva Pharmaceutical.

ETHICISTS WARN RIGHT-TO-TRY LAWS POSE RISKS TO VULNERABLE PATIENTS. NPR (3/3, Feibel, 1.92M) reported on its website that 33 states over the past three years "have passed laws aimed at helping dying people get easier access to experimental treatments that are still in the early stages of human testing." While supporters of such laws "say these patients are just looking for the right to try these treatments," medical ethicists "warn they pose worrisome risks to the health and finances of vulnerable patients."

ST. LOUIS JURY REJECTS TALC POWDER LAWSUIT AGAINST JOHNSON & JOHNSON. The AP (3/3) reported that a jury in St. Louis, by an 11-1 vote, "rejected a Tennessee woman's lawsuit that Johnson & Johnson baby powder contributed to her ovarian cancer, a victory for the company after it lost three previous, similar lawsuits in St. Louis." The plaintiff's attorney in the case "said he thinks the difference between Friday's verdict and the three previous St. Louis cases was that this jury didn't think the talcum powder contributed to [the plaintiff's] specific type of cancer."

Reuters (3/3, Raymond) reported that "more than 2,500 [similar] lawsuits are pending in state court in St. Louis."

Additional coverage was provided by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch (3/4, Currier, 729K).

MANY HIGH-SPF SUNSCREENS IN THE US MAY NOT MEET EUROPEAN STANDARDS, STUDY SUGGESTS. Reuters (3/3, Crist) reported that research indicates that "while most high-SPF sunscreens in the US meet national standards for ultraviolet A (UVA) protection," approximately "half don't meet European standards." Researchers found that "many sunscreens with sun protection factor (SPF) 50 or above and labeled 'broad spectrum' – because they protect against both UVA and UVB rays – didn't meet the higher standards created by the European Union, which may indicate a

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need for new UV filters in US products." The findings were published in the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology.

NBC NIGHTLY NEWS SEGMENT DISCUSSES 3-D MAMMOGRAPHY. In a two-minute segment on Friday, NBC Nightly News (3/3, story 9, 2:05, Holt, 16.61M) reported on "3-D mammography." NBC News correspondent Ann Thompson said, "Now available in one-third of the nation's imaging centers, 3-D mammography costs up to $75 more." She added that while "not all insurers cover the costs...Medicare does, and some states are mandating coverage."

VETERANS AFFAIRS INSPECTION REPORT EXPLORES PATIENT SCHEDULING DISCREPANCIES. An investigation by the Veterans Affairs Department inspector general into its North Carolina facilities indicated "90 percent of the vets eligible to see private doctors because of long VA delays weren't getting the help they were due," the AP (3/3, Dalesio) reported. Data indicate "more than one-third of new patient appointments had wait times of longer than 30 days." By "comparison, VA records showed only about 10 percent of those appointments had delays that long."

Global Health:

ISRAELI GOVERNMENT PASSES MARIJUANA DECRIMINALIZATION BILL. Reuters (3/5, Lubell) reported the Israeli government voted on Sunday to decriminalize recreational marijuana use. The measure, awaiting ratification by parliament, assesses fees for people caught smoking, and only prosecutes repeat offenders. Growers and sellers would remain subject to criminal charges. According to UN Office on Drugs and Crime statistics, nearly nine percent of Israelis use cannabis.

OPINION: US ANTI-VACCINATION MOVEMENT CAN HURT GLOBAL HEALTH. In a Scientific American (3/3, Hotez, 1.88M) op-ed, former US Science Envoy for the White House and Dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine Peter J. Hotez warns that health gains from vaccination "can be fragile," and suggests that "America's anti-vaccine movement has sufficient strength and momentum to affect vaccine coverage globally." He explains that an expansion of the movement "could ignite reversals of global disease elimination and eradication efforts" of the last 50 years, and calls on government leaders to "become more vocal and proactive, while addressing and elevating discussions about vaccine hesitancy and antivaccine movements in international forums."

VENEZUELA'S PHARMACEUTICAL AVAILABILITY CRISIS IMPACTING PATIENTS WITH EPILEPSY. Reuters (3/3, Aponte) reported Venezuala's population of people struggling with epilepsy also face hardship in trying to acquire appropriate medications. "With 85 of every 100 medicines now missing in Venezuela, anti-convulsants are among the toughest drugs to find," according to statements by Venezuela's main pharmaceutical association.

National News:

WHITE HOUSE CALLS FOR HILL PROBE AS COMEY, CLAPPER REJECT TRUMP'S WIRETAPPING CLAIM. President Trump's claim via Twitter that President Obama had his "'wires tapped' in Trump Tower," and the subsequent reaction garner extensive media coverage, including more than 12 minutes on the network news broadcasts – all of which led with the story. The tone of the coverage is largely negative toward Trump, highlighting that he made the assertion without offering any evidence and describing his own team as well as Republican lawmakers as surprised by the allegation. While the Christian Science Monitor (3/5, Hoover, 387K) says Trump's allegations took his team "by surprise," however, the Los Angeles Times (3/5, King, 4.52M) reports that a "combative White House" on Sunday "doubl[ed] down" on Trump's "unsubstantiated assertion" and "demanded a congressional investigation into whether then-President Obama had abused his executive powers." A statement from White House press secretary Sean Spicer called for a congressional investigation of Obama citing "unspecified but 'very troubling' reports of 'politically motivated' investigations by Obama's executive branch, but did not offer any evidence to back up the claim or say where the reports originated." The New York Post (3/5, Li, 3.82M) also says Trump "rocked Washington" with his claim on Saturday and the White House "doubled down on that accusation the following day, asking for a congressional probe."

Bloomberg Politics (3/4, Olorunnipa, 201K) also says the White House "doubled down" on Trump's claim and cites "a person familiar with the situation" who said Trump "relied on conservative media sources, notably Breitbart News, to make his explosive statements." In the lead story for ABC World News Tonight (3/5, lead story, 3:30, Llamas, 14.63M), Brian Ross also said that while Trump, as President, "has unlimited access to the country's greatest secrets," it "seems increasingly clear that he instead relied heavily on questions raised in a Fox News report Friday night" and "the conservative Breitbart website, which Friday highlighted a conspiracy-loving radio talk show host."

The Washington Times (3/5, Muñoz, 272K) reports that former DNI Clapper said Sunday that the Obama Administration did not seek or receive a FISA warrant "to electronically monitor communications from Trump Tower after President

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Trump's election victory." Clapper told NBC's Meet the Press (3/5, Todd, 157K), "I can deny it." McClatchy (3/5, Kumar, 74K) reports that Clapper "said unequivocally" that Trump's home and office were not wiretapped. Clapper "was categorical," telling NBC, "There was no such wiretap activity mounted against the president, the president-elect at the time, or as a candidate, or against his campaign."

The New York Times (3/5, Schmidt, Shear, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports FBI Director Comey's requested that the Justice Department dispute Trump's allegations, "a remarkable rebuke of a sitting president" that puts him "in the position of questioning Mr. Trump's truthfulness." The Times cites senior officials who said Comey "has argued that the highly charged claim is false and must be corrected," but "the department has not released any such statement." The Times also says the "confrontation" between Trump and Comey "underscores the dangers of what the president and his aides have unleashed by accusing the former president of a conspiracy to undermine Mr. Trump's young administration." In the lead story for ABC World News Tonight (3/5, lead story, 3:30, Llamas, 14.63M), anchor Tom Llamas called Comey's request "a serious setback to President Trump." Correspondent Brian Ross said, "We're hearing the director is extremely unhappy. Not only is he saying that Trump tweets are false, but also making it appear that the FBI acted illegally, and he's asking that the Justice Department defend the integrity of the bureau and his agents." USA Today (3/5, Sullivan, 5.28M) calls Comey's request for "a public rebuke" from the Justice Department "extraordinary," and the Washington Post (3/5, A1, Phillip, Nakashima, 11.43M) reports that the "unusual request" came as the charge, which Trump made "without any evidence," was "being rebuffed both inside and outside of the executive branch."

Asked on ABC's This Week (3/5, Raddatz, 6.61M) about Clapper's statement, Sen. Al Franken said, "My reaction to that is, of course there wasn't." Asked on CBS' Face the Nation about Clapper's statement, Sen. Mark Warner said, "I am not aware of any FISA court order regarding the Trump Tower." Warner also told CBS, "Now we have this unsubstantiated claim made by the President which shows in a certain way that the President doesn't understand how you obtain a wiretap. You have to go before a judge and show either probable cause or if it is in terms of foreign intelligence a FISA court and show that there is evidence of some type of contact with a foreign adversary. So what I find so strange and I thought the President's comments could no longer surprise me, but, boy, this one yesterday surprised me to make that type of claim without any evidence is, I think, very reckless."

In a separate story, the Washington Times (3/5, Richardson, 272K) quotes a White House statement yesterday as saying, "President Donald J. Trump is requesting that as part of their investigation into Russian activity, the congressional intelligence committees exercise their oversight authority to determine whether executive branch investigative powers were abused in 2016." White House deputy press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said on ABC News' This Week (3/5, Raddatz, 6.61M), "If they're going to investigate Russia ties, let's include this as part of it. That's what we're asking." Sanders added, "If it happened, if this is accurate, this is the biggest overreach, the biggest scandal." However, the New York Times (3/5, Savage, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) says there is "ample reason for caution because Mr. Trump has a history of making attention-grabbing and politically explosive claims that have no basis in fact."

The Wall Street Journal (3/5, Mann, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) points out that a president does not have legal authority to order wiretaps, and says a spokesman for Obama has denied Trump's allegation. The AP (3/5, Superville) says that in an interview with ABC News' This Week, Josh Earnest, who served as press secretary to Obama, "said presidents do not have authority to unilaterally order the wiretapping of American citizens," and "accused Trump of leveling the allegations to distract from the attention being given to campaign-season contacts by Trump aides with a Russian official." Huckabee Sanders told ABC's This Week (3/5, Raddatz, 6.61M), "I think they don't have the best track record. They say they had a cardinal rule. Well, frankly, that's just not true. The President himself got directly involved in the e-mail scandal with Hillary Clinton. … So to pretend like this is a clean and credible source coming from, I'm sorry, I'm not just buying it."

Daily Beast special correspondent Michael Tomasky said on Fox News MediaBuzz (3/5, 536K), "The questions it raises is are about Trump and his mental processes. Most presidents, before they said something like that, would want to talk to their FBI, would want to talk to Justice Department lawyers, would want to talk to somebody official and try to find out the official thing. Trump doesn't roll that way."

John Harwood of CNBC said on MSNBC's Weekends with Alex Witt (3/5, 222K) that "what the President said in his tweets is going to be persuasive to the same kind of people who think that President Obama was born in Kenya, that Ted Cruz's father was involved in the JFK assassination, that there were three million illegal votes in the election – which is to say, people who aren't playing with a full deck. Now, that is not the case with the Republican members of the intelligence committee," who "are concerned about this, and that is an entirely different audience and it is not suggestive of this whole set of circumstances heading into a good direction for Donald."

Julie Pace of the AP said on CNN Inside Politics (3/5, 303K), "I'm not sure the President fully understood the door he was opening in doing this if he was just getting this information from Breitbart or other conservative media because this has

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been one of the major questions surrounding this FBI investigation is was the FBI, or were intelligence agencies actually accessing communication that Trump's advisers had during the campaign with Russians? If the President is aware that that happened...he has now essentially given the Hill, the investigative committees there, and the intelligence agencies an opening to share some of that information publicly, which they have been reluctant to do so far." Jonathan Martin of the New York Times similarly said on CNN Inside Politics (3/5, 303K), "Trump was trying to sort of muddy the waters here on this issue and, you know, divert attention away from Jeff Sessions and Russia and focus more on Obama. What he's unwittingly done is give more impetus to Ben Sasse and Lindsey Graham, to say nothing of Democrats in Congress, to investigate this."

In a separate story on ABC World News Tonight (3/5, story 2, 2:50, Llamas, 14.63M), correspondent David Wright said "the White House is bracing for a fight" as Republicans "are openly skeptical about that unsubstantiated claim" and Democrats "are downright critical." Politico (3/5, Cheney, 2.46M) says the "continued assertions" from the Trump and the White House were "provided without evidence" and described congressional Republicans as "flummoxed" by the claims. Elaine Quijano said in the lead story for the CBS Weekend News (3/5, lead story, 3:00) that "Washington is bugging out" over Trump's "unsubstantiated claim." Correspondent Errol Barnett added that "no evidence was provided and President Obama denied it. So Democrats and Republicans have been trying to figure out if the explosive accusations have merit or if President Trump is a thousand miles from reality."

Appearing on NBC's Meet the Press, Sen. Marco Rubio said he had seen "no evidence" to support Trump's accusation, and added, "I'd imagine the president and the White House in the days to come will outline further what was behind that accusation. ... The president put that out there, and now the White House will have to answer as to exactly what he was referring to." Rubio told CNN State of the Union, "I'm not sure what it is he is talking about. Perhaps the President has information that is not yet available to us or to the public, and if it's true, obviously we're going to find out very quickly, and if it isn't, then obviously he'll have to explain what he meant by it."

Politico (3/5, Cheney, 2.46M) also reports that on CBS' Face the Nation (3/5, Dickerson, 4.61M) Sen. Susan Collins said, "It would be more helpful if he turned over to the intelligence committee any evidence that he has." In an appearance on Fox News Sunday (3/5, Wallace), Sen. Tom Cotton "said he had no evidence that what Trump said was true: 'It doesn't mean that none of these things have happened, just means I haven't seen them yet.'" Cotton said (3/5, Wallace), "We've already begun an inquiry on the Intelligence committee into Russia's efforts to undermine confidence in our political system last year and in our interests all around the world. That inquiry is going to be thorough, and we will follow the facts wherever they lead us. I'm sure that this matter will be a part of that inquiry."

Senate Minority Leader Schumer offered a "blunt assessment" of Trump's allegation, according to Politico (3/5, Everett, 2.46M). Schumer told NBC's Meet the Press, "The president is in trouble," and, "If he falsely spread this kind of misinformation, that is so wrong. It's beneath the dignity of the presidency ... it shows this president doesn't know how to conduct himself. ... If it's true, it's even worse for the president. Because that means that a federal judge, independently elected, has found probable cause that the president, or people on his staff ... have probable cause to have broken the law or to have interacted with a foreign agent." To Schumer, Trump's claims "are attempts at diverting attention away from the questions about his campaign's ties to the Russians."

On Fox News Sunday, Sen. Chris Coons said, "These are remarkable allegations. I think another attempt by President Trump to change the subject. But this deserves full investigation." Similarly, Franken said on ABC's This Week, "I think this is just a distraction. To distract from this very, very serious interference by a foreign power on our democracy and, the question of whether Trump world, his campaign, his business associates, had anything to do with it and colluding with them."

Politico (3/5, Cohen, 2.46M) says leaders of the House Intelligence Committee "issued emphatically different statements Sunday." Chairman Devin Nunes said the panel would look into Trump's claims, while ranking Democrat Adam Schiff's "focus was on Trump's allegations as being beneath the dignity of his office." The Hill (3/5, Balluck, 1.25M) says Democrats "slammed Trump for making the accusations without offering evidence," and cast his assertions as "an effort to distract from renewed scrutiny of his aides and allies' alleged ties to Russia."

On CNN's State of the Union, the Washington Times (3/5, Richardson, 272K) reports, House Minority Leader Pelosi called Trump the "deflector-in-chief," and accused him of "manipulating news coverage to his benefit." Pelosi said, "The president, you know, is the deflector-in-chief. Anything to change the subject from where the heat is." Calling Trump's claim "just ridiculous," Pelosi continued, "It's called the wrap-up smear. You make up something, then you have the press write about it, and then you say, 'Everybody's writing about this charge.' ... It's a tool of an authoritarian to just have you always be talking about what you want them to be talking about." USA Today (3/5, Jackson, 5.28M) says Pelosi again "call[ed] for an outside investigation into Trump and Russia," asking, "What do the Russians have on Donald Trump?"

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Asked on MSNBC AM Joy (3/5) about Trump's call for an investigation, Rep. Ted Liu said, "Bring it on. I want to know what are the connections between Trump and his associates and Russia. For there to have been a wire tap at Trump Tower, that would mean an independent FISA court judge sat there, reviewed the evidence and concluded there was probable cause that there were one or more foreign agents in Trump Tower. That means the President of the United States right now is in deep doo-doo."

Rep. Karen Bass said on MSNBC's Weekends with Alex Witt (3/5, 222K), "We, I know, have not even gotten to the tip of the iceberg about the connection between Russia and Trump. ... It seems to me Trump was becoming paranoid. It took Nixon several years before he became paranoid. He was concerned about Obama conspiring with the protesters and he was the one that encouraged the protesters. So I guess this weekend he chose to focus on President Obama, but according to Clapper, that there was not a wiretap. There was no FISA warrant."

The Hill (3/5, Shelbourne, 1.25M) reports that former Attorney General Michael Mukasey told ABC's This Week on Sunday that Trump "is likely correct that there was surveillance on Trump Tower for intelligence purposes, but incorrect in accusing former President Barack Obama of ordering the wiretapping." Mukasey told ABC, "I think he's right in that there was surveillance and that it was conducted at the behest of the attorney general – at the Justice Department." According to Mukasey, a wiretap at Trump Tower would mean that "there was some basis to believe that somebody in Trump Tower may have been acting as an agent of the Russians for whatever purpose. ... Not necessarily the election, but for some purpose." Avvo legal analyst Lisa Bloom said on MSNBC AM Joy (3/5), "Let's be clear about what probable cause means. It means that somebody at FISA and probably the Department of Justice had good reason to believe that a crime was being committed at Trump Tower and probably we're talking about the Russian connection."

A Washington Post (3/5, Tumulty, 11.43M) analysis says the "audacious tactic was a familiar one for Trump," who often changes a subject "touching a match to the dry tinder of a sketchy conspiracy theory." However, "the stakes have gotten higher, and the consequences more real and serious." Trump, says the Post, "has deepened doubts about his own judgment, not just in the face of the first crisis to confront his young presidency but in dealing with the challenges that lie ahead for the chief executive of the world's most powerful nation." In his Washington Post (3/5, 11.43M) column, E.J. Dionne argues that Trump's "astonishing and reckless accusation" should "finally be the tipping point in how the country views him and his presidency." Dionne adds that whether or not the allegation is true, "Trump has a problem." If there was no wiretap, Trump "invented a spectacularly false charge," and "if a court ordered some sort of surveillance of him, on what grounds did it do so?"

A USA Today (3/5, Sullivan, 5.28M) analysis, meanwhile, reports that this is "just the latest case of Trump making claims without citing evidence," and recounts past instances where Trump has employed the same tactic. A New York Times (3/5, Baker, Haberman, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) analysis says Trump is "uninhibited by the traditional protocols of his office," and "makes the most incendiary assertions based on shreds of suspicion" without "consulting some of his most senior aides, or even agencies of his own government that might have contrary information." Then, after "setting off a public firestorm with no proof," he "calls for an investigation to find the missing evidence."

In his Washington Post (3/5, 11.43M) column, Chris Cillizza highlights "Trump's willingness to actively engage the world of conspiracy theorists," and cites the wiretap claims as "the latest example." Cillizza argues that "if you are going to say there is a grand conspiracy that only you and a handful of others see, you need to offer a step-by-step explanation to the broader public to show why you're right," and "that goes double when you have shown a penchant for embracing conspiracy theories." In the lead story for NBC Nightly News (3/5, lead story, 2:55, Snow, 16.61M), correspondent Kasie Hunt said that "experts say the President's unsubstantiated claims could do lasting damage." David Cohen, NBC News National Security Contributor: "Making claims and allegations and accusations that don't have any basis in reality, the more we will be at risk of not having a President who can speak authoritatively when the time comes."

A New York Times (3/5, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) editorial stresses that Trump "had no evidence" when he "smeared" Obama, and laments "the recklessness – the sheer indifference to truth and the moral authority of the American presidency – revealed here: one president baselessly charging criminality by another, all in a childish Twitter rampage." Trump's allegation "is so sensational – so explosive if it turned out to have some basis in fact and so corrosive if not – that Congress has no credible option but to convene a bipartisan select committee to investigate all questions related to Russian interference in the election." The Times adds that "senior officials of this administration who have integrity" must "begin asking themselves if they can continue lending their names and exposing their reputations to a president with so little regard for democratic institutions, and for the truth."

Christopher Ruddy writes in a piece for Newsmax (3/5, 527K) that "the big news" following Trump's accusation "was the fact that neither Obama nor any Obama administration officials actually denied that Trump's offices were ever wire tapped." The press "focused on the rather narrow denial that Obama himself never ordered such a wiretap."

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Former Trump campaign spokesperson Katrina Pierson said on Fox News MediaBuzz (3/5, 536K), "It's not quite far-fetched to even imagine something like this being done by the Obama Administration. This is the same administration that utilized several agencies to target political opposition." A New York Post (3/5, 3.82M) editorial makes a similar argument, saying that "it's all-too-obvious why Trump would be suspicious." The Post adds that from the day was elected, Trump's "foes have waged a by-any-means-necessary campaign to overturn the results." While it is "hard to know for sure if Trump Tower was actually bugged, and if so, who authorized the tapping and why," given "Team Obama's record – and the never-ending bid to overturn the election – there's little doubt why Trump might think the worst."

CLAPPER: NO EVIDENCE OF TRUMP CAMPAIGN-RUSSIA COLLUSION. On NBC's Meet the Press, (3/5, Todd, 157K) former DNI Clapper said there was no evidence of collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia prior to Clapper's departure from the government. Clapper said the DNI report "did not include evidence…that had any reflection of collusion between members of the Trump campaign and the Russians." Clapper added, "This could have unfolded or become available in the time since I left the government. ... I do think, though, it is in everyone's interest, in the current President's interest, in the Democrats' interests, in the Republicans' interest, and the country's interest to get to the bottom of all of this because it's such a distraction and certainly the Russians have to be chortling about the success of their efforts to sow dissension in this country."

Clapper was also asked on NBC's Meet the Press (3/5, Todd, 157K) about the New York Times report that Obama Administration intelligence officials systematically sought to preserve a "trail" of information about the Trump campaign. Clapper said, "Actually, not. Because of the sensitivity of much of the information in this report our actual effort was to protect it, and not to spread it around and certainly not to dumb it down, if I can use that phrase, in order to disseminate it more widely. We were under a preservation order from both our oversight committees to preserve and protect all of the information related to that report in any event."

Coons Says He Has No Conclusive Proof Of Trump Campaign-Russia Collusion. The Washington Times (3/5, Richardson, Scarborough, 272K) says Sen. Chris Coons on Sunday "walked back his bombshell declaration about transcripts showing Russia-Trump collusion," telling Fox News Sunday, "I have no hard evidence of collusion." Coons "said he was sorry for any misinterpretation of his comments, which blew up on social media after a Friday interview on MSNBC." Said Coons, "So to the extent of those comments, they might be in some way misinterpreted as leading to sort of a hyperventilating attitude here in the Senate about this, I apologize for that. ... That's not what I was trying to do." Coons added, however, "I am confident that intelligence exists that is relevant to this question. Not that says there is collusion, and proof of it, that's not what I was trying to say."

Asked on Fox News Sunday (3/5, Wallace) if he had seen any evidence of collusion between the Trump camp and Russia, Sen. Tom Cotton said, "I've seen no evidence, and I would say media reports have gotten pretty far over their skis on this." Cotton also told Fox News Sunday (3/5, Wallace) that he sees no need for a special prosecutor "at this point. I would like to see politically accountable officials make decisions, which means I would like to see the Senate move promptly to confirm President Trump's deputy attorney general and associate attorney general. At this point, I see no reason why that would be necessary. I also see no reason why we would try to appoint some kind of independent or special committee or commission. In part because it would delay our conclusions."

Asked on NBC's Meet the Press (3/5, Todd, 157K) about the pattern of Trump Administration officials having to retract denials of Russia contacts during the campaign, Sen. Marco Rubio said, "What I am concerned about the most is what the active measures undertaken by the Russians to interfere with, participate in, steer and undermine our elections. What was that composed of? That's what I want to focus on. There are facts that may emerge as a result of it that will be interesting to the American people and that we're going to put out in our report when the Senate Intelligence Committee is done."

In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/5, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) decries the allegations coming from both parties and calls on the intelligence committees to determine the facts and present them to the American people.

GOP Strategists: Trump Must Move To Plug Leaks Coming From Intelligence Community. The Washington Times (3/5, Miller, 272K) reports that Republican strategists in Washington warn that "Russian conspiracy allegations will continue to dog the White House until President Trump gets a handle on the administration's opponents inside the US intelligence community who are driving the story." While Trump "has railed against the leaks apparently emanating from the National Security Agency, CIA or FBI," he "has failed to take adequate steps to root out the faction within the intelligence apparatus that is undermining his presidency." Trump "must launch an internal investigation to get ahead of the leaks and identify the sources of the leaks, Republican strategist Michael McKenna said."

Cotton: Trump Not Pursuing Pro-Russia Agenda. On Fox News Sunday (3/5, Wallace), Sen. Tom Cotton said, "President Trump has appointed members to his cabinet and they've made statements that have been tougher on Russia than anything that Obama has. If you want to know what a pro-Russia policy would look like, you would slash defense

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spending, you would slow down our nuclear modernization, you would roll back missile defense systems, you would enter a one sided nuclear arms agreement, and you'd try to do everything you could to stop oil and gas production. That was Barack Obama's policy for eight years. That's not Donald Trump's policy. None of those things are good for Russia."

Russian Playboy Model Detained At LAX, Accused Of Being A Spy. The New York Post (3/5, Narizhnaya, 3.82M) reports that Russian Playboy model Victoria Bonya "claims she was recently detained by US agents on arrival in LA – because they thought she was a spy." Bonya "said in online posts that she was grilled after airport agents rooting through her luggage found a business card for Spy-Land, a company that specializes in hidden cameras." She "finally managed to convince authorities at LAX that the card had just been randomly passed to her after showing officials her social-media accounts."

SESSIONS EXPECTED TO PROVIDE AMENDED WRITTEN TESTIMONY TO SENATE TODAY. The Washington Times (3/5, Noble, 272K) reports that Attorney General Sessions on Monday is expected to provide amended written testimony in response "to senators' questions about his contact with Russia's ambassador." However, the move is "unlikely to please Democratic senators" who sought to bring Sessions before the Judiciary Committee again "to answer questions in person." The nine Democrats on the panel "on Friday submitted a letter asking that the committee's chairman – Sen. Chuck Grassley, Iowa Republican – hold a follow-up hearing so they could question Mr. Sessions," writing that "they do not believe 'that a written submission to correct the record is sufficient' and that they 'need to hear directly from the Attorney General as well as have the opportunity to ask him questions in public.'"

ABC World News Tonight (3/5, story 2, 2:50, Llamas, 14.63M) said Sessions "owes" the Senate Judiciary Committee "a full explanation of why he failed to tell them the truth" about his contact with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak during the campaign. The CBS Weekend News (3/5, lead story, 3:00) mentioned Sessions' amended testimony as part of its lead story on President Trump's claim that that President Obama "bugged his New York office before the election," as did NBC Nightly News (3/5, lead story, 2:55, Snow, 16.61M).

On Fox News Sunday (3/5, Wallace), Sen. Chris Coons said, "Senator Sessions certainly misspoke when he said, 'I did not have communications with the Russians.' Whether or not that is a willful misrepresentation or lie something I think we should investigate. I think the Attorney General ought to come back to the Judiciary Committee and answer questions so we can clear the air and get to the bottom of this."

On ABC's This Week, Sen. Al Franken said, "I called for him to recuse himself before this incident. I hadn't called for him to resign. But, he needs to answer some questions. For example, he said at his press conference, that if he had just thought about it for a moment, had taken his time, he would have said that he had met twice with the Russian ambassador. He had seven weeks to say that. He was testifying under oath, to the American people and, he said something that just wasn't true."

On CNN's State of the Union, Sen. Marco Rubio said he did not believe Sessions intentionally misled the Judiciary Committee. Rubio said, "I don't believe it was intentional in any way because at the end of the day it was not the kind of thing that Jeff Sessions does, and it's not kind of thing that would be easy to hide, and nor would there be any reason, to but, again, I think we've gotten to the point of hysteria here. Ambassadors try to meet with people all the time."

Asked on ABC News' This Week (3/5, Raddatz, 6.61M) if President Trump still believed Sessions did not have to recuse himself, White House deputy press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said, "The President believes Jeff Sessions is a good man and that he didn't do anything wrong. So I certainly feel that he didn't feel it was necessary. But he also is very supportive of the attorney general."

Julie Pace of the AP said on CNN Inside Politics (3/5, 303K) that "there's actually nothing wrong with any of the meetings," but "the fact that you have two major figures...in Trump's campaign and Trump's Administration, Jeff Sessions and Mike Flynn, who have both given misleading answers publicly and privately about their contacts with the same Russian ambassador is just confounding that that happened. While the Trump Administration will continue to say that there was nothing wrong with those contacts, I think that we do have to get an answer as to why people felt they need to be misleading about the contacts."

Kimberly Strassel of the Wall Street Journal said on Fox News The Journal Editorial Report (3/4, 599K), "Now having recused himself, I doubt [Sessions] is in much trouble at all. There is no evidence of any wrongdoing. ... The problem that the Trump Administration has though is that there are clearly people, holdovers from the Obama Administration, that are leaking this stuff out and the Trump team is making it easier for them to do so by not being clear on what has happened up to now."

Pelosi Says Her Denial Of Meeting With Russian Ambassador Is "Completely Different." The Washington Times

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(3/5, Richardson, 272K) reports that House Minority Leader Pelosi said Sunday that her own meeting with the Russian ambassador, which she also denied is "completely different" Sessions' situation. Pelosi told CNN's State of the Union, "We were meeting with the president of Russia. He brought an entourage in with him. He [then-President Dmitry Medvedev] was the one who was doing the talking. ... The question was, 'Have you met with him?' No, I haven't met with him, I met with the president of Russia. Who else is in his entourage, who knows? Presidents, heads of states come in, they bring their party, they barely even introduce them. ... This is completely, completely different."

POLITICO ANALYSIS: PRIEBUS "BECOMING A SINGULAR TARGET OF CRITICISM" AT WHITE HOUSE. Politico (3/5, Isenstadt, Dawsey, 2.46M) reported, "With the White House struggling to gain its footing," Administration "officials are increasingly putting the blame on one person: Reince Priebus. In interviews, over a dozen Trump aides, allies, and others close to the White House said that Priebus...was becoming a singular target of criticism within the White House," describing the chief of staff as "a micro-manager who sprints from one West Wing meeting to another, inserting himself into conversations big and small and leaving many staffers feeling as if he's trying to block their access to Trump." Politico quoted a "senior administration official" as saying, "There's a real frustration among many – including from the president – that things aren't going as smoothly as one had hoped. Reince, fairly or not, is likely to take the blame and take the fault for that." Politico added, "The White House vigorously disputed the notion that Priebus is losing the confidence of senior West Wing staff."

CNN SAYS VIDEO APPEARS TO SHOW TRUMP'S "FIERY" OVAL OFFICE MEETING WITH BANNON. The Daily Mail (3/5, Crane, Roundtree, 4.59M) reports that video "has emerged of a heated row in the Oval Office on Friday that saw [President] Trump erupt into a 'ballistic' tirade against Steven Bannon and other senior advisors." Trump "reportedly unleashed his anger on Bannon and chief of staff Reince Priebus for failing to fight off the firestorm surrounding attorney general Jeff Sessions' recusal amid links to Russia." The Daily Mail said "video has emerged of what appears to be the exchange during the fiery meeting inside the Oval Office, CNN reports." Though it's unclear what was being discussed, "Bannon was filmed in an animated conversation and at one point was spotted waving his arms around. Ivanka Trump, Jared Kushner and Sean Spicer were spotted in the background of the footage."

CONWAY LIKENS HER "ALTERNATIVE FACTS" REMARKS TO OSCARS MISTAKE. The New York Post (3/5, Moore, 3.82M) reports that White House adviser Kellyanne Conway on Sunday described "her 'alternative facts' comment" as "a 'La La Land' moment." Appearing on CBS' "Sunday Morning," Conway said, "Well, it was alternative information and additional facts. And that got conflated." Conway added, "But, you know, respectfully, I see mistakes on TV every single day and people just brush them off. Everybody thinks it's just so funny that the wrong, the wrong movie was, you know, heralded as the winner of the Oscars." Conway "was referring to the infamous Academy Awards flub that announced 'La La Land' as best picture, before officials corrected the presenters by saying 'Moonlight' was actually the winner."

Richmond Apologizes To Conway For "Crude" Joke. On its website, CNN (3/5, Korade, 29.79M) reported that Rep. Cedric Richmond (D-LA) on Sunday night "apologized" to Conway over "crude remarks" the Democrat made last week at the Washington Press Club Foundation's congressional dinner "about a photo showing Conway on her knees on an Oval Office sofa." Richmond, in a statement said, "After a discussion with people I know and trust, I understand the way my remarks have been received by many," adding, "I apologize to Kellyanne Conway and everyone who has found my comments to be offensive." At last week's event, Richmond alluded "to President Bill Clinton's extramarital affair with Monica Lewinsky in the Oval Office," joking that Conway "really looked kind of familiar in that position there."

Pelosi Brushes Aside Richmond's Quip About Conway, Criticizes Trump. The Washington Times (3/5, Richardson, 272K) reports that several "Democrats have called on" the congressman "to apologize for his crude joke." However, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi earlier on Sunday "deflected questions" on the topic. Jake Tapper asked Pelosi, "Shouldn't the congressman apologize to Kellyanne Conway?" Pelosi said she didn't attend the event where Richmond made the remarks, then added, "You all are criticizing Cedric for something he said in the course of the evening. And he maybe should be criticized for that. I just don't know the particulars." Pelosi then criticized "the gross and crude things that President Trump [has] said."

NYTimes A1: Like Hillary Clinton, Conway Now Targeted With "Sexist" Remarks. Under the headline "Sexist Political Criticism Finds A New Target: Kellyanne Conway," the New York Times (3/5, A1, Chira, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports on its front page, "What powerful political woman is mocked for her clothes, is the target of pictures on Twitter depicting her as haggard and is routinely called a witch and a b****? If you guessed Hillary Clinton, you're right," and "if you guessed Kellyanne Conway, you're right, too." The Times says both women have been criticized over their outfits and hair and "have been repeatedly compared to witches from the Wizard of Oz." The Times adds that in Conway's case, "some of the criticisms have taken on a distinctly sexualized tone," citing Richmond's "now-notorious joke" about Conway.

MORE THAN 90 REGULATIONS CURTAILED SINCE TRUMP TOOK OFFICE. The New York Times (3/5, Lipton,

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Appelbaum, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) writes that more than 90 federal regulations have been "delayed, suspended or reversed in the month and a half since President Trump took office" in "one of the most significant shifts in regulatory policy in recent decades." The Times calls it "the leading edge of what [Steve Bannon] described late last month as 'the deconstruction of the administrative state.'" Regulated industries "are now sending in specific requests to the Trump administration for more rollbacks."

Mileage And Emissions Overhaul Could Be Announced This Week. In related news, the New York Times (3/5, Vlasic, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) additionally reports that the EPA and Transportation Department are expected to announce an "agreement with the major auto companies that future mileage and emissions standards should be overhauled to reflect the growing consumer demand for larger, less fuel-efficient vehicles" as early as Tuesday.

LEPAGE, UTAH LEGISLATURE WANT TRUMP TO RESCIND OBAMA MONUMENT DESIGNATIONS. The AP (3/5, Sharp) reports that "Republican leaders in Maine and Utah are asking President Trump to step into uncharted territory and rescind national monument designations made by" President Obama. Gov. Paul LePage is opposed to the designation of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument in Maine, while the Utah Legislature has approved a resolution asking Trump to rescind the designation of the Bears Ears National Monument. The AP writes that while "the Antiquities Act of 1906 doesn't give the president power to undo a designation, and no president has ever taken such a step," Trump "isn't like other presidents."

SOME ANTICIPATE WALL STREET SELL-OFF DESPITE TRUMP SURGE. The New York Times (3/5, Kelly, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) writes, "Stocks have marched higher and higher – up 5 percent since President Trump took office six weeks ago – and the rally has become one of his favorite boasts. And there is plenty of economic data to justify the ebullience." However, "some hedge fund managers bracing for a sell-off," fearing that "deep cuts to regulation and a tax overhaul" or a major infrastructure plan may not come to pass in the near future. Alan Fournier of Pennant Capital Management said, "The stock market may be currently expecting a best-case scenario for policy implementation."

In a brief item, USA Today (3/5, Shell, 5.28M) writes that the current bull market, which will be eight years old this week, "might finally have silenced critics who questioned its staying power. ... It has posted big enough returns to rank No. 4 all-time in terms of performance."

Some Analysts Tempering Optimism About Defense Stocks. The Washington Post (3/5, Gregg, 11.43M) reports that "after weeks of euphoric stock valuations" for defense companies following Trump's election, some analysts are feeling more sober, "warning such optimism could be misplaced." Investment bank Cowen Group said last week, "We've tempered our expectations to the low end of the range and believe that the last week of April could devolve into political trench warfare, with neither side budging on priorities." Some analysts also say the $54 billion hike in defense spending sought by the Administration is "underwhelming."

BLOOMBERG ANALYSIS: MNUCHIN'S STANCE ON TREASURY MARKET TRANSPARENCY NOT YET CLEAR. Bloomberg News (3/5, Leising, McCormick, 2.41M) writes, "The revolution in the US Treasury market is in limbo." The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority has been working for more than two years "trying to make the $13.9 trillion market easier to understand" and more transparent, but it is unclear whether Treasury Secretary Mnuchin will embrace the effort.

SHELBY SAYS RECONCILIATION SHOULD BE USED TO REPEAL PARTS OF DODD-FRANK. The Hill (3/5, Bolton, 1.25M) reports that Sen. Richard Shelby, "a senior member of the Senate Banking Committee," says that the reconciliation process should be used to repeal parts of the Dodd-Frank law. Senate Minority Leader Schumer said shortly after last fall's election that "he had enough votes to block any Republican efforts to repeal key parts" of the law, but "it would be considerably harder for Schumer to stand in the way if Republicans use reconciliation."

LIBERAL GROUPS CHALLENGE SENATE DEMOCRATS OVER GORSUCH NOMINATION. Politico (3/5, Schor, 2.46M) reports that in a letter to be delivered today, 11 liberal advocacy groups "are issuing a sharp rebuke to Senate Democrats" for failing "to sufficiently fight" the nomination of Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court more than one month ago. They write, "Democrats have failed to demonstrate a strong, unified resistance to this nominee despite the fact that he is an ultra-conservative jurist who will undermine our basic freedoms and threaten the independence of the federal judiciary. We need you to do better."

PELOSI SAYS TRUMP'S PAID FAMILY LEAVE PROPOSAL BENEFITS WELL-OFF. On CNN's State of the Union (3/5, Tapper, 420K), House Minority Leader Pelosi discussed President Trump's call for paid family leave. Pelosi said, "The first conversation that I had with him that week after the election, we talked about that subject and it's a subject that his family is interested in as well. But what he has proposed is something that benefits 70 percent – 70 percent of the benefits go to the people making over $100,000 a year, so we have to revisit that. This is not what this country needs in that regard. I do think that there's some bipartisanship where we can...come together. It doesn't happen to be in his proposal."

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PENCE DEMANDS AP APOLOGIZE FOR PUBLISHING WIFE'S EMAIL ADDRESS. Vice President Pence on Saturday "demand[ed] an apology from the Associated Press after it published his wife's email address earlier this week," the Indianapolis Star (3/4, Berg, 550K) reports. The Pences' emails were released in the wake of reports that Pence "had used a personal AOL account to conduct state business during his time as governor of Indiana." Pence "tweeted (3/4) that AP's decision to publish his wife's private email violated 'her privacy and our security," and in a second tweet (3/4) he "demand[ed] an apology from AP after he said it refused to take down the story or redact Karen Pence's email." Lauren Easton, AP's director of media relations, "said AP removed the email address from subsequent stories after learning Karen Pence still used the account." Easton said, "The AP stands by its story, which addresses important transparency issues."

DEMOCRATS OFFERING BILLS IN HOPE OF EMBARRASSING REPUBLICANS LATER. The New York Times (3/5, Huetteman, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that while Democrats lack the power to "conduct congressional investigations," they "do possess, they hope, is the power to shame," and they "have been offering up bills that stand virtually no chance of passing, like ones forcing Mr. Trump to release his tax returns, with the clear intent of putting Republicans on the record now in hopes that voters will punish them later."

TRUMP URGES RNC DONORS TO HELP FUND GOP'S PUSH FOR A SENATE SUPERMAJORITY. Politico (3/3, Samuelsohn, Caputo, 2.46M) reported that President Trump, speaking in Palm Beach, FL on Friday at the RNC's spring retreat, "buttered up a room full of Republican donors...by boasting of his upset 2016 election win." However, Trump "also told them to focus on what he needs most: campaign cash to win 60 Republican-held seats in the US Senate in 2018. 'I need you guys to step up and overwhelm them,' Trump said at the" event, "according to one source who described portions of the president's speech." Drawing from Politico's story, The Hill (3/4, Greenwood, 1.25M) also reported on Trump's remarks, and pointed out, "Republicans currently hold 52 seats in the Senate and have a favorable map in 2018. The GOP is only defending nine seats, compared to 25 for Democrats and Independents. Ten Democrats up in 2018 are in states Trump won last year."

WTimes Analysis: Several "Upstart" GOP Hopefuls "Bear-Hugging" Trump. The Washington Times (3/5, Sherfinski, 272K) reports, "Upstart Republican candidates are bear-hugging President Trump and saying their rivals in the party are insufficiently supportive of the president, banking on sustained enthusiasm for Mr. Trump carrying into elections this year and next year." For example, ex-state Sen. Kelli Ward (R), who mounted an unsuccessful 2016 primary challenge to Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) and is challenging Sen. Jeff Flake (R) in 2018, says both senators "have been looking for ways to undermine Mr. Trump." The Times adds that state Rep. Rick Saccone (R-PA), who is seeking to take on Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA) next year, says "he wants to go to Washington to help Mr. Trump." And Prince William County Board of Supervisors chief Corey Stewart (R) "is proudly waving the Trump flag in the" 2017 race to succeed term-limited Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D-VA).

SCOTT IN NO HURRY TO DECIDE ON POSSIBLE 2018 CHALLENGE TO NELSON. The Palm Beach (FL) Post (3/4, Bennet, 306K) reported that term-limited Gov. Rick Scott (R-FL), who on Friday "spoke to a few hundred major Republican donors at the" RNC's spring retreat in Palm Beach, FL, said "he's optimistic about GOP prospects in 2018 and in no rush to pull the trigger on his own expected Senate race." Scott, who "is widely expected to" mount a 2018 bid to unseat Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL), "said he told curious members of the donor class the same thing he's been telling reporters about 2018. 'I have a really good job. There's no rush to make a decision. And if you remember, I didn't get into the race in 2010 until April so I'm going to keep doing my job,' Scott said."

DEMOCRATS SEE GLIMMER OF HOPE IN TRUMP-ERA SPECIAL ELECTION RESULTS. Politico (3/5, Debenedetti, 2.46M) reported, "Nine special elections have taken place since Donald Trump was elected president in November," and seven of those contests saw the Democratic candidate run "ahead of Hillary Clinton's performance in those state legislative races." While the "results are raising hopes that Democratic fortunes are poised to surge," the contests took "place in just four states," and Democrats "won five of the contests and Republicans captured four." Even so, "the common denominator is unusually high Democratic turnout, as well as a spike in Democratic performance over past elections in those seats," which is "leading some to question whether the party brand is as damaged as some have feared – or whether" Hillary Clinton "was the problem."

The Hill (3/5, Kamisar, 1.25M) reported that in the special elections, some Democratic candidates outperformed "Clinton by more than 30 percentage points. In the eyes of Democrats hoping to capitalize on an unprecedented wave of protests, that's a promising step. But Republicans, who now hold more than 1,000 more state legislature seats than they did in 2008, are far from" concerned, pointing out that "Democrats haven't managed to actually flip a single Republican-held seat in their favor. The two most prominent Democratic victories came in Connecticut and Delaware in late February, where victories in blue-leaning districts allowed the party to maintain control of the state senates."

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Offering a different take, the Washington Free Beacon (3/3, Kugle, 115K) highlighted that "Democrats have failed since Election Day in November to take any Republican-controlled seats in four special elections in blue states, despite hefty investment from the Democratic Party." The Free Beacon added, "The Republican State Leadership Committee, or RSLC, published a memo [last] week showing Republicans have won every district they previously held across multiple states that Democrats have won in the last three or more presidential elections. Republicans kept their seats despite 'hefty financial investments and high profile Democrats lending star power to state-level candidates,' RSLC noted."

DFA ENDORSES DEMOCRAT OSSOFF IN CROWDED PRICE SPECIAL. The Hill (3/3, Hagen, 1.25M) reported that Democracy for America (DFA) "is the latest major progressive group to" back ex-congressional aide Jon Ossoff (D) in the special election to succeed ex-Rep. Tom Price (R-GA), whom President Trump tapped to serve as HHS secretary. The Hill added, "National Democrats and progressive groups, like End Citizens United, have been coalescing around Ossoff as the party's candidates ahead of the April 18 'jungle primary.'" The contest "is viewed as Democrats' first opportunity to test if backlash to...Trump will help them flip House seats ahead of 2018." The GA6 "is historically conservative, but Trump carried the Atlanta suburban district by just 1 point." The Hill said "18 candidates" are running in the primary, including 11 Republicans.

Roll Call (3/3, Pathé, 63K) reported that along with the endorsements from DFA and End Citizens United, Ossoff "has received fundraising help from the liberal site Daily Kos. The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee is sending staff to the district to boost Ossoff." However, added Roll Call, "winning" in the GA6 "would still be an uphill climb for a liberal Democrat in a district where Trump underperformed but one that has nonetheless traditionally voted Republican." Price, "who represented this suburban Atlanta seat for six terms, won re-election last fall by 23 points."

DEMOCRATS PICK QUIST AS NOMINEE IN SPECIAL ELECTION TO SUCCEED ZINKE. The AP (3/5, Calvan) reports that Montana Democrats on Sunday chose musician Rob Quist (D) to be the party's nominee in the May 25 special election to succeed former Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT), who resigned from Congress to serve as President Trump's Interior secretary. During a special nominating convention of party officials, Quist "beat out seven other candidates, including two experienced legislators who trailed the entertainer from the start of Sunday's balloting in Helena. Quist won after four rounds of voting. Republicans are scheduled to pick their nominee on Monday." Quist will "have to win in a state that went overwhelmingly for...Trump and swept in Republicans in every statewide office in November except for the governor's office."

The Helena (MT) Independent Record (3/5, Loranger, 38K) reports that Quist, "who gained fame in the Mission Mountain Wood Band, hasn't ever held elected office. ... The last Democrat to hold the congressional seat was Pat Williams, who served from 1979-1997." Businessman Greg Gianforte (R), who fell short in his 2016 bid to oust Gov. Steve Bullock (D-MT), is viewed as the frontrunner for the GOP nomination.

AP ANALYSIS: WARREN EMERGES AS A FUNDRAISING "POWERHOUSE." The AP (3/5, Leblanc) reports that Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), backed by "a voracious fundraising machine," has become "a powerhouse in her party as she looks ahead to a 2018 re-election campaign and what supporters hope is a 2020 presidential bid." Warren ended 2016 "with $4.8 million in her campaign account, the biggest piggybank of any Senate Democrat facing voters next year" and "$1 million more than any Democratic member of the Senate except for Democratic leader Chuck Schumer, of New York, with $10.7 million." The AP adds, "Key to Warren's fundraising muscle is a wide base of supporters," as she collected "donations from virtually every state in the past two years."

WSJOURNAL ANALYSIS: CUOMO DOING LITTLE TO DISSUADE TALK OF A 2020 PRESIDENTIAL RUN. The Wall Street Journal (3/5, Vilensky, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports that Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D-NY), during his time leading New York, has largely remained in the state and sought to steer clear of speculation about a potential White House run. However, since Hillary Clinton's loss to President Trump in November's election, Cuomo has been raising his profile on the national level and doing little to dissuade talk of a 2020 presidential bid. The Journals says, for example, that USA Today on Friday published an op-ed Cuomo co-wrote with Van Jones on criminal justice. That same day, Cuomo traveled to Florida, where spoke at a conference of trade unions. And Cuomo this weekend made a one-day visit to Israel, where he met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Cuomo is up for reelection next year.

WPOST A1: GUN SALES DOWN SINCE ELECTION, EXCEPT AMONG THOSE WHO "FEAR" TRUMP. On its front page, the Washington Post (3/5, A1, Shapiro, Zezima, 11.43M) reports, "Sales of guns and ammunition in the United States have dropped precipitously since Election Day," in "what many say is the result of electing a president who has vowed to protect gun rights." However, the drop "has been accompanied by some unusual growth: Gun clubs and shops that cater to black and LGBT clients say there has been an uptick in interest in firearms since November among those who fear that racial and gender-based violence could increase during Donald Trump's presidency." For example, National African American Gun Association President Philip Smith told the Post that "his group has seen a recent surge that appears to be driven by fear that the nation's divisive politics could spiral into violence. 'Trump is some of that reason, and

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rhetoric from other groups that have been on the fringe,' Smith said. 'It's like being racist is cool now.'"

OFFICIALS RETHINKING PRACTICE OF BILLING PARENTS FOR CHILDREN'S DETENTION. NBC Nightly News (3/5, story 6, 2:55, Snow, 16.61M) reported that Philadelphia "says it will stop the practice that's coming under growing scrutiny, sending a bill to parents for the time their kids spend in juvenile detention." NBC noted that "dozens of state and county governments have permitted these charges for decades," and that "the billing policies were meant to keep parents invested in rehabilitating their troubled kids and offset the cost of housing them." NBC added that an investigation by the Marshall Project "found 19 state juvenile justice agencies charge parents for their children's incarceration," and that "28 other states allow it at a county level." NBC (Farrow) reported that "the idea is to increase responsible parenting, to recoup some of the cost," but "the new data shows you're not getting much revenue at all, and far from increasing responsible parenting. It may actually be forcing kids back into the system."

FLORIDA PROPOSAL WOULD LIFT LIFETIME VOTING BAN FOR EX-FELONS. The Wall Street Journal (3/5, Reinhard, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports that there are an estimated 6.1 million felons who have lost their right to vote, and that four states – Florida, Virginia, Kentucky, and Iowa – have lifetime voting bans for felons who have served their time. The Florida Supreme Court this week will review a proposed constitutional amendment that would allow felons, with the exception of murderers and sex offenders, to vote after finishing their sentences, parole, and probation.

ANTI-TRUMP STINK BOMB PLANNERS SENTENCED TO COMMUNITY SERVICE. According to the Washington Times (3/5, Richardson, 272K), Paul "Luke" Kuhn and Colin Dunn were sentenced to 48 hours of community service Thursday after pleading guilty in DC Superior Court to charges of unlawful conspiracy for planning to set off stink bombs and sprinklers at the DeploraBall. A Project Veritas video released January 16 implicated Kuhn, Dunn, and Scott Charney. Project Veritas called its cooperation with the FBI, Secret Service, and DC police "an unprecedented move for our organization," and its president, James O'Keefe, expressed disappointment the members of the DC Anti-Fascist Coalition arm of DisruptJ20 did not receive jail time.

POLICE: 10 COUNTER-PROTESTERS ARRESTED AT BERKELEY PRO-TRUMP MARCH. The Washington Times (3/5, Richardson, 272K)calls the March 4 Trump rally in Berkeley, California was the "most contentious" in the country, and counter-protesters far outnumbered Trump supporters. In addition to confiscating weapons such as metal pipes, bricks, bats, and a dagger, authorities arrested ten for battery, assault with a deadly weapon, and resisting arrest. Of the of the estimated 60 to 75 Trump supporters, according to a SFGate report cited by the Times, the Berkeley Police Department said in a late Saturday press release that seven "were evaluated for medical injuries," but none were hospitalized.

DES MOINES REGISTER ANALYSIS: MAGELLAN PIPELINES SPILLED 28 TIMES SINCE 2000. In a nearly 2,100-word story, the Des Moines (IA) Register (3/5, Hardy, 377K) reports Magellan Midstream Partners have had more spills than any other pipeline operator in Iowa in the past 16 years, based on the Register's analysis of Iowa Department of Natural Resources data. Magellan pipelines have leaked 28 times, nearly double the second most frequent offender's tally, and its latest leak occurred January 25 on a more than 60-year-old pipeline. Dakota Access opponents cite the spills by the company, which has a national record of causing more than $62 million in property damage, as evidence the soon-to-open line will inevitably cause harm to Iowa. Proponents, including an experienced welder, say modern pipe and monitoring technology will reduce the risk of leaks and the potential for damage.

MARINES ALLEGEDLY PUBLISH THOUSANDS OF NUDE PHOTOS OF FEMALE COLLEAGUES ON FACEBOOK. The CBS Weekend News (3/5, story 2, 2:15, Quijano) reported the ongoing investigation of US Marine Corps members for posting and commenting on thousands of nude pictures of female servicemembers on the private Marines United Facebook group. According to NBC Nightly News (3/5, story 2, 2:30, Snow, 16.61M), Marine Corps officials swiftly denounced the posts that include the women's name, rank, and location as "demeaning" and "degrading" behavior, and New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand said, "Their mothers would be fuming right now."

McClatchy (3/5, Hadley, 74K) reports the photos began appearing in the 30,000-member group soon after women first joined a Marine infantry unit January 5. The War Horse and the Center for Investigative Reporting first investigated and published the allegations, revealed Saturday, and reporter and Marine veteran Thomas Brennan has reportedly received death threats and demands that he be waterboarded. He told the Marine Corps Times there is a "bounty" on nude pictures of his daughter and wife.

According to Reuters (3/5, Herskovitz), an internal Marine Corps communications document with talking points on the issue expresses the branch's deep concern and states, "This behavior destroys morale, erodes trust, and degrades the individual." USA Today (3/5, Toppo, 5.28M) cites Marine Corps Times reporting that says hundreds of Marines may be involved, but officials have not disclosed an exact number. The AP (3/5, Holland) reports at least one government contractor has been removed from his job after he posted a link to the nude photos, says an unnamed Marine Corps

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official. A Marine proved to have posted such photographs could be charged with violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and one who participates in, encourages, or condones the actions also risks criminal proceedings and adverse administrative actions, according to the internal document. The Naval Criminal Investigative Service is now reportedly conducting an investigation.

HARVARD CONFERENCE CONFRONTS ACADEMIA'S TIES TO SLAVERY. According to the New York Times (3/5, Schuessler, Subscription Publication, 13.9M), Harvard University hosted the "Universities and Slavery: Bound by History" conference to come to terms with history in order to "free ourselves to create a more just world," said President Drew Faust. Where universities once worried the studies showing universities' historical dependence on slavery "would somehow tarnish our gates," said MIT professor Craig Wilder, "In fact, they opened them," since a 2001 Yale graduate student study brought the connections to the fore. Echoing the sentiments of some of the 500 attendance, one scholar was reportedly overheard saying that "something we've been talking about for 200 years has suddenly become urgent."

ARKANSAS STATE LAWMAKER PROPOSES ALLOWING LAWMAKERS TO CARRY GUNS IN STATE CAPITOL. The AP (3/5, Mukunyadzi) reports Republican state Rep. Mickey Gates has introduced a proposal to allow Arkansas legislators with a concealed carry permit to bring a handgun into the state Capitol and other public facilities, except for prisons. Gates sees it as a security measure because "if guards aren't around there could be trouble," and he added that he knows that some unidentified lawmakers have received exemptions to carry a gun into the building.

WSJOURNAL A1 ANALYSIS: CHARITY EXECUTIVES INCREASINGLY PAID MILLION-DOLLAR SALARIES. A Wall Street Journal (3/5, Fuller, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) analysis of IRS data on nonprofit organizations' returns from 2011 to 2014 shows that charities paid about 2,700 employees million-dollar salaries, mostly in healthcare and higher education. George Mason University professor emeritus James Finkelstein says the pay packages are increasingly similar to CEO contracts, which Urban Institute fellow Elizabeth Boris finds acceptable in order to attract top talent. Federal regulations require pay at nonprofits be "reasonable," but the onus is on the IRS to prove pay practices exceed market norms, and claims compensation consultants are difficult to disprove.

WSJOURNAL PROFILES EVER-OPTIMISTIC FORMER OIL EXECUTIVE. The Wall Street Journal (3/5, Olson, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) profiles the founder and former chief executive of Energy XXI Ltd. In Houston, John Schiller, as an example of a once-thriving oil executive who is now trying to avoid bankruptcy. The Journal casts Schiller among the self-made, big-living, big-dreaming founders of oil firms that floundered with the plummet of oil prices since 2014. He remains optimistic about re-entering the oil trade despite cashing in his shares for a mere $60,000 when they were once worth more than $50 million.

FORMER YATES DEPUTY JOINS LINKLATERS FIRM. The New York Times (3/5, Olson, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that Matthew S. Axelrod, the "former top deputy to the acting attorney general, Sally Q. Yates, who was dismissed by President Trump in January after refusing to enforce his executive order barring travelers from seven predominantly Muslim countries," is "joining a major global law firm, Linklaters." Axelrod "will be a partner in that 179-year-old British firm's Washington office, in its white-collar defense practice." Axelrod, 46, "will be part of a growing team of lawyers that the London-based Linklaters is assembling in the United States to handle foreign corrupt practice cases as well as securities fraud, money laundering, health care fraud and white collar crime cases."

SULLIVAN: TRUMP, PUTIN BOTH WANT A "COMPLIANT PRESS." In her Washington Post (3/5, 11.43M) column, Margaret Sullivan writes that it is "not much of a stretch to see similarities between [President] Trump and [Russian President Vladimir] Putin's attitude." Both "want a compliant press and are willing to take action toward getting it — some, of course, more extreme than others." Sullivan argues that Trump's "admiration for Putin becomes even more troubling when paired with his own moves to stamp out independent journalism through disparagement, denial of access, favoritism and blacklisting."

MARKOWICZ: IT'S TIME FOR BOTH PARTIES TO "MOVE ON" FROM HILLARY CLINTON. In her New York Post (3/5, 3.82M) column, Karol Markowicz says that while "it's been three months since Donald Trump won the presidential election," Hillary Clinton continues to garner attention from both Democrats and Republicans. Markowicz writes, "Please, just let it go," adding, "For Republicans, Hillary occupying a spotlight means all intraparty criticism of Donald Trump is countered with 'would you rather have Hillary?' And it's certainly not healthy for Democrats." Markowicz says, "If Hillary Clinton cares about the future of her party, and of her country, she'll take a step back now and let the country stop thinking about her for a moment. It's time for the nation and the Clintons to go their separate ways. It's time to, in the favorite words of the Clinton clan's longtime defenders, move on."

HOOVER FELLOW: CONTEMPORARY WHITE-GUILT LIBERALISM IN DENOUEMENT POST-OBAMA. In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (3/5, Subscription Publication, 6.37M), Hoover Institution Senior Fellow Shelby Steele calls contemporary liberalism a corruption because it is based on pathos and derives its moral authority from white guilt. Calling

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recent demonstrations of liberalism incoherent and anachronistic, Steele suggests that Barack Obama's presidency may have been the culmination of white guilt's reign. Accordingly, society's shame has now weakened, and bigotry does not top the list of obstacles minorities face, he argues. Modern liberalism, which Steele optimistically posits is in its denouement, embraces moral esteem above reality.

SAMUELSON: BEST WAY TO ADDRESS ADMINISTRATIVE STATE IS TO ACCEPT, ANALYZE IT. Although he disagrees with White House Chief strategist Stephen Bannon's intended "deconstructing [of] the administrative state," Robert Samuelson writes in his column for the Washington Post (3/5, 11.43M) that the US should create a "regulatory budget" that compares the costs and benefits of dissimilar regulations to discover and act on their relative worth. He acknowledges conservatives' worries that the regulatory state diminishes judicial and legislative government powers and reduces national economic output. Samuelson says accepting the administrative state as a "mainstream concept," instead of remaining in denial, would help combat these and other unnecessary costs.

INSTITUTE FOR JUSTICE: TRUMP, LAWMAKERS SHOULD REMOVE ASSET SEIZURE INCENTIVES. In a Wall Street Journal (3/5, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) op-ed, Institute for Justice Senior Legislative Counsel Lee McGrath and Nick Sibilla, its communications associate, encourage President Trump not to believe sheriffs' perspective on civil asset forfeiture because law enforcement should focus on prosecuting criminals. McGrath and Sibilla praise the legislation by 20 states and the District of Columbia that limit asset forfeiture and increase transparency, but they recommend that state and national lawmakers go one step further to remove the incentives for seizures by limiting the money law enforcement agencies retain.

WSJOURNAL: CHAO RIGHTLY HALTED CALTRAIN'S $647 MILLION GRANT. In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/5, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) lauds Transportation Secretary Chao's move to delay the $647 million federal grant for the Caltrain commuter service approved by former Transportation Secretary Carolyn Flowers two days before President Trump took office. The funds would be misspent because the bullet train connection to Caltrain is unlikely to occur for decades, if at all, says the Journal. Flowers is further involved through her current position at an engineering contractor involved in the Caltrain project.

WPOST: MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHOULD FUND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SAFETY CENTERS. In an editorial, the Washington Post (3/5, 11.43M) recommends that Montgomery County, Maryland fully fund the initiative to set up facilities for supervised visits and safe child exchanges in domestic violence cases, which County Executive Isiah Leggett reportedly supports. Leggett saw the Court Watch Montgomery "In the Best Interest of the Child?" report as "a call to action" to urgently put in place the centers that Court Watch Executive Director Laurie Duker says allow "the healing truly begin for everyone."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"When One President Smears Another."*** A New York Times (3/5, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) editorial stresses that Trump "had no evidence" when he "smeared" former President Obama with the allegation that he ordered wiretapping at Trump Tower during the 2016 campaign, and laments "the recklessness – the sheer indifference to truth and the moral authority of the American presidency – revealed here: one president baselessly charging criminality by another, all in a childish Twitter rampage." Trump's allegation "is so sensational – so explosive if it turned out to have some basis in fact and so corrosive if not – that Congress has no credible option but to convene a bipartisan select committee to investigate all questions related to Russian interference in the election." The Times adds that "senior officials of this administration who have integrity" must "begin asking themselves if they can continue lending their names and exposing their reputations to a president with so little regard for democratic institutions, and for the truth."

"Why Mess With A Nuclear Treaty, Mr Trump?" A New York Times (3/6, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) editorial says "some of President Trump's most irresponsible statements have involved, of all things, nuclear weapons, where there is no room for irresponsibility or error." The Times says his "latest shocker was a comment denigrating the New Start Treaty," which shows "Trump doesn't seem to understand much about the vast and apocalyptically lethal nuclear arsenal he commands." The Times argues that "there is nothing to be gained from a new nuclear arms race or from glib and ignorant talk about who is at the 'top of the pack.'"

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Montgomery County Must Mend The Hole In Its Domestic Violence Safety Net."*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (3/5, 11.43M) recommends that Montgomery County, Maryland fully fund the initiative to set up facilities for supervised visits and safe child exchanges in domestic violence cases, which County Executive Isiah Leggett reportedly supports. Leggett saw the Court Watch Montgomery "In the Best Interest of the Child?" report as "a call to action" to urgently put in place the centers that Court Watch Executive Director Laurie Duker says allow "the healing truly begin for everyone."

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"Air Pollution Around The World Takes A Staggering Toll." In an editorial, the Washington Post (3/5, 11.43M) warns President Trump's efforts to reduce Environmental Protection Agency staff and cut "superfluous" EPA programs, including "those addressing climate change," will result in his Administration throwing "out only bathwater and no baby," because ignoring present and future pollution challenges "ignores vast volumes of evidence on the ecological and human damage various types of pollution still cause." The Post cites a recent study's "finding that two major types of air pollution were associated with 4.2 million deaths in 2015," with a disproportionate death toll in China and India. If developing nations rely too heavily on "coal burning, people's health will still be threatened," the Post writes, and says these nations must grow their economies in ways that do not threaten air quality. The Post also says the negative impact of air pollution reinforces an "appreciation for effective environmental enforcement" in the US, and necessitates that world governments "press major developing nations on cross-border pollution matters."

"Trump's Blindness On Trade Is All Too Easy To See." The Washington Post (3/5, 11.43M) editorializes that President Trump's international economic policy aspirations set out in the newly released "The President's 2017 Trade Policy Agenda" will be ineffective in combating "China's mercantilism." Isolationist approaches that eschew US-led multilateral cooperation, like the TPP, show "blindness" that the assertion of unilateral "sovereignty" will protect America, despite other nations' "legitimate interests" and "capacity for retaliation." The drop in US manufacturing jobs since the implementation of NAFTA and China's WTO entrée is part of a larger trend since the end of the Korean War, says the Post.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"Washington Goes Nuts."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/5, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) decries the allegations coming from both parties concerning Russia and calls on the intelligence committees to determine the facts and present them to the American people.

"Chao's Choo-Choo Stop." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/5, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) lauds Transportation Secretary Chao's move to delay the $647 million federal grant for the Caltrain commuter service approved by former Transportation Secretary Carolyn Flowers two days before President Trump took office. The funds would be misspent because the bullet train connection to Caltrain is unlikely to occur for decades, if at all, says the Journal. Flowers is further involved through her current position at an engineering contractor involved in the Caltrain project.

"China's North Korea Feint." A Wall Street Journal (3/2, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) editorial says North Korea's nuclear and missile capabilities pose an increasing threat to US, and urges China to cut its economic ties to Pyongyang. If it fails to do so, the Journal calls on the Trump Administration to sanctions on Chinese entities that continue to do business with the North.

The Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
FBI Asks Justice Department To Rebut Wiretap Claim
Charity Officials Are Increasingly Receiving Million-Dollar Paydays
South Korea Says North Korea Fired Missiles Into Water Off Coast
Brought Down By Long Bust, Texas Oilmen Pray For Another Boom

New York Times:
Comey Asks Justice Dept. To Reject Trump's Wiretapping Claim
A Conspiracy Theory's Journey From Talk Radio To Trump's Twitter
Leashes Come Off Wall Street, Gun Sellers, Polluters And More
Sexist Political Criticism Finds A New Target: Kellyanne Conway
About Clint Frazier's Lush Locks: Will The Yankees Let Their Hair Down?

Washington Post:
Robust Desegregation Effort In Ky. Is Threatened
Comey Asked DOJ To Refute Claim A Call To Refute Wiretap Allegation
A Furious Trump Rages At Leaks And Accusations
Germany Uneasily Ratchets Up Military Might In Europe
Flipping The Script On Gun Sales

Financial Times:
Fillon Says He Has No Intention Of Standing Aside
Standard Life Poised To Reveal £11Bn Aberdeen Takeover
Deutsche Bank To Raise €8Bn And Overhaul Businesses

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Trump Wiretap Claim Denied By Ex Intelligence Chief
Washington Times:
McMaster Supports Trump's Goal To Defeat ISIS
Lawmakers Expand Russian Probe To Include Trump's Claim Of Obama-Sanctioned Spying
Russia Conspiracy Allegations To Continue Until Trump Plugs Intel Leaks
Republicans Fine Tune Plan To Dismantle Obamacare
GOP Upstarts Look To Sustained Enthusiasm For Trump Carrying Into Next Elections

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Trump-Obama Wiretap Claim; Obama Wiretap Claim-Congress Reactions; Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Escaped Inmates Manhunt; Hotel Sex Assault Attempt; Charity Scam; California Warehouse Fire; Florida Highway Fire; Georgia Historic Building Demolition; Color Blind Child.
CBS: Trump-Obama Wiretap Claim; Marine-Female Photo Scandal; Washington-Hate Crime Shooting; Iraq-Mosul Assault; Air India-All Female Crew.
NBC: Trump-Obama Wiretap Claim; Marine-Female Photo Scandal; Washington-Hate Crime Shooting; East Africa-Famine; North Korea-Missile Test; Juvenile Detention-Bill; Heroin Overdose; West Bank-New Hotel; Youngest Spelling Bee Winner; Youth Orchestra.

Network TV At A Glance:
Trump-Obama Wiretap Claim – 9 minutes, 25 seconds
Marine-Female Photo Scandal – 4 minutes, 45 seconds
Washington-Hate Crime Shooting – 3 minutes, 50 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Trump-New Immigration Order; Trump-Obama Wiretap Claim; North Korea-Missile Test.
CBS: Trump-Obama Wiretap Claim; Obama Wiretap Claim-Congress Reactions; Trump-Russia Connection; Trump-New Immigration Order; Healthcare Replacement; Marine-Female Photo Scandal; North Korea-Missile Test.
FOX: Trump-Obama Wiretap Claim; Obama Wiretap Claim-Congress Reactions; Trump-Russia Connection; North Korea-Missile Test.
NPR: Trump-Obama Wiretap Claim; UK-European Protection; French Election-Fillon Stays; Tennessee-Bird Flu; North Korea-Missile Test.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.
No late-night talk shows aired last night.

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Bulletin Intelligence <HHS@BulletinIntelligence.com>
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 6:07 AM
To: HHS@BulletinIntelligence.com
Subject: HHS Secretary's News Briefing for Monday, March 06, 2017

HHS SECRETARY'S NEWS BRIEFING

MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2017 6:00 AM EST

Zika Virus News:

FIRST STUDY OF ZIKA-INFECTED PATIENTS IN CANADA SHEDS LIGHT ON EFFECTS OF VIRUS

Globe and Mail (CAN) (3/6)
The Globe and Mail (CAN) reports pregnant, Zika-infected Candians have "a higher-than-expected rate of serious complications caused by the virus," according to the first study done in the country. However, "researchers are cautioning against alarm over the study's findings" due to its small sample size. The article notes that another major study "is about to begin April 1," which will track "the health outcomes of babies with birth defects born to Zika-infected mothers."

Top National Stories:

FACING BIG POLITICAL HURDLES, HOUSE REPUBLICANS READY AN AMBITIOUS LEGISLATIVE PUSH TO REPEAL OBAMACARE

Los Angeles Times (3/5, Noam N. Levey and Lisa Mascaro)
The Los Angeles Times reports House Republicans are "readying an ambitious push this week to begin moving legislation to replace major parts of the Affordable Care Act." The move creates a crucial test for Republican leadership as they try to maintain party unity over their biggest campaign promise. Republicans plan to remove most, if not all, of the taxes associated with the ACA and replace them by removing the tax exempt status of employer-based coverage, causing the price of insurance they get from their employers to go up. Vice President Pence told reporters on Friday that they are putting "the finishing touches on our plan," despite not reaching a consensus among Congressional Republicans. Advocacy groups representing patients, doctors, hospitals, and businesses have come out to oppose many of the proposals in the Republican plan. Compounding the problem is the fact that the CBO has not yet scored the GOP proposal.

More Coverage. 'Really Sick And Really Scared' Voters Temper Action On Health Law (New York Times, 3/5, Jennifer Steinhauer), Inside Trump's Fury: The President Rages At Leaks, Setbacks And Accusations (Washington Post, 3/5, Philip Rucker, Robert Costa and Ashley Parker), Republican Fine Tune Plan To Dismantle Obamacare (Washington Times, 3/5, Tom Howell Jr.), House Republicans To Introduce Health Care Legislation This Week (ABC News, 3/5), U.S. Republicans Expected To Unveil Healthcare Bill This Week (Reuters, 3/5)

Health Reform & Healthcare:

PATIENCE GONE, KOCH-BACKED GROUPS WILL PRESSURE G.O.P. ON HEALTH REPEAL

New York Times (3/5, Jeremy W. Peters)
The New York Times reports, "Conservative activist groups backed by the billionaire Koch brothers and other powerful interests on the right are mobilizing to pressure Republicans to fulfill their promise to swiftly repeal the Affordable Care Act." Tim Philips, the president of Americans for Prosperity, said, "We've been patient this year, but it is past time to act and to act decisively. Our network has spent more money, more time and more years fighting Obamacare than anything else. And now with the finish line in sight, we cannot allow some folks to pull up and give up."

EXPOSURE TO POLLUTION KILLS MILLIONS OF CHILDREN, WHO REPORTS FIND

Washington Post (3/5, Jia Naqvi)
The Washington Post reports environmental pollution "is associated with more than one in four deaths among children younger than 5," according to two World Health Organization reports. The WHO found that "weaker immune systems make children's health more vulnerable to harmful effects of polluted environments," and provided a breakdown of the 1.7

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million children killed each year by pollution.

More Coverage. Air Pollution Around The World Takes A Staggering Toll (Washington Post, 3/5), Polluted Environments Kill 1.7 Million Children A Year: WHO (Reuters, 3/5), Polluted Environments Kill 1.7 Million Children Each Year, WHO Says (CNN, 3/5, Meera Senthilingam)

'REALLY SICK AND REALLY SCARED' VOTERS TEMPER ACTION ON HEALTH LAW
New York Times (3/5, Jennifer Steinhauer)
The New York Times reports Ohio Sen. Rob Portman is part of a group of Republican members of Congress who have expressed concern about a plan to quickly repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Portman stated, "While we work to reform Medicaid as part of replacing" the ACA, "close attention must be paid to the growing opioid epidemic and the need for drug treatment and recovery."

BILLS WOULD BAN RELIGION EXCEPTION TO BIRTH CONTROL COVERAGE
Associated Press (3/5, Alison Noon)
The AP reports two bills have been introduced in the Nevada state legislature that would mandate "all health insurance plans cover birth control regardless of religious objections to contraceptives by family-owned businesses." When asked by reporters how the proposed legislation would not run afoul of a 2014 US Supreme Court ruling allowing an exemption to providing birth control, state Sen. Julia Ratti (D-Sparks) told reporters, "I have our legal teams doing some research on it." All 38 of the state's Democratic lawmakers have signed onto the legislation, and hearings are scheduled for Monday in both chambers.

Blogs:

GOP CONGRESSMAN THINKS POOR PEOPLE DON'T WANT HEALTH CARE
Grio (3/5)
In a blog entry, The Grio writes, "In a recent interview with STAT, Rep. Roger Marshall (R-KS) says he is not on board with" the Affordable Care Act's "Medicaid expansion because he is sure that some poor people simply don't want health care." First-term congressman Marshall, who is also a physician, said, "Just like Jesus said, 'The poor will always be with us.'" Marshall added, "There is a group of people that just don't want health care and aren't going to take care of themselves."

Opinion:

A PARTY NOT READY TO GOVERN
New York Times (3/6, Paul Krugman)
Paul Krugman writes in a New York Times op-ed that the Republican "party's failure so far to make significant progress toward any of its policy promises – isn't just about Mr. Trump's inadequacies." Krugman adds that in terms of repealing the Affordable Care Act and tax reform, "the two lead items in the congressional G.O.P.'s agenda," in both instances, "Republicans seem utterly shocked to find themselves facing reality."

THE HIGH-RISK POOL RUSE: OUR VIEW
USA Today (3/5)
USA Today editorializes that the ACA has been "a godsend for people with serious medical conditions who had been unable to find or afford coverage in the individual market." USA Today argues that "high-risk pools" do not solve the problem of helping the chronically ill to gain coverage, and premiums for individuals in the pools tended to be almost three times higher and have more restrictions than those outside the pool. USA Today concludes that the GOP-backed alternative would have woefully underfunded the high-risk pools.

HIGH-RISK POOLS EASE TRANSITION: OPPOSING VIEW
USA Today (3/5, Michael F. Cannon)
In an editorial for USA Today Michael Cannon argues that high-risk pools can "help transition to a system that makes high-quality medical care affordable and secure for patients with high-cost conditions." Cannon argues the GOP plan, as it stands now, is "woefully inadequate" and suffers from over-involvement of the government. He favors a shift towards health savings accounts as a means of reducing the government's role in healthcare.

RIFT WIDENS AMONG REPUBLICANS ON OBAMACARE
Forbes (3/5, Bruce Japsen)
Contributor Bruce Japsen writes in a Forbes piece that there is a widening rift among GOP lawmakers "over how to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act following escalating criticism from conservatives about secrecy, back room deals and

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legislation that could cost more than Obamacare." He points out that not even two days after President Trump "urged a joint session of Congress to repeal and replace the ACA, momentum from an otherwise well received speech disappeared as Republicans continued to bicker over how to finance whatever coverage they pursue."

VALUE POOLS AND VALUED PATIENTS
Washington Times (3/5, Roger Marshall)
In an opinion piece for the Washington Times, Rep. Roger Marshall (R-KS) writes that value pools are the way forward for healthcare. Value pools would be set up for individuals with preexisting conditions to assist them in getting the coverage necessary to treat their illnesses. Marshall argues value pools would make health insurance "more affordable" for those with preexisting conditions by isolating costs to a specific area.

OUR VIEW: ANTI-OBAMACARE FOG STILL HOVERS OVER D.C.
Portland (ME) Press Herald (3/5)
The Portland (ME) Press Herald editorializes that Republicans are having a hard time deciding how to replace the Affordable Care Act because they are realizing that while many Americans hate the ACA, "they all don't have the same reasons for hating it." The editorial contends that while Republicans cannot agree on why they hate the law, then they will not be able to "agree on how to fix it."

OBAMACARE IS UNLIKELY TO SURVIVE EVEN IF IT IS REPAIRED
Philadelphia (PA) Inquirer (3/5, Josh Blackman)
Josh Blackman, an adjunct scholar at the Cato Institute, wrote in an opinion piece in the Philadelphia Inquirer that the Affordable Care Act is not a "disaster," but "needs far more than mere repairs." Blackman argued that claims the ACA is in a "death spiral" are exaggerated, but that the law is also unsustainable as is.

GOP'S LEGAL AND POLITICAL SABOTAGE CRIPPLED OBAMACARE
Philadelphia (PA) Inquirer (3/5, Abbe R. Gluck)
Abbe R. Gluck, a professor of law at Yale Law School, wrote in an opinion piece in the Philadelphia Inquirer that Republicans sabotaged the Affordable Care Act by challenging the law politically and legally. Gluck argued that "Congress never gave it a chance, or even a tweak, to help it work."

GET WISE, GOP. THE HEALTHCARE GROUNDSWELL ISN'T GOING AWAY
The Hill (3/5, Leeann Hall)
LeeAnn Hall, the co-director of People's Action, writes in an opinion piece in The Hill that if Congress repeals the Affordable Care Act, then it should be "ready for plenty of opposition – and not just in the expected places." Hall argued that Republicans plan to overhaul healthcare in a way that would create "chaos not just for patients, but for hospitals, clinics, small businesses, and local and regional economies."

WEBB: STATE LEGISLATURE'S LATEST ABORTION BILL RIDICULOUS, EXPECTED
USA Today (3/5, Jon Webb)
An op-ed in USA Today by Jon Webb questions the legality of an Indiana bill seeking to require abortion providers to inform patients about an "abortion reversal procedure." According to the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, patients reconsidering an abortion after taking mifepristone could avoid taking misoprostol, and instead take progesterone. While Americans United for Life leader Clark Forsythe has stated the procedure produces "a 55-60 percent success rate," the ACOG has stated "it doesn't work." ACOG further explained, "Because medication abortion requires this combination of medications, many women will not abort just from using the first medication. ... In 30-50 percent of women who take mifepristone alone, the pregnancy will continue."

HUMAN HEALTH NEEDS A COMMON DEFENSE. TOO BAD WE BLEW IT
Boston Globe (3/5, Thomas Levenson)
In an opinion piece in the Boston Globe, Thomas Levenson, a professor of science writing at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, wrote that last May, "a team of experts convened by the British government reported...that the evolution of resistance in microbes kills at least 700,000 people worldwide each year." Should nothing happen to change that, "by 2050, the same study warns, the loss could balloon to 10 million a year – more than the expected death toll from cancer." Unfortunately, according to Levenson, President Trump's "paint-by-numbers approach to rule-making – his order that federal agencies cut two regulations for every new one they issue – makes a mockery of the notion of regulatory goals to deal with crises within our physical and biological habitats," including the problem of antibiotic resistance.

National Front Page News:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

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Wall Street Journal:
FBI Asks Justice Department To Rebut Wiretap Claim
Charity Officials Are Increasingly Receiving Million-Dollar Paydays
South Korea Says North Korea Fired Missiles Into Water Off Coast
Brought Down By Long Bust, Texas Oilmen Pray For Another Boom

New York Times:
Comey Asks Justice Dept. To Reject Trump's Wiretapping Claim
A Conspiracy Theory's Journey From Talk Radio To Trump's Twitter
Leashes Come Off Wall Street, Gun Sellers, Polluters And More
Sexist Political Criticism Finds A New Target: Kellyanne Conway
About Clint Frazier's Lush Locks: Will The Yankees Let Their Hair Down?

Washington Post:
Robust Desegregation Effort In Ky. Is Threatened
Comey Asked DOJ To Refute Claim A Call To Refute Wiretap Allegation
A Furious Trump Rages At Leaks And Accusations
Germany Uneasily Ratchets Up Military Might In Europe
Flipping The Script On Gun Sales

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Mack, Kelly (ACL)
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:25 AM
To: Robertson, Lance (ACL); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Lazare, Mary (ACL); Balenger, Juanita (ACL); Weber, Mark (HHS/ASPA); Daniels, Carla (HHS/ASPA); Ortiz, Melissa (ACL); Berger, Dan P. (ACL); Logan, Robert D. (ACL); Nicholls, Richard (ACL); Walker, Edwin L. (ACL); Williams, Bob (ACL); Phillips, Christine (ACL); Gottlich, Vicki (ACL); Devine, Percy (ACL); Ishida, David A. (ACL); Miskis, Constantinos (ACL); Otte, Kathleen F. (ACL); Wiatr-Rodriguez, Amy (ACL); Hodges, Josh (ACL); Hill, Kristi (ACL); Johnson, Jennifer (ACL)
Cc: Samuels, Christy (ACL); Mokhtari, Rohmteen (ACL); Mosher, Ann (ACL); McKay, Hunter (ACL)
Subject: ACL Articles of Interest 9/22/17

Hello,

Please see the articles of interest for today below, including more coverage about deaths at the Florida nursing home: a 10th person has died following heat exposure; Florida suspended the license of the facility; support grows to require generators at nursing homes; and reporting that proposed cuts to CDBG funding would impact disaster relief. In other news, CMS solicits public input on including more innovation in Medicaid and Medicare; and analyses suggest decreased coverage and increased costs for older adults and people with pre-existing conditions under the new proposed health care bill.

Regards,
Kelly Mack
ACL Public Affairs Specialist

Not included in HHS clips:

The Hill (September 21)
AARP: Older Americans to pay $16K more under GOP ObamaCare repeal
A new study from the AARP finds that older people could pay as much as $16,174 more per year for health coverage under the Republican bill to repeal ObamaCare sponsored by Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-La.).

The bill "threatens to make health care unaffordable and inaccessible for millions of older Americans," AARP, which opposes the measure, writes in the report.

Kaiser Health News (September 21)
Caregivers Draw Support by Mapping Their Relationships
Every time Jacque Pearson tried to devise a plan to move her 81-year-old dad, who has Alzheimer's, from his home in Boise, Idaho, to hers in Denver, she felt stuck. Then, two weeks ago, she had a breakthrough. It happened at an AARP-sponsored session in which Pearson created a "CareMap" — a hand-drawn picture showing all the people she cares for as well as the people surrounding those individuals and her own sources of support.

NPR (September 21)
Oklahoma City Police Fatally Shoot Deaf Man Despite Yells of 'He Can't Hear'
Police in Oklahoma City on Tuesday night fatally shot a deaf man who they say was advancing toward them with a metal pipe as witnesses yelled that the man was deaf and could not hear them.

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ABC News (September 20)

NY agency called Justice Center may lack power to prosecute

A New York state agency launched four years ago to protect the disabled from abuse and neglect was staffed with a team of investigators and prosecutors empowered to bring criminal cases against alleged wrongdoers. But it lacked one key thing, according to three recent court rulings: the legal authority to actually prosecute anyone.

From HHS clips:

TENTH RESIDENT FROM FLORIDA NURSING HOME DIES. The Miami Herald (9/21, Koh, 701K) reports that a tenth person from the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills, which "turned into a deadly hothouse when its air conditioning lost power after Hurricane Irma has died, police said."

FLORIDA HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATION BACKS SCOTT'S PUSH TO INCREASE GENERATOR CAPACITY. In a USA Today (9/21, 8.62M) op-ed, Emmett Reed, executive director of Florida Health Care Association, writes that his organization "grieve[s] the loss of nine elderly residents of a single, non-member South Florida nursing home in the wake of Hurricane Irma," and says it "cannot be allowed to happen again." Reed adds that his group "fully support[s] Gov. Rick Scott's intent to increase generator capacity to help further harden nursing care centers against disasters."

Editorial Questions Where Fault Lies In Case Of Eight Dead Nursing Home Residents. USA Today (9/21, 8.62M) in an editorial questions how, on its website, "the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills boasts that [it]...provides 'top-quality medical care'" and advertises being "located directly across the street'" from a hospital, yet were unable to prevent the residents' deaths. USA Today also questions why the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services do not require facilities to have generators that provide climate maintenance, remarking that its new rule taking effect in November should more clearly state that facilities ought to provide generators, rather than simply "alternate sources of energy." Furthermore, the editorial says "[g]etting past the powerful nursing home lobby," of which it says the Florida Health Care Association is a part, to institute such changes "is a challenge."

INVESTIGATORS REVIEWING DEATHS OF 10 NURSING HOME RESIDENTS CONSIDER PROSECUTION. The AP (9/22, Spencer) reports state and federal authorities are investigating the deaths of ten Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills residents, with the tenth death coming on Wednesday after 94-year-old Martha Murray passed due to problems associated with the facility's operations following Hurricane Irma. Florida Gov. Rick Scott (R) and the relatives of the Hollywood facility residents have classified the events as criminal, although Florida law could complicate prosecution efforts against Dr. Jack Michel, the home's owner. Litigators who commented on the matter said prosecutorial action will depend on whether the facility was "culpably negligent," which the state defines as "consciously doing an act or following a course of conduct that the defendant must have known, or reasonably should have known, was likely to cause death or great bodily injury." The facility argues that since it used fans, ice, coolers, and additional methods to assist residents, it is not culpable.

Reuters (9/21, Simpson) reports police announced Murray's death on Thursday, and "have opened a criminal investigation into the deaths at the center." The center's Medicaid participation has been terminated and its license suspended. New reports show residents were taken to hospitals with temperatures as high as 109.9 Fahrenheit.

The Huffington Post (9/21, Miller, 5.74M) reports Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration, which ordered the termination and suspension, said some of the victims were admitted to the hospital "far too late to be saved," adding that the Hollywood facility found staff "overwhelmingly delayed calling 911" and made entries to residents' medical records that "inaccurately depicted what had happened."

The New York Daily News (9/21, Alsup, 3.61M) reports Rehabilitation Center lawyer Kirsten K. Ullman said in a statement that staff found "no indication based on actual conditions" that they should contact emergency responders until one "resident had a significant change in condition."

ADMINISTRATION TARGETING PROGRAM THAT MANAGES LONG-TERM DISASTER RELIEF. McClatchy (9/21, Daugherty, 67K) reports that the Trump Administration is targeting for elimination the "federal agency tasked with managing billions in long-term hurricane-relief money." In addition to administering "$3 billion a year to local communities for programs like Meals on Wheels," HUD's Community Block Grant Program, "has also managed more than $50 billion in taxpayer dollars since 1993 to help with long-term disaster relief." McClatchy says the White House did not respond to a request for comment "and it's unclear how the federal government would coordinate long-term disaster relief without the Community Development Block Grant program." Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL), who "doesn't think the Community Block

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Grant Program should be eliminated," said, "The CDBG Disaster Recovery program is a critical tool that helps communities and neighborhoods rebuild and start the recovery process following a natural disaster."

FLORIDA AGENCY SUSPENDS LICENSE OF NURSING HOME WHERE RESIDENTS DIED IN IRMA AFTERMATH. The Wall Street Journal (9/20, Evans, Kamp, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that on Wednesday, the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration suspended The Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills' license amid investigations into the deaths of eight residents after Hurricane Irma left the facility without power and air conditioning. The Florida AHCA wrote that the facility did not supply residents with adequate medical care because facility administrators neglected to call 911, although nursing home co-counsel Kirsten Ullman said staff monitored patients and that the allegations are untrue. The newest order follows two previous orders that terminated the home's Medicaid eligibility and blocked it from admitting new patients.

The AP (9/20) reports the center is attempting to block the orders via lawsuit.

RESIDENTS WHO DIED AT FLORIDA NURSING HOME HAD TEMPERATURES REACHING 109.9. The South Florida Sun Sentinel (9/20, O'Matz, Hobbs, 530K) reports several residents of The Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills who died at the facility in the wake of Hurricane Irma due to a lack of air conditioning "had body temperatures as high as 109.9" and had "suffered for three days at the Hollywood facility." The facility recently had its license and Medicaid eligibility revoked.

FLORIDA AGENCY FINDS NURSING HOME WHERE RESIDENTS DIED FAILED TO ACCURATELY RECORD VITAL SIGNS. The New York Times (9/20, Yee, Fink, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration has found that the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills, where eight residents died following Hurricane Irma, "'presents a danger to every person on its premises' and must close after staff at the facility failed to call 911 for its overheated patients." The nursing home was also "rebuked" for "entering normal vital signs, or mildly elevated temperatures, into the medical records of several residents after they had already been evacuated or, in one case, had already died." The agency found that such entries were made "under dubious circumstances."

DOCTOR OFFERS PRAISE FOR PALLIATIVE CARE. Dr. Danielle Ofri at the New York University School of Medicine writes in an op-ed for the New York Times (9/21, Ofri, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) on one patient's family's hesitance about hospice care, saying that "contrary to the assumption that hospice equals death, data show that early referral to hospice actually improves life expectancy." Within weeks, the family was "singing its praises" while she and hospice nurses worked to "always maximizing comfort." Ofri writes that "even for patients with end-stage cancer, the earlier they are referred to palliative care (care focused on patient comfort), the longer they usually live."

HEALTH INSURERS DENYING COVERAGE TO MANY ILLINOIS RESIDENTS FOR CERTAIN MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, ADDICTION TREATMENTS. The Chicago Tribune (9/20, Schencker, 1.98M) reports that a survey of psychiatrists, hospitals, and other healthcare professionals in Illinois reveals that health insurers, particularly "Medicare managed care organizations," are "denying coverage to many Illinois residents for certain mental health services and addiction treatments." The survey results were released in a report jointly released "by the Kennedy Forum Illinois, the Illinois Health and Hospital Association and the Illinois Association for Behavioral Health, among others."

CMS REQUESTS INPUT ON "NEW DIRECTION" FOR INNOVATION CENTER. Healthcare IT News (9/20, Morse, 5K) reports that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is redesigning its Innovation Center in an effort to give providers more flexibility in payment models and encourage more competition among healthcare systems to reduce cost, according to an announcement in a Wall Street Journal op-ed by CMS Administrator Seema Verma. The Innovation Center introduced "many new models shifting payment from fee-for-service to value-based care," and now CMS is seeking comments on which models work and which do not in a public comment period expiring November 20. Verma added, "We will move away from the assumption that Washington can engineer a more efficient healthcare system from afar – that we should specify the processes healthcare providers are required to follow."

FEDERAL AGENCIES LAUNCH $81 MILLION RESEARCH PROJECT TO DEVELOP NON-DRUG PAIN MANAGEMENT FOR VETERANS. The Connecticut Post (9/20, Cuda, 199K) reports "the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Defense, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs" are jointly establishing an $81 million "multi-component research project" aimed at developing "nondrug pain management" options for "service members and veterans." NIH Director Dr. Francis S. Collins said via news release, "Finding solutions for chronic pain is of critical importance, especially for military personnel and veterans who are disproportionately affected. Bringing the science to bear through these real-world research projects will accelerate our search for pain management strategies for all Americans, especially as we work to address the nation's opioid crisis."

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SECRETARY PRICE LOOKS TO STRENGTHEN HHS, TRIBAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIPS. The Tulsa (OK) World (9/20, Krehbiel-Burton, 320K) reports Secretary of Health and Human Services Tom Price visited Cherokee Nation's Jack Brown Treatment Center in Oklahoma on Wednesday, commenting, "The work you're doing here isn't just a model for Indian Country but for the entire nation. ... The self-governance system here at Cherokee Nation is one of remarkable expanse and capability." The facility "serves up to 20 Native American teenagers at a time, using a combination of modern medicine and traditional Cherokee activities." The CDC reports opioid abuse-related deaths among Native Americans has increased by almost four times since 2009.

EXPERTS WARN ACA REPEAL BILL MAY ERODE PROTECTIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS. ABC World News Tonight (9/20, story 5, 2:05, Muir, 14.63M) reported on "the Senate's hail Mary push to kill Obamacare. Their new replacement plan" will turn "over much of the responsibility to the states," although "it is running into a lot of opposition tonight, including from late night TV host Jimmy Kimmel."

The Hill (9/20, Sullivan, 1.68M) reports that the latest ACA repeal bill "would give states a way to repeal protections for people with pre-existing conditions, a controversial move that opponents of the bill are denouncing." Experts are warning that without those protections, premiums would become unaffordable for some consumers. For instance, Larry Levitt, a health policy expert at the Kaiser Family Foundation, said, "Premiums could be unlimited for people who are sick."

MOST STATES WOULD LOSE FEDERAL FUNDING UNDER LATEST ACA REPEAL BILL, STUDY INDICATES. The AP (9/20, Alonso-Zaldivar) reports that according to an analysis conducted by Avalere Health, most states would see significant funding cuts if the Graham-Cassidy ACA repeal bill becomes law. Data show the "bill would lead to an overall $215 billion cut to states in federal funding for health insurance, through 2026. Reductions would grow over time." Overall, 34 states would experience funding reductions "by 2026, while 16 would see increases." The article says some of the states which would lose funding include several "that were key for President Donald Trump, including Florida, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Ohio."

NEW ACA REPEAL BILL EXPECTED TO PROVIDE MORE FLEXIBILITY FOR STATES, BUT INCREASE UNCERTAINTY FOR MILLIONS OF CONSUMERS. Reed Abelson and Margot Sanger-Katz write in the New York Times (9/20, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) "The Upshot" blog that Senate Republicans' latest effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act "would grant states much greater flexibility and all but guarantee much greater uncertainty for tens of millions of people." They argue that the measure "would not only reduce the amount of federal funding for coverage over the next decade, but would also give states wide leeway to determine whom to cover and how." As a result, the legislation "would be as disruptive as many of the Republicans' previous proposals, but whose precise impact is the hardest to predict."

COLLINS LAMENTS FAILURE OF BIPARTISAN EFFORT TO STABILIZE ACA MARKETPLACES. The Hill (9/20, Greenwood, 1.68M) reports that on Wednesday, Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) said "it was 'disappointing' that a bipartisan health-care effort was halted after the White House threw its support behind" an ACA repeal bill pushed by Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA). Collins said she will not decide if she will support the repeal bill until the Congressional Budget Office scores it. However, "she acknowledged that she preferred an effort by the top Republican and Democrat on the Senate Health Committee to stabilize the individual insurance market and fix the problems with ObamaCare, rather than repeal it outright."

SENATE REPUBLICANS ACCUSED OF IGNORING SIGNIFICANT CONCERNS IN ORDER TO SUPPORT LATEST ACA REPEAL BILL. Roll Call (9/20, Williams, 134K) reports Senate Republicans "face the prospect of retreating from their previous public stances in order to support fast-moving legislation that would significantly overhaul the U.S. health care system." The article adds that worries "about the impact on people suffering from opioid addiction, drastic cuts to Medicaid and the lack of robust analysis from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office appear to have vanished as the GOP hopes to advance a bill to repeal the 2010 health care law before the fast-track budget reconciliation mechanism they are using expires on Sept. 30."

INDEPENDENT ANALYSES PREDICT REPUBLICANS' HEALTHCARE BILL WOULD LEAVE MILLIONS MORE UNINSURED. The Los Angeles Times (9/20, Levey, 4.49M) reports that analyses of the new Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill show that millions of currently insured Americans would be uninsured and hundreds of billions of dollars in funding would be cut. Independent analysts say that most states would likely lose money, which would cause coverage losses "somewhere between significant and vast." The Times also reports, "No major group representing patients or people who work in the healthcare system backs the Graham-Cassidy proposal," and insurers such as Blue Cross Blue Shield Association said the bill would make "coverage more expensive" and would jeopardize "Americans' choice of health plans."

OPINION: Michael Hiltzik writes in his column in the Los Angeles Times (9/20, 4.49M) that Avalere released a report that concluded the Graham-Cassidy bill would cut "healthcare funding for adults, children and the disabled – in effect, almost

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every population category in the US other than seniors enrolled in Medicare." Hiltzik argues that Avalere's report, and others, may have a particularly significant impact on the vote since the CBO will not be able to complete a full analysis of the bill before Sept. 30.

ADMINISTRATION HINTS AT NEW MEDICARE POLICIES. STAT (9/21, Mershon, 43K) reports on Wednesday, Administration officials "hinted at several new pilot programs" that may result in Medicare beneficiaries being "on the hook for higher costs." They are "only hints" as "there are no formal rules" or "any clear timeline" being proposed. To date, Health and Human Services "has mostly made changes to Medicare by unwinding Obama-era initiatives," so these are the first "clear signals about the conservative policies that the Republican officials want to achieve in the Medicare and Medicaid programs." Secretary Price is said to favor "private contracting" under which physicians may "contract directly with beneficiaries to charge them more" than Medicare would pay. HHS may also seek to strengthen Medicare Advantage plans.

PET SCAN TECHNIQUE MAY HELP IDENTIFY CTE IN LIVING PATIENTS. The Atlantic (9/21, Hruby, 1.64M) reports Mt. Sinai neurologist Sam Gandy has developed a PET scan method using a tracer to identify Tau deposits in the brain that could help identify patients with chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE). The story says that an "expert panel commissioned by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, or NINDS, agreed on what distinguishes CTE from other diseases that also feature tau deposits: In CTE, the neuron-killing protein tangles build up around the wrinkled crevices along brain's surface, particularly at the deepest points."

PENNSYLVANIA HOLDING PUBLIC MEETINGS TO EXPLAIN NEW MEDICAID MANAGED CARE PROGRAM. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (9/21, Rotstein, 516K) reports Pennsylvania has "scheduled public information meetings at 22 sites from Oct. 11 to Nov. 3" to explain the "new Community HealthChoices program starting Jan. 1." Pennsylvania's Office of Long-Term Living "is also mailing materials" to explain the program, which is a state "initiative bringing managed care to how people select and receive Medicaid-funded services such as home assistance, adult day care and nursing home stays."

COMPANIES SAY REGULATIONS PREVENTING MOBILE DIALYSIS CENTERS FROM HELPING PATIENTS AFTER DISASTERS. STAT (9/21, Blau, 43K) reports that several US companies are "eager to build mobile dialysis centers," which "latch onto the back of tractor-trailers and are capable of expanding to the size of an average U.S. apartment, where half-a-dozen or so patients can be simultaneously treated." The manufacturers say mobile dialysis centers would be effective in disaster relief efforts but "burdensome restrictions for their mobilized treatment facilities are preventing storm survivors from getting dialysis in their time of need."

STUDY SUGGESTS HIGH-DOSE FLU VACCINE USED BY ELDERLY COULD BENEFIT ADULTS WITH CHRONIC CONDITIONS. The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (9/21, Schmitt, 236K) reports a study published online in the journal Vaccine found that the high-dose flu vaccine favored as a treatment for the elderly may also be helpful for persons aged 50 to 64 with chronic illnesses such as heart disease, as their conditions place them at a greater risk for a serious flu infection. Lead author Jonathan Raviotta said in a statement, "The growing proportion of middle-aged adults with chronic health conditions coupled with the modest effectiveness of the standard-dose influenza vaccine prompted us to explore whether existing vaccines already recommended for the elderly also could protect younger people. ... Sure enough, expanding the recommendation does seem like a good policy. ... Before making such a recommendation, real world clinical trials are needed."

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

From: Mack, Kelly (ACL)
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 10:55 AM
To: Robertson, Lance (ACL); Wynne, Maggie (HHS/IOS); Smith, Andrew (HHS/IOS); Stevenson, Sarah-Lloyd (HHS/IOS); Lazare, Mary (ACL); Balenger, Juanita (ACL); Weber, Mark (HHS/ASPA); Daniels, Carla (HHS/ASPA); Ortiz, Melissa (ACL); Berger, Dan P. (ACL); Logan, Robert D. (ACL); Nicholls, Richard (ACL); Walker, Edwin L. (ACL); Williams, Bob (ACL); Phillips, Christine (ACL); Gottlich, Vicki (ACL); Devine, Percy (ACL); Ishida, David A. (ACL); Miskis, Constantinos (ACL); Otte, Kathleen F. (ACL); Wiatr-Rodriguez, Amy (ACL); Hodges, Josh (ACL); Hill, Kristi (ACL); Johnson, Jennifer (ACL)
Cc: Samuels, Christy (ACL); Mokhtari, Rohmteen (ACL); Mosher, Ann (ACL); McKay, Hunter (ACL)
Subject: ACL Articles of Interest 9/28/17

Hello,

Please see the articles of interest for today below, including coverage about problems with nursing home facilities' emergency preparedness, families of people with intellectual disabilities advocate for CT's governor to fund jobs program, and a new report shows that long-term care costs increased significantly.

Regards,
Kelly Mack
ACL Public Affairs Specialist

Not included in HHS clips:

Indy Week (September 27)
Long-Term Care Can Often Mean Going Back into the Closet. Les Geller Wants That to End.
For many older LGBTQ people, entering long-term care can mean going back in the closet.

That is, people who may have been out for decades often set aside central parts of their identities in fear of discrimination or stigma as they seek places to live in senior housing, assisted-living centers, or nursing homes, says Les Geller, who helped start the Raleigh affiliate of the New York-based organization SAGE, or Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders, in 2011. (The local SAGE affiliate was previously called Gay and Gray.)

Given the need for affordable housing for older LGBTQ people, Geller helped found the SAGE Raleigh Senior Housing Initiative last year. Allied with a national effort called UC Homes, it's designed in part to avoid the wrenching syndrome of LGBTQ people having to deny their sexuality.

New York Times (September 27)—disability column series
Playing the Online Dating Game, on Wheels
It was painful to realize that the hard part isn't over once someone learns that I'm disabled. Going on dates with me can be a crash course on disability, and I recognize that's not always easy for non-disabled people to process. But I wasn't helping the situation by keeping the existence of my disability concealed, springing it upon people only when I thought it felt right. In retrospect, this served only to contribute to the stigma I usually work so hard to fight.

Disability Scoop (September 26)
Disability Advocates Arrested Protesting Medicaid Cuts

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Over 100 disability rights advocates were arrested while protesting Medicaid changes in a proposal to overhaul the nation's health care system. Hours later, the GOP plan appeared doomed.

Hartford Courant (September 26)
Funding for Job Programs a Wise Investment, Say Parents of Intellectually Disabled
Paying for job-training programs for young adults with an intellectual disability makes economic sense, said parents and advocates, who called on Gov. Dannel P. Malloy to ratify the funding.

The cost — $630,000 per month for the 330 young people who turned 21 this year and graduated high school in June — is covered in both the Republican and Democrat budget proposals. Only the GOP's plan is heading to Malloy's desk, and he has vowed to veto it, saying it gouges UConn and hurts cities and towns. Absent a budget, Malloy is running the state with an executive order that provides basic funding, but doesn't cover what advocates consider to be broad swaths of the safety net.

At a rally outside the legislative office building Tuesday, worried parents, who said they have seen their sons or daughters regress in three months since graduation, pleaded with Malloy to adopt a budget that restarts the now-stalled day programming. These services have been in place for decades.

U.S. News & World Report / AP (September 26)
Buyer Beware: Long-Term Care Costs Are Surging
Long-term care costs are surging again and the most expensive option—a private nursing home room—may soon top $100,000 per year. Growing labor expenses and sicker patients helped push the median cost of care that includes adult day care and assisted living communities up an average of 4.5 percent this year, according to a survey released Tuesday by Genworth Financial. That's the second-highest increase sense Genworth started its survey in 2004.

St. Louis Public Radio (September 20)
Missouri scores poorly on preventing falls among older adults. What can we do?
Missouri leads the country when it comes to the prevalence of injuries due to falls among older adults. The injuries can cause lost independence and mobility, and result in considerable medical bills.

The Fifth Estate (September 5)
How a dementia-friendly net-zero home will help older people stay put
Dementia is the single biggest cause of disability in Australians aged over 65, and with an ageing population we can expect more than 500,000 people to be living with the condition by 2025. The pressure on our health and aged-care sector will be immense but a group of students from the University of Wollongong may hold the key to keeping people living in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.

San Diego Union Tribune (September 1)
Meals on Wheels tests high-tech health checks for seniors
Meals on Wheels, for example, has asked its volunteers and paid couriers to keep an eye on the senior clients they see many times per week. But that oversight has been largely ad-hoc. Here is the classic opportunity for data-driven change, said Dr. Zia Agha, chief medical officer at San Diego's West Health, a research and philanthropy non profit.

From HHS clips:

HHS MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM WORKING TO AID PUERTO RICO'S REELING HOSPITALS AFTER MARIA.
The Wall Street Journal (9/26, McKay, Evans, Hernandez, De Córdoba, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports Puerto Rico's healthcare system is struggling with widespread power losses, damaged facilities, and dwindling medical supplies since Hurricane Maria struck the island. Securing fuel for generators and clean water are two major priorities for the island's clinics and hospitals, according to HHS contractor Kenneth Sturrock on Tuesday. Sturrock also said the National Disaster Medical System has sent 330 healthcare workers to assist.

Reuters (9/26, Respaut, Graham) reports that medical services in Puerto Rico are in a "precarious" state following

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Hurricane Maria. According to the article, officials anticipate "the situation at Puerto Rico's hospitals could worsen before it improves." Reuters adds that the US Department of Health and Human Services has deployed a "disaster medical assistance team" that "is setting up makeshift hospital units" at Centro Medico, Puerto Rico's largest public hospital.

KEY PRESCRIPTION DRUGS COULD FACES SHORTAGES AFTER HURRICANE MARIA, FDA WARNS. USA Today (9/26, Bomey, 8.62M) reports that the Food and Drug Administration is warning that there could be shortages of key drugs "after Hurricane Maria brought Puerto Rico's drug manufacturing industry to a standstill." According to FDA Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb, "We may soon face critical shortages if we don't find a path for removal or ways to get production back up and running."

ALEXANDER STILL HOPEFUL ABOUT BIPARTISAN TALKS ON ACA STABILIZATION. The Hill (9/26, Hellmann, 1.68M) reports that on Tuesday, Senate Health Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) "left the door open...to restarting bipartisan talks on an ObamaCare stabilization bill." He said he was still worried "about the next two years and Congress has an opportunity to slow down premium increases in 2018, begin to lower them in 2019, and do our best to make sure there are no counties where people have zero options to buy health insurance." Alexander added that he would consult with colleagues from both sides of the aisle to determine "if senators can find consensus on a limited bipartisan plan that could be enacted into law to help lower premiums and make insurance available to the 18 million Americans in the individual market in 2018 and 2019."

OHIO CONSIDERS BAN ON ABORTIONS AFTER DOWN SYNDROME DIAGNOSES. The AP (9/26, Smyth, Crary) reports on a proposed bill in the Ohio legislature which would ban abortions in cases where a pregnant woman gets a positive test or "prenatal diagnosis" of Down syndrome. The article profiles a 36-year old nurse, Kelly Kuhns, whose son has Down syndrome, and her advocacy for the bill. The AP mentions that the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has expressed concerns about measures that seek to ban abortions based on the woman's motive. Dr. Mark DeFrancesco, while President of the congress last year, said "These 'reason bans' represent gross interference in the patient-physician relationship, creating a system in which patients and physicians are forced to withhold information or outright lie in order to ensure access to care." The AP adds that Indiana and North Dakota have passed similar laws; one in Indiana was blocked by a federal judge; and one in Oklahoma was passed in its House, but never reached its Senate.

LONG-TERM CARE COSTS ROSE BY 4.5 PERCENT THIS YEAR, SURVEY SUGGESTS. The AP (9/26, Murphy) reports that the median cost of long-term care rose by "an average of 4.5 percent this year," according to a new Genworth Financial survey. The AP says it is "the second-highest increase since Genworth started its survey in 2004." Genworth researchers attribute the increase to rising labor costs and longer-living patients with greater medical needs and expect the trend to continue. The article adds that Joe Caldwell of the National Council on Aging, which is not affiliated with the study, said "there is this aging baby-boom population that's going to be really hit hard in the coming decade" because many Americans fail to plan for long-term care and don't understand Medicare's limits.

VA SAYS VETERANS CHOICE HEALTHCARE PROGRAM COULD RUN OUT OF FUNDING SOON. The AP (9/26, Yen) reports the Department of Veterans Affairs said on Tuesday, in the AP's words, "the private-sector Veterans Choice health care program may need additional money as early as December to avoid a disruption of care for hundreds of thousands of veterans." The program recently received $2.1 billion in emergency funding. The VA has proposed a long-term solution that is expected to be released in the next few weeks.

FLORIDA RESIDENTS CONCERNED ABOUT RISING NURSING HOME COSTS, SURVEY FINDS. The Orlando (FL) Sentinel (9/26, 603K) reports the annual University of South Florida-Nielsen Sunshine State Survey found about three-quarters of Florida residents "are concerned about the costs of nursing-home care, with the worries highest among women." About 37 percent of respondents said they were "very" concerned about costs, while 36 percent said they were "somewhat" concerned; and 44 percent of women attested to being "very" concerned, whereas 28 percent of men said so. The AP reported on Tuesday that the most expensive choice for long-term care, a private nursing home room, soon could cost $100,000 per year.

MASSACHUSETTS PANEL HEARS TESTIMONY ON PHYSICIAN ASSISTED DEATH BILL. The AP (9/26, Salsberg) reports that the Massachusetts' Legislature's Public Health Committee on Tuesday "heard emotionally charged testimony" on a right-to-die bill. The article says a similar bill was "narrowly rejected" by voters in 2012, but states such as California and Vermont have since enacted physician-assisted death laws "and supporters say recent polls indicate a majority of Massachusetts residents now favor" legalization. The article, however, says the Massachusetts Medical Society opposes the bill, and "the American College of Physicians also reaffirmed its opposition earlier this month."

MONTANA LAUNCHES PROGRAM TO HELP PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES SAVE MONEY. The AP (9/27) reports that Montana officials announced a program Tuesday that would help people with disabilities start savings accounts while keeping them eligible for Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income. The program is intended to give them more control

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over their money and expenses. Sheila Hogan, director of the state's Department of Public Health and Human Services, explained that prior to this law, people with disabilities were penalized for saving money and being financially responsible.

RESEARCHERS DISCOVER KEY BIOMARKER FOR CTE. The Washington Post (9/26, Maese, 10.38M) reports investigators "have discovered a key biomarker for chronic traumatic encephalopathy [CTE] that they hope marks the first step toward being able to diagnose and ultimately treat the neurodegenerative disease in a living football player." After examining "the brains of 23 former football players who were diagnosed with CTE, in addition to those of 50 non-athletes who suffered from Alzheimer's disease and 18 non-athlete controls," researchers discovered "significantly elevated levels of a protein related to inflammation called CCL11 in the group of ex-players compared with the non-athletes."

The NBC News (9/26, Fox, 3.46M) website reports that CCL11 "levels were notably higher in the football players with CTE, and the longer they'd played football, the higher the levels of CCL11 in their brains and spinal fluid," the study revealed. The findings were published online Sept. 26 in PLoS One. Also covering the story are the Los Angeles Times (9/26, Healy, 4.49M) "Science Now" blog, the Boston Globe (9/26, Hohler, 969K), the New York Daily News (9/26, Red, 3.61M), the New York Post (9/26, Masisak, 4.31M), the Huffington Post (9/26, Almendrala, 5.74M), and the Detroit News (9/26, Rahal, 725K).

NEARLY 20% OF TEENS REPORT HAVING BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH A CONCUSSION. TIME (9/26, Sifferlin, 5.85M) reports that research published in JAMA indicates nearly "one in five teens have been diagnosed with a concussion."

Reuters (9/26, Cohen) reports that "the odds were even higher for boys, with" nearly "a quarter last year saying they had sustained a head injury and been diagnosed with a concussion." Meanwhile, "boys and girls who played contact sports were the most vulnerable," as "nearly one in three teen competitors in contact sports reported having had a concussion."

The NPR (9/26, Jochem, 2.4M) "Shots" blog reports that "nearly 6 percent" of teens "said they've been diagnosed with more than one" concussion.

Also covering the story are Newsday (NY) (9/26, Ricks, 1.64M) and Newsweek (9/26, Sheridan, 991K).

GENETICS MAY ACCOUNT FOR ABOUT 83% OF AUTISM CASES, STUDY INDICATES. TIME (9/26, Park, 5.85M) reports investigators "say they have come up with the most accurate figure to date for the role that genes play in autism." After reanalyzing "existing data from all children born in Sweden between 1982 and 2006," researchers then found that "genetics likely accounts for around 83% of the disorder." The findings were published Sept. 26 as a research letter in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

HealthDay (9/26, Dotinga, 11K) reports that the study authors examined data on "37,570 pairs of twins, 2.6 million pairs of siblings, and nearly 888,000 pairs of half-siblings."

INTEPIRDINE FAILS TO MEET GOALS IN ALZHEIMER'S TRIAL. The Wall Street Journal (9/26, Rockoff, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that Axovant Sciences' experimental Alzheimer's drug, intepirdine, failed to meet its goals in a clinical trial, leading the company to abandon development of the drug as a treatment for the disease. Study participants failed to show signs of improvement in cognition or daily living when taking the drug.

DATA FROM NEXT MAJOR CLINICAL TRIALS FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE NOT UNTIL 2019. STAT (9/26, Garde, 43K) reports that it's a "long wait" until the next major clinical trial for an Alzheimer's disease treatment. According to STAT, "three large, late-stage Alzheimer's trials are expected to read out" in 2019, "providing what could be the final word on a trio of drugs that scientists and analysts say represent the next best hope of breaking the industry's generation of failure in the field."

DAVIS, PERRY: NEW BILL WOULD REMOVE PROTECTIONS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE. In a Washington Post (9/26, 10.38M) op-ed, University of Illinois professor Lennard Davis and University of Minnesota history adviser David Perry criticize recent legislation offered by the House Judiciary Committee that they argue would make the Americans With Disabilities Act "much harder to enforce, taking away the major motivation that businesses had for complying: fear of being sued." They argue that if the new ADA Education and Reform Act passes, business owners "would have no incentive to preemptively build accessibility into their business model."

OPINION: IMPROPER MEDICARE PAYMENTS ARE COSTING US BILLIONS. Adrian Velasquez, founder of Fi-Med Management, writes in The Hill (9/27, 1.68M) that billing mistakes and fraud are costing Medicare tens of billions of dollars every year. Velasquez says overpayments to Medicare cost taxpayers $60 billion in 2016, plus another $16 billion in improper payments to Medicare Advantage plans. "The payment error rate for standard Medicare in 2016 alone was found to be at 11 percent, which translates to $41 billion." The most common errors include: "duplicate charges, incorrect

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patient information, increased quantities, in-network balance billing, and separating bundled procedures." Velasquez pitches his company, Fi-Med Management, which uses "targeted analytics" to locate "behavioral" coding issues that can prevent incorrect billing as a key component to fixing the system.

ADVOCATES URGE STRICTER GENERATOR REQUIREMENTS FOR OHIO NURSING HOMES FOLLOWING FLORIDA TRAGEDY. The Cleveland Plain Dealer (9/27, Caniglia, Corrigan, 927K) reports that advocates in Ohio want the state to "increase its requirements for generators" at nursing homes following the deaths of 11 residents at a long-term care facility in Florida that suffered post-hurricane power outages. The article says current Ohio laws "require generators at nursing homes only for life-support systems...with no mention of air conditioning or heating."

MANY NURSING HOMES ARE UNPREPARED FOR EMERGENCIES, EXPERT SUGGESTS; FHCA DISAGREES. The Huffington Post (9/27, Waldron, 5.74M) reports that "many of America's roughly 15,600 nursing homes are unprepared for disasters like Hurricane Irma" due to understaffing, inadequate emergency plans, and other emergency preparedness issues. The article quotes Lori Smetanka, the executive director of National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care, as saying the recent tragedy that killed 11 seniors at a Florida nursing home "could have happened anywhere."

MANY FOSTER PARENTS OF DISABLED CHILDREN STRUGGLING FINANCIALLY. The AP (9/27, Brown) reports that foster parents of disabled children in many areas of the US are struggling with limited financial support. The article cites examples in Philadelphia, Missouri, and Oklahoma. The AP adds that "federal funding for child welfare agencies" fell by "16 percent from 2004 to 2014, according to a 2017 policy report by the nonprofit research organization Child Trends."

SENATE UNANIMOUSLY PASSES MEDICARE REFORM BILL. The Hill (9/27, Sullivan, 1.68M) reports the Senate unanimously passed a bipartisan Medicare reform bill Tuesday night. The CHRONIC Care Act expands some programs created by the Affordable Care Act and improves how Medicare pays for people with chronic conditions. Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) said, "This legislation will improve disease management, lower Medicare costs and streamline care coordination services – all without adding to the deficit." Hatch observed that this is "one of the few bipartisan healthcare bills to pass the Senate this Congress."

OPINION: EXPERIMENTAL METHODS FOR HOSPICE MODELS COULD BENEFIT UNDERSERVED PATIENTS. Joanne Kenen, Politico Pro's healthcare editor, writes in a more than 3,000-word piece in Politico (9/27, 3.6M) that contemporary hospice models are undergoing stress caused by industry changes, Americans' aging, new illnesses, and family units becoming smaller and more spread out. Nevertheless, Kenen says neither the per diem payment system nor the "basic regulatory framework" for hospice have changed, and many patients "end up getting care they don't want, in a place they don't want to be in – and it costs more." Kenen observes that new ways to finance and deliver care are being researched and could make it "a little less hard to die at home." She also notes that CMS' Innovation Center is conducting a test on palliative care models for diseases such as cancer under the concept that "patients who get the symptom management and emotional supports of hospice and palliative care...make different choices."

EVEN KIDS WITH SEVERE AUTISM CAN LEARN TECHNIQUES TO AVOID DROWNING, SMALL STUDY SUGGESTS. STAT (9/27, Samuel, 43K) reports that children with autism often are attracted to bodies of water and can end up drowning. In fact, "drowning is the most common fatal injury" among youngsters with autism. Now, "a study published in September in the Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders offers preliminary evidence that even children with severe autism can learn techniques to avoid drowning." The study abstract points out that seven kids with "moderate to severe" autism spectrum disorder took part in the study.

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Sent: Thursday, September 07, 2017 7:32 AM
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Subject: HHS News Briefing for Thursday, September 07, 2017
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HHS NEWS BRIEFING

This document and searchable archives are available at hhs.bulletinintelligence.com.

TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2017 7:30 AM EDT

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Leading the News:

SENATE COMMITTEE BEGINS HEARINGS ABOUT HOW TO SHORE UP ACA MARKETPLACES. The Washington Post (9/6, Goldstein, Eilperin, 10.38M) reports that on Wednesday, Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN), chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, said he is attempting "to forge a modest, bipartisan plan by the end of next week to strengthen the Affordable Care Act marketplaces." He described the proposal as a "small, limited bipartisan step on health insurance." Alexander also urged the Trump Administration to guarantee "funding through 2018 for cost-sharing payments to ACA health plans to offset a requirement in the law that insurers give lower-income customers discounts on deductibles and other out-of-pocket expenses."

The New York Times (9/6, Pear, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) adds that the senior Democrat on the panel, Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), said, "Threading this needle won't be easy. But I do believe an agreement that protects patients and families from higher costs and uncertainty, and maintains the guardrails in our current health care system, is possible."

USA Today (9/6, Collins, 8.62M) reports that the HELP committee "decided to hold the hearings on stabilizing the individual market after" Senate Republicans failed to repeal the ACA. The article says if Congress fails to take action, "millions of Americans may find themselves stuck next year with policies they can't afford – if they are able to buy insurance at all." The piece adds that any changes must be completed quickly since insurers must sign agreements to participate in ACA marketplaces by month's end, unless the Trump Administration decides to extend the deadline.

The AP (9/6, Fram) reports that lawmakers from both sides of the aisle "serenely" discussed how to lower premiums for ACA plans during the hearing. Senators and state insurance officials "embraced the idea of continuing billions in federal subsidies to insurers for reducing out-of-pocket expenses for millions of people," and lawmakers from both parties supported "proposals to provide money to states to help insurance companies afford to cover customers with serious, costly medical conditions." Nevertheless, there are still differences between lawmakers, such as Republicans' request to "make it easier for insurers to sell policies that might offer skimpier coverage than Obama's statute allows."

Bloomberg News (9/6, 4.52M) quotes Alexander as saying about the bipartisan effort, "Democrats will have to agree to something – more flexibility for states – that some are reluctant to support. And Republicans will have to agree to something – additional funding through the Affordable Care Act – that some are reluctant to support." The article says this "new, more modest" proposal "is a sharp change of direction after Republicans' efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act failed earlier this summer."

The Wall Street Journal (9/6, Hackman, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that if this effort is successful, it will be the first significant bipartisan bill on healthcare after seven years of fighting over the ACA.

The Connecticut Mirror (9/6, Radelat) reports that Wednesday's hearing is the first of four which the HELP committee has scheduled to hear testimony about how ACA marketplaces can be stabilized. During the hearing, insurance commissioners from several states told committee members that "states need more help from the federal government to stop the spiraling of premiums and the flight of insurers from the ACA's state exchanges."

Politico (9/6, Haberkorn, Cancryn, Bade, 3.6M) reports that there may be opposition to Sen. Alexander's bipartisan effort and quoted Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX), the Senate's No. 2 Republican, as saying that it was a "bailout for insurance companies."

Also covering the story are the AP (9/6, Fram), Modern Healthcare (9/6, Lee, Subscription Publication, 238K), the Huffington Post (9/6, Cohn, 5.74M), the Boston Globe (9/7, Murphy, 969K), the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (9/6, Mauriello, 516K), the Washington Times (9/6, Howell, 541K), Axios (9/6, Owens, 303K), and Healthcare Finance News (9/6, Morse, 93K).

Alexander Says Lawmakers Would Be Responsible If A Bipartisan Effort To Stabilize ACA Marketplaces Fails. The AP (9/6, Fram) reports that Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN), chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, said he wants a bipartisan measure to stabilize ACA marketplaces to be completed by the end of next week. That is because insurers are facing a deadline at the end of September. Alexander warned, "The blame will be

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on every one of us, and deservedly so" if the measure fails.

On its website, CNBC (9/6, Mangan, 3.48M) also reports on Alexander's comments, and further quotes him as saying, "Our goal is a small step, and so many millions of Americans will be hurt if we fail." Alexander urged quick action on the bill, because if there is a delay, lawmakers "won't be able to affect insurance rates and the flexibility of insurers until next year," he said.

The Hill (9/6, Hellmann, Roubein, 1.68M) and the Washington Examiner (9/6, King, 465K) also cover the story.

State Insurance Regulators, Healthcare Industry Groups Urge Lawmakers To Act Swiftly To Stabilize ACA Exchanges. The Los Angeles Times (9/6, Levey, 4.49M) reports that on Wednesday, state insurance regulators urged "Congress to help stabilize health insurance markets around the country" as the Senate HELP committee began holding hearings about how to shore up ACA exchanges. State insurance officials from both parties said they want "lawmakers to maintain the federal funding that subsidizes poor customers' deductibles and co-pays, even as the president continues to threaten to withhold that aid." The officials also asked Congress to act quickly to shore up ACA marketplaces because uncertainty will result in significantly higher premiums for 2018.

On its website, Fox News (9/6, Singman, 12.87M) also reports that insurance regulators and officials from Alaska, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma and Washington state warned about rising premiums for next year. Lori Wing-Heier, Alaska's director of the Division of Insurance, said rates have risen by 203 percent since 2013. Oklahoma Insurance Commissioner John Doak added that "he has been warning about 'spiking rates' for too long and those warnings 'have been ignored at the federal level.'"

The Hill (9/6, Hellmann, 1.68M) reports that state insurance officials "pleaded" with lawmakers "to quickly act to stabilize the ObamaCare markets, calling for a multiyear extension of key payments to help fund premiums for low-income customers." Tennessee's insurance commissioner Julie Mix McPeak said funding for the cost-sharing reductions "is the single most critical issue that you can address to help stabilize insurance markets for 2018 and potentially bring down costs."

Meanwhile, contributor Bruce Japsen writes in a Forbes (9/6, 5.11M) piece that the healthcare industry is seeking "a two-year commitment of funds from the U.S. Senate's health committee as" lawmakers attempt to pass a bipartisan measure to stabilize ACA exchanges. He says insurers, physicians and "big business are asking the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions to provide more stability than the Donald Trump White House, which has paid for cost-sharing reductions (CSRs) on a month-to-month basis."

Fierce Healthcare (9/6, Small, 146K) reports that the groups wrote to the HELP committee and "urged lawmakers to craft legislation that funds the subsidies for at least two years – from 2018 through 2019." They stated, "Without two years of CSR funding, uncertainty will persist and the Congress will need to address these same issues early next year." The American Medical Association and the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association were among the signatories.

Also covering the story are the Tennessean (9/6, Collins, 499K), Vox (9/6, Scott, 1.54M) and the Washington Examiner (9/6, King, 465K).

The Secretary in the News:

PRICE DISCUSSES HHS' HARVEY RELIEF, RECOVERY EFFORTS DURING INTERVIEWS. Dr. Marc Siegel writes in a Fox News (9/6, 12.87M) op-ed that when President Trump said Hurricane Harvey was a natural disaster and HHS Secretary Tom Price subsequently declared a public health emergency, "they initiated a coordinated federal, state and local health care response that has likely saved thousands of lives." Siegel says during an interview last week, Price "emphasized that responders are facing everything from a shortage of potable water to floodwater contamination with chemicals and bacteria, from mosquito-borne illnesses like West Nile virus and Zika to black mold, which can worsen asthma, emphysema and allergies." Price explained that HHS' "operations center is open 24/7, 365 days a year, and it is currently tracking hospital, shelter and dialysis centers to determine which remain open and which are closed." Price added, "The challenge in this storm is, because of the incredible flooding that has occurred, is getting the resources to the individual, so the pharmaceutical supplies are available." Siegel also states that Dr. Robert Kadlec, assistant HHS secretary for preparedness and response, "was confirmed just in time for the storm, and he has played a crucial role in moving the lifesaving chess pieces around."

TIME (9/6, Dias, 5.85M) reports now that the floodwaters are receding "in Houston, the focus has turned from emergency response to cleanup and recovery." Last week, Price visited Texas with President Trump. Price intends "to go again in the coming weeks. He's also looking ahead to the federal response to Hurricane Irma, which is headed toward Puerto Rico

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and Southern Florida." The article also discusses the Secretary's Operations Center or SOC, which "serves as the HHS hurricane nerve center, where Price is briefed twice a day on the emergency and recovery efforts." Price described the work that HHS is doing, saying, "Obviously the first phase is the redeployment to get ready for the storm, and then it's the rescue and life-saving activities, and then it is the recovery activities, and part of the recovery activity, especially with a storm of this degree, is what to do with the standing water that remains, and then what to do with everything that was affected by the flooding which is a massive area."

CDC PROVIDING STATES WITH AN ADDITIONAL $28.6 MILLION TO SUPPORT OPIOID FIGHT. Drug Store News (9/6, Johnsen) reports the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is providing "more than $28.6 million in additional funding to 44 states and the District of Columbia" to bolster efforts to combat the opioid crisis. The award "builds upon" the $12 million in overdose prevention support the CDC announced in July. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Tom Price said, "One piece of HHS's five-point strategy for combating the opioid crisis is improving our understanding of the epidemic through better public health data. The expansion of these CDC programs, made possible by legislation President Trump signed earlier this year, is an important piece of our commitment to helping states combat the scourge of opioid addiction and overdose."

Fierce Healthcare (9/6, Sweeney, 146K) reports the majority of the funding will support "a state-based prevention program to scale up [prescription drug monitoring program] usage by building in clinical feedback." The article adds that PDMPs "are gaining traction" across the country as the opioid epidemic grows.

Health IT Analytics (9/6, Bresnick) reports that "the CDC will use three new programs" to improve the tracking and prevention of substance abuse issues. CDC Director Brenda Fitzgerald said, "Drug overdoses have dramatically increased over the last two decades in America. This additional CDC funding to states, who are on the of the overdose epidemic, is critical to help them scale up prevention efforts to fight this crisis and save lives." The article adds that CMS has "also released a number of resources and guidelines" on opioid hotspots and trends "targeted to the healthcare provider community."

WTOP-FM Washington (9/6, Cloherty, 380K) also covers the story.

CHARGES DISMISSED AGAINST WEST VIRGINIA JOURNALIST WHO REPEATEDLY QUESTIONED HHS SECRETARY. The New York Times (9/6, B2, Stevens, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that Dan Heyman, a West Virginia reporter "who was arrested four months ago after he aggressively questioned Tom Price, the secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, will not be prosecuted, officials announced" on Sept. 6.

The AP (9/6, Raby) reports that Heyman was arrested after repeatedly questioning HHS Secretary Price whether domestic violence is a pre-existing condition under the Republican healthcare proposal. A joint press release from the independent Public News Service and the Kanawha County prosecutor's office said a review cleared Daniel Ralph Heyman, a reporter for Public News Service, of any lawbreaking.

The Hill (9/6, Beavers, 1.68M) reports Heyman faced up to six months in jail after being charged for "willful disruption of government processes," a misdemeanor. Heyman said, "Facing six months of jail time for asking a question as a journalist was pretty troubling." He adds, "I don't want my arrest to have a chilling effect on other reporters because we all need to keep asking the tough questions of elected officials." Also covering the story are Reuters (9/6, Coffman), the Charleston (WV) Gazette-Mail (9/6, Zuckerman, 22K) and the NPR (9/6, Held, 2.4M) "The Two-Way" blog.

Opinion. In an opinion piece in the Washington Post (9/6, 10.38M), Erik Wemple observes, "The dropped charges sprinkle fresh context on a comment made by [Secretary] Price about the work of the police in the aftermath of the controversial arrest. 'They were doing a stellar job,' he said."

WSJOURNAL: US GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT SPEND $200 MILLION ON FAILED TEEN PREGNANCY PROGRAM. The Wall Street Journal (9/6, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) editorialized that the US Health and Human Services Department's decision to wind down the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program saves $200 million on a program that had failed to produce results. The editorial mentions a letter sent by Senate Democrats to HHS Secretary Tom Price objecting to the decision. The Journal also asks for the prompt Senate confirmation of assistant health secretary Brett Giroir.

ANALYSIS: HHS SECRETARY PRICE DIALS BACK OBAMA ERA PHYSICIAN-PAYMENT REFORMS. National Journal (9/6, Subscription Publication, 35K) reports that Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price is "pressing forward" on transforming how Medicare pays providers "with an eye on physician interests and making payment experiments voluntary, rather than mandatory." The piece discusses the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' moves to make more physician practices exempt from the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS), which aims to

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make payments based more on quality than quantity of care, and its decision to make bundled-payment models voluntary rather than mandatory. John O'Shea, a senior fellow at the Heritage Foundation's Center for Health Policy Studies, observed, "[Price is] a physician. He would like to see more physician input to see where these things kind of are headed."

EDITORIAL: REPUBLICANS' PROPOSED LINK BETWEEN ACA, OPIOID CRISIS ILLOGICAL. The Huntington (WV) Herald-Dispatch (9/7, 81K) editorializes that the theory circulating in conservative media that the Affordable Care Act may be "fueling the opioid epidemic" because of expanded Medicaid coverage is "illogical." The editorial references a private analysis produced by HHS that found overdose death rates rose in states that expanded Medicaid – like West Virginia – nearly twice as much as those that did not, but also added that HHS Secretary Tom Price "wasn't immediately buying into that." The piece says research suggests that "the Medicaid expansion is allowing more people to receive treatment, which is what many states hoped would happen."

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY TO HOST SUMMIT ON HEALTHCARE POLICY FOR CHILDREN. The AP (9/7) reports that West Virginia University plans to host a summit on healthcare policy for children on Thursday. Former US Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Mathews Burwell and former US Sen. John D. Rockefeller IV (D-WV) are scheduled to discuss challenges with children's access to quality and affordable healthcare and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

HHS in the News:

PROGRESS IN PREVENTING STROKE DEATHS IN US ADULTS IS SLOWING, DATA INDICATE. On its website, CBS News (9/6, Welch, 4.42M) reports that "after decades of seeing improvements, progress has slowed in preventing stroke deaths in American adults, according to" a report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The report indicated that "in addition to progress slowing among most demographic groups and states, stroke death rates have also increased among certain groups of people." In a statement, CDC Director Brenda Fitzgerald, MD, said, "These findings are a wake-up call. We've made enormous progress in reducing stroke deaths, but that progress has stalled." Dr. Fitzgerald added, "We know the majority of strokes are preventable, and we must improve our efforts to reduce America's stroke burden."

CNBC (9/6, Kramer, 3.48M) reports that the data indicated that "stroke death rates failed to continue to decline in 38 states during the 2013–2015 period, resulting in an estimated 32,593 excess stroke deaths that may not have occurred based on previous rates of decline."

TIME (9/6, Sifferlin, 5.85M) reports that the investigators "do not give a definite reason for the slowed or reversing progress." However, "they point out that high blood pressure, obesity and diabetes rates are high, and all of these factors can increase a person's risk for stroke." Time adds that "currently, more than a third of US adults have obesity, and a third have" hypertension. Fitzgerald said, "This report shows it's time to increase our efforts." She added, "We can not afford to be complacent when so many deaths can be prevented."

Bloomberg News (9/6, Tozzi, 4.52M) reports that Quanhe Yang, senior scientist at the CDC, and lead author of the new report, said, "The risk profile in the US has changed, and changed significantly." Yang added, "This is a wake-up call."

On the Fox News (9/6, 12.87M) website, Fitzgerald writes, "We've made tremendous progress over the past few decades throughout the" US, but "this progress in many areas has stalled, and in some cases, reversed." Fitzgerald adds, "We cannot afford to become complacent about this health threat. It's time to increase our efforts."

CARNEGIE MELLON IS AMERICA'S BEST PREDICTOR OF INFLUENZA ACTIVITY, CDC STUDY SUGGESTS. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (9/6, Templeton, 516K) reports that Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) forecast US influenza activity during the 2016-17 flu season "better than any other forecasting system nationwide," according to a US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study. The article says the two forecasting systems used by CMU placed first and second "among 28 university and government systems evaluated." The article adds that CMU's research group also is developing a prognostication tool for dengue fever and plans to apply existing tools to diseases such as "Human Immunodeficiency Virus, drug resistance and other epidemic viral infections including Ebola, Zika and Chikungunya."

INDIANA ATTORNEY GENERAL ACCUSES CDC OF ATTEMPTING TO ALTER NEEDLE EXCHANGE EVIDENCE. The Indianapolis Star (9/6, Rudavsky, 479K) reports that Indiana Attorney General Curtis Hill in a statement Tuesday "accused federal officials of trying to alter the evidence" regarding the effectiveness of a county needle exchange program. The dispute centers on a state report that indicated drug use increased in Scott County after the implementation of a needle exchange program, which CDC officials claimed was a "mischaracterization."

SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE REJECTS TRUMP'S PROPOSED HHS FUNDING CUTS. Modern Healthcare (9/6,

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Dickson, Subscription Publication, 238K) reports the Senate's Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies denied President Trump's proposal to cut $15 billion "in discretionary funds for HHS for the next fiscal year," according to a summary of an "appropriations bill expected to be released in full Thursday." The article says the decision was made "partially to shield the National Institutes of Health from a budget reduction." The subcommittee recommended "a $2 billion increase" for NIH, whereas Trump proposed a $5.8 billion budget cut. The bill also suggests a $10 million increase for the Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals, but "makes no reference to the budget proposal's series of Medicaid cuts."

SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVES $2 BILLION RAISE FOR NIH IN 2018 FUNDING BILL. Science Magazine (9/6, Kaiser, 399K) reports the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee on Wednesday "approved a $2 billion raise, to $36.1 billion, for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the 2018 fiscal year that begins 1 October." The six percent raise is nearly double what a House panel has approved and "contrasts with a 22% cut that President Donald Trump's administration had proposed for the agency." Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO), chairman of the subcommittee, "noted this is the third year in a row that the committee has voted to boost NIH's budget by $2 billion."

GenomeWeb (9/6) reports the $164.1 billion fiscal 2018 funding bill specifically earmarks $1.8 million for Alzheimer's disease research, a $414 million increase from last year, "and $400 million is set aside for the agency's BRAIN Initiative – a $140 million increase over the previous fiscal year." Additionally, the bill also gives the NIH's All of US precision medicine program an additional $60 million, bringing its fiscal 2018 funding to $290 million, "and includes funding increases to every NIH institute and research center." The Scientist also covers the story.

CANCER PATIENT TACKLES TREATMENT COSTS WITH NONPROFIT. The Atlantic (9/6, Zhang, 1.64M) reports on the case of David Mitchell, a 66-year-old myeloma patient who "takes $440,000 worth of drugs a year" and founded the nonprofit Patients for Affordable Drugs, which is "making noise" with an "extremely polished" campaign that advocates for more affordable treatment options. Mitchell is noted for having met with several Novartis executives to push for affordable prices for its Kymriah cancer therapy, which the FDA approved and Novartis priced lower than expected a day after Mitchell's discussion. A transcript of the interview with Mitchell shows he said NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins "explains the long history of NIH in building the foundational science for CAR-T," an integral part of Novartis' treatment.

SANOFI CEASES ZIKA VACCINE DEVELOPMENT AMID DROP IN INFECTION RATES, FUNDING CUTS. The Wall Street Journal (9/6, Loftus, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports Sanofi SA recently ended the development of two Zika vaccines due to what it said has been a decline in the number of new infections and a limit on federal funding. The US Department of Health and Human Services' Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) informed Sanofi in August that it would limit funding, contributing to Sanofi's discontinuation of developments for a vaccine it has been testing in partnership with the US Army since 2016. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease director Dr. Anthony Fauci said the decline in infection rates could prolong vaccine development timelines due to researchers needing to enroll more participants in trials. The NIAID also is testing its own vaccine in a study that Dr. Fauci said could be impacted by a drop in the number of participants.

CONTINUING COVERAGE: NCI SCIENTISTS WIN 2017 LASKER-DEBAKEY CLINICAL MEDICAL RESEARCH AWARD FOR DEVELOPING HPV VACCINE. The Cancer Letter (9/6, Goldberg) reports in continuing coverage that Douglas Lowy, NCI acting director, and John Schiller, deputy chief of the Laboratory of Cellular Oncology and head of the Neoplastic Disease Section at the NCI Center for Cancer Research, won the 2017 Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award for research that led to the development of the vaccine against HPV infection.

Lowy said in a conversation with The Cancer Letter (9/6) that part of the credit for the award belongs to the NCI intramural research program. Lowy said, "The intramural program [makes it] quite straightforward for people to have long-term collaborations and work together, such as I have had with John Schiller. And, our working together has really made it far easier for us to make progress in this area than might have been the case, certainly, if I had been working alone."

Science Magazine (9/6, Guglielmi, 399K) reports that each Lasker award comes with a $250,000 prize. According to Science, the Laskers are "regarded as the United States' most prestigious biomedical research awards" and they "often precede a Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine: Eighty-seven Lasker laureates have gone on to win a Nobel."

Scientific American (9/6, Maron, 878K) interviews Schiller about the award-winning HPV research in which he discusses the difficulties in getting more coverage with the HPV vaccine and how the scientific community can help overcome HPV vaccine hesitancy.

Healio (9/6, 12K) reports NIH Director Francis S. Collins, MD, PhD, said in a press release: "I'm incredibly proud of this much-deserved honor bestowed upon John and Doug for their foundational discoveries that led to the creation of HPV vaccines. Thanks to their extraordinary efforts, we have the potential to eliminate cervical cancer and greatly reduce other

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HPV-associated cancers."

Also covering the story is The Scientist (9/6, Grens, 154K).

EX-NIH EMPLOYEE SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR STEALING FROM INSTITUTE. The Gaithersburg (MD) Patch (9/6, Luttrell) reports former NIH employee Christopher Dame was sentenced to "six months in federal prison and six months of home confinement after he pleaded guilty to theft of government property, Acting United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Stephen M. Schenning announced Wednesday." Dame admitted to stealing $75,000 worth of NIH property while working as a Visual Information Specialist for the Medical Arts Division in Bethesda. The Department of Justice said Dame also admitted to selling the materials online without authorization.

Bethesda (MD) Magazine (9/6, Zimmermann) reports Dame also will serve "three years of supervised release in addition to paying back $75,613.14."

The WMAL-AM Washington (9/6, Robinson) website also covers this story.

FDA EXPANDING DIGITAL HEALTH PROGRAM TO BRING ABOARD "ENTREPRENEUR-IN-RESIDENCE." CNBC (9/6, Farr, 3.48M) reports the FDA is "looking for its first entrepreneur-in-residence" by launching a fellow recruitment program through its digital health division to assess product quality and develop data collection methods. The expansion comes as the FDA also prepares to launch its "pre-certification" process "for digital health start-ups, which aims to fast-track the approval process for less risky software products," and would involve assistance from the entrepreneur-in-residence. FDA associate center director for digital health Bakul Patel told CNBC that he is on "cloud nine" with the speed of the program's development, adding that Commissioner Scott Gottlieb has made the initiative a priority.

Fierce Healthcare (9/6, Sweeney, 146K) reports that these individuals will help the agency "with a novel approach to digital health innovation that regulates companies rather than products by fast-tracking developers that demonstrate a culture of quality and organizational excellence." FDA spokesperson Stephanie Caccomo said in an email to FierceHealthcare that the agency expects to fill up the six slots.

PHRMA'S STEPHEN UBL PRAISES GOTTLIEB IN INTERVIEW. STAT (9/7, Simon, 43K) interviews Stephen J. Ubl, the president and CEO of the PhRMA trade group. Ubl praised Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb's move to speed up the approval process for generic drugs because bringing down drug prices would be beneficial for everyone in the industry. Ubl graded Gottlieb's performance as "A, so far," adding, "Scott's doing a terrific job."

OPINION: PHYSICIAN RECOMMENDS LESS ADDICTIVE OPIOID AS A FIRST-LINE THERAPY. Dr. Frank E. O'Donnell writes in the Washington Examiner (9/7, 465K) that an "underutilized treatment for chronic pain called buprenorphine" may be a highly-promising solution to avoiding opioid addiction before it starts. Buprenorphine is the only opioid in the CIII schedule of drugs, meaning it is categorized by the DEA and FDA with a "reduced risk of addiction," as compared to other opioids which are all CII. According to Dr. O'Donnell, it is "the least addicting of all the opioids used to treat chronic pain." Dr. O'Donnell recommends pharmacy benefit management (PBM) companies change their formularies so that prescribers use buprenorphine as a "first-line therapy" before resorting to a CII opioid, and further suggests that the FDA mandate "so-called black box warnings" saying that physicians should try CIII opioids before resorting to the highly addictive CII opioids. Dr. O'Donnell also mentions that new FDA Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb has declared the opioid epidemic "his first and highest priority."

OPINION: DRUG COMPANIES DRIVING UP PRICES BY ABUSING REGULATIONS. In an opinion piece for The Hill (9/6, 1.68M), David Balto, former policy director at the FTC and former attorney in the DOJ's antitrust division, writes that pharmaceutical companies "have found at least four successful tactics for abusing regulations to avoid the patent cliff: abuse of FDA's Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS), product hopping, citizen petition abuse and pay-for-delay." According to Balto, "fixing these regulatory problems would have a significant impact on drug prices."

SAREPTA'S EXPERIMENTAL DMD DRUG APPEARS TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE THAN ETEPLIRSEN IN CLINICAL TRIAL. Reuters (9/6, Grover) reports that Sarepta Therapeutics' golodirsen "showed it had the potential to be more effective than the company's approved drug for" Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy in a recent clinical trial. At least two analysts "said the amount of dystrophin produced by the investigational drug, golodirsen, was more than the amount produced by Exondys 51 [eteplirsen], Sarepta's other DMD drug that was controversially approved a year back." One analyst anticipates that the Food and Drug Administration "will be eager to bring golodirsen to the market given the lack of alternative treatment options."

STAT (9/6, Feuerstein, 43K) reports that while "making more dystrophin is clearly a positive," Sarepta "still lacks data to connect that with real clinical outcomes in patients, such as improved walking ability." STAT recounts how some FDA

researchers "questioned the reliability of the Exondys 51 dystrophin data, arguing during the review process that such small increases were incapable of improving muscle function in DMD patients." One senior FDA staffer said Exondys 51 is "essentially a scientifically elegant placebo," while another "complained that Dr. Janet Woodcock, head of the drug review division, had slighted the scientific evidence and been swayed by political pressure." CNBC (9/6, Belvedere, 3.48M) also covers the story.

FDA ISSUES WARNING LETTER TO VERTICAL PHARMACEUTICALS FOR OMITTING RISK INFORMATION IN PROMOTION MATERIALS TO PHYSICIANS. STAT (9/6, Silverman, 43K) reports that the Food and Drug Administration issued a warning letter to Vertical Pharmaceuticals for omitting risk information about ConZip (tramadol hydrochloride) in promotional materials given to physicians. According to the letter, Vertical failed to mention that the drug "should only be prescribed when alternative treatments are ineffective or inadequate" and is not approved to be used as an "as-needed analgesic." Andrew Haffer, who heads the FDA Office of Prescription Drug Promotion, wrote in the letter that "these violations are concerning from a public health perspective, because they create a misleading impression about the safety and approved indication for ConZip."

OPINION: STUDY OFFERS A "MUCH NEEDED" CRITIQUE OF MURTHY'S REPORT ON YOUTH VAPING. In an opinion piece for the Washington Examiner (9/6, 465K), Guy Bentley, a consumer freedom research associate at the Reason Foundation, writes that a recent study published in the journal Harm Reduction "serves as a much needed corrective to the hysteria that has pervaded the public debate on e-cigarettes in the wake" of former Surgeon General Vivek Murthy's 2016 report. The authors find that youth vaping is "either infrequent or experimental," and "the majority of the tiny number of young people who vape regularly use e-cigarettes that don't even contain nicotine." The study also calls into question the theory that e-cigarettes are a "gateway" to tobacco use, as the researchers say these studies "suffer severe limitations and none can show causation of young people starting vaping and going on to smoking."

AOA DISAPPOINTED, CONCERNED ABOUT USPSTF RECOMMENDATIONS ON CHILDREN'S VISION SCREENING FOR AMBLYOPIA. In continuing coverage, Reuters (9/6, Rapaport) reports, "Children should get their vision tested at least once between ages three and five, but there isn't enough evidence to say for sure whether they need evaluations when they're younger," guidelines from the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommend. For preschool children, "vision screening can help identify risk factors or symptoms of what's known as amblyopia," the guidelines emphasized. The USPSTF guidelines were published in the Journal of the American Medical Association. But, "one challenge in testing children under three is that these kids may not be able to reliably articulate what they see during exams, said Dr. William Good, a scientist at the Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute in San Francisco whose editorial on the study was published in JAMA Pediatrics."

Health Reform:

PENNSYLVANIA INSURANCE OFFICIAL INSISTS ACA "IS NOT COLLAPSING." The Hill (9/6, Sullivan, 1.68M) reports that on Wednesday, Teresa Miller, Pennsylvania's acting Human Services secretary and former insurance commissioner, told members of the Senate HELP committee that the ACA "is not collapsing, as some Republicans have argued." She is quoted as saying, "I'm not going to sit here this morning and tell you that the ACA is perfect. ... I think we all know that it's not, but the narrative that the ACA is failing and imploding is just false."

MCCAIN EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR NEW ACA REPEAL PROPOSAL. The Washington Post (9/6, Weigel, Sullivan, 10.38M) reports that on Wednesday, Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) told The Hill that he supports a proposal from Sens. Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy to "end the ACA's Medicaid expansion and insurance subsidies and instead dole out money to states for whatever health insurance programs they favored." The article says McCain's endorsement of "the bill did not queue it up for a vote." The piece adds that although "Graham and Cassidy began discussing the bill in July, there is no text right now – meaning there's nothing for the Congressional Budget Office to score."

The Hill (9/6, Sullivan, 1.68M) reports that McCain's endorsement of this "newer version of an ObamaCare repeal and replacement bill" provides "some support to the last-ditch effort." He explained that the measure "would convert ObamaCare spending into block grants for states."

The Washington Examiner (9/6, King, 465K) also covers the story.

WHITE HOUSE ADVISER SAYS TRUMP WILL SIGN GRAHAM-CASSIDY ACA REPEAL BILL. The Hill (9/6, Roubein, 1.68M) reports that on Wednesday, White House adviser Kellyanne Conway said "President Trump would sign an ObamaCare repeal plan from GOP Sens. Bill Cassidy (La.) and Lindsey Graham (S.C.) if Congress passed it." The article says the President "has continued to press for legislation repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act, but the Senate's Republican leadership has moved away from the effort after the chamber failed to pass a scaled-down version of a repeal bill in late July."

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LATEST GOP EFFORT TO REPEAL ACA WOULD GIVE CONTROL OF INSURANCE MARKETS TO STATES. The Washington Post (9/6, 10.38M) "Post Graphics" blog says after the Senate failed to pass an ACA repeal bill in July, "there's one repeal-and-replace plan for the Affordable Care Act left standing. Trump is pushing for a vote, per Politico, but the bill has yet to gain significant traction." The piece says the plan was put forward by Sens. Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Lindsey O. Graham (R-SC) and Dean Heller (R-NV), and it "essentially turns control of the health-care markets over to the states."

TESTER URGES CONGRESS TO CLOSELY EXAMINE SINGLE-PAYER IDEA. The Hill (9/6, Roubein, 1.68M) reports that on Wednesday, Sen Jon. Tester (D-MT) "said Congress should perhaps take a 'solid look' at a single-payer health care system." He made the comments during the HELP committee's hearing about how to stabilize ACA exchanges. The article says "more Democrats are getting on board with the idea of government-funded health care."

DEMS, ACTIVISTS SEEK TO PROMOTE ACA ENROLLMENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA AFTER ADMINISTRATION CUTS FUNDING. The Wall Street Journal (9/6, Armour, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports after HHS said last week that it is slashing funding for ACA enrollment and outreach efforts, Democrats and activists are taking steps to promote the healthcare law on their own, and raise funds for outreach. The article says some 1,500 volunteers are attempting to promote the ACA open enrollment period on social media. The effort is called the Indivisible ACA Signup Project.

TRUMP, MCCONNELL MEET IN EFFORT TO REPAIR THEIR RELATIONSHIP. Politico (9/6, Bresnahan, Everett, 3.6M) reports that on Tuesday, President Donald Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) "met privately...in a bid to repair their badly frayed relationship," according to unnamed sources. The two "huddled privately for roughly 20 minutes ahead of a larger gathering of Republican leaders and officials working on tax reform." The article says this was apparently an "attempt to clear the air after a contentious August recess between the two, mostly fueled by the Senate's failure to repeal Obamacare."

ACA FAILS TO OFFER PARITY FOR MENTAL HEALTH CARE, STUDY CONCLUDES. The Philadelphia Business Journal (9/6, Subscription Publication, 894K) reports a study conducted by researchers at the University of Pennsylvania "found that health insurance plans available in the marketplaces established by the Affordable Care Act offer fewer choices for mental health care compared with primary care." According to the authors, the ACA "doesn't achieve 'parity' for mental health care – the guarantee that these benefits will be covered as fully as other medical benefits."

ANTHEM TO EXIT ACA MARKETS IN 61 KENTUCKY COUNTIES. Reuters (9/6, Erman) reports that on Wednesday, Anthem said "it will offer Obamacare plans in only about half of the counties in Kentucky next year, after covering the whole state in 2017." The company intends to "offer the healthcare plans in 59 counties in the state in 2018."

The Hill (9/6, Weixel, 1.68M) reports that this will leave Kentuckians in many of the remaining 61 counties with only one option for 2018. The article says Anthem "has already announced plans to scale back participation in or leave the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) public exchanges in Indiana, Wisconsin, Missouri, Nevada and Ohio."

Contributor Bruce Japsen writes in a Forbes (9/6, 5.11M) piece, "The drip, drip, drip of exits by Anthem from providing individual coverage under the Affordable Care Act continued Wednesday when the insurer announced plans to scale back participation on the public exchange in Kentucky." He says the insurance industry has "lobbied for the so-called CSRs to keep their customers from paying 20 to 25% rate increases," however, it seems "Anthem isn't ready to wait to see if Congress funds the CSRs for 2018 and 2019."

The AP (9/6) and the Washington Examiner (9/6, King, 465K) also cover the story.

ACA CO-OP EVERGREEN HEALTH TO BE LIQUIDATED. Modern Healthcare (9/6, Livingston, Subscription Publication, 238K) reports that Evergreen Health, one of the last remaining ACA co-ops, "is being liquidated after a judge ruled the company is insolvent." Per a court order, Evergreen Health's "insurance policies will be canceled at the end of the month." The article says the co-op's "members will be allowed to choose a new plan during a 30-day special enrollment period that began Sept. 1."

OPTIMA HEALTH ANNOUNCES IT WILL EXIT VIRGINIA COUNTIES, LEAVING MANY WITH NO EXCHANGE INSURER. The Wall Street Journal (9/6, Mathews, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that Optima Health announced that it will scale back the areas in which it will offer individual health insurance plans on the Affordable Care Act marketplace. The exit may leave 48 counties and parts of six more, plus 15 cities, without any exchange insurer in 2018.

The Washington Times (9/6, Howell, 541K) reports that the decision will leave 62,000 Virginians in 63 of the state's 95

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counties without an option on the exchange in 2018. Optima said it made its decision because three national insurers – Aetna, Anthem, and UnitedHealthcare – had already withdrawn and because of uncertainty in Washington, D.C. As a result, the article says, Optima chose to remain only in parts of the state with a "specific nonprofit chain of hospitals and doctors, where they feel they can adequately manage consumers' care and resulting costs."

The Hill (9/6, Weixel, 1.68M) quoted Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D) on Wednesday saying, "This and other recent departures by insurers are avoidable if the President and Congress would simply follow the law and implement the Affordable Care Act as it is written."

Optima Health To Continue Offering ACA Plans In Hampton Roads, But Will Raise Premiums. The Hampton Roads (VA) Virginian-Pilot (9/6, Murphy, 256K) reports, "Optima Health will remain in the Affordable Care Act marketplace in Hampton Roads and expand its areas of coverage," however, premiums will increase, company officials said on Wednesday. Some 30 percent of the company's ACA customers do not receive subsidies, and for them, premiums will rise by 81 percent. In contrast, premiums will go up by just 1.5 percent per month for those who are eligible for the subsidies.

TRUMP PROMISES TO TRY AGAIN TO OVERHAUL HEALTHCARE. The Washington Examiner (9/6, Morrongiello, 465K) reports President Trump assured a crowd in North Dakota that Republicans will try again to overhaul the healthcare system, "and may soon try a different approach." White House officials "have continued to weigh various legislative options on healthcare reform that could appeal to both Republicans and Democrats," including an amendment proposed by Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA) that "would redirect federal spending on Obamacare to the states." White House counselor Kellyanne Conway told Fox News on Wednesday that President Trump "is ready with pen-in-hand to sign healthcare reform if, say, Graham-Cassidy moves forward," adding, "People have been working on that very strongly over recess."

ALEXANDER SEES "GENERAL CONSENSUS" FORMING AROUND BIPARTISAN ACA STABILIZATION PACKAGE. The Washington Examiner (9/6, King, 465K) reports on the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee's Wednesday hearing on a potential bipartisan healthcare stabilization package. Several Democrats were heartened that most insurance regulators at the hearing "called for Congress to create a new federal reinsurance program, which would pay Obamacare insurers that enroll sicker, more expensive people." Lawmakers disagree over whether states of the federal government should run such a program, but "insurance regulators said at the hearing that a federal program is needed to help get things started." Democrats and Republicans also dispute how long a stabilization package should last, but Committee Chairman Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) said there is a "general consensus" to provide cost-sharing payments and support additional state flexibility.

COLORADO APPROVES 27 PERCENT INCREASE FOR 2018 INDIVIDUAL HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS. The Denver Post (9/6, Ingold, 817K) reports that the Colorado Division of Insurance announced Wednesday that it approved rates proposed by nine insurers "expecting to offer plans both on and off of the state's [ACA] insurance exchange in 2018," averaging a nearly 27 percent premium increase. Breakdowns of rate increases by county are expected later this month. The article notes that regulators negotiated a reduction to Cigna's original request from 41 percent to 31 percent, and additionally lists Anthem's approved rat hike at 30.2 percent.

The Denver Business Journal (9/6, Sealover, Subscription Publication, 879K) and Durango (CO) Herald (9/6, Shinn, 23K) also report.

COMMENTARY CONSIDERS HEALTH REFORM. Several outlets offer opinions on health reform.

Andy Slavitt, a columnist and former administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, writes for USA Today (9/6, 8.62M) that despite a bipartisan Senate effort to improve the Affordable Care Act, Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Bill Cassidy (R-LA), and Dean Heller (R-NV) are advancing "another partisan effort to repeal the ACA" that is "out of touch with public sentiment." The first draft of Graham-Cassidy-Heller plan features a "cynical redistribution of federal money from mostly urban, blue states that have expanded Medicaid to rural, red states that did not." Slavitt argues that the plan "[divides] the country into winners and losers" to score a Senate win.

Betsy McCaughey, London Center senior fellow and author of "Beating ObamaCare," writes for the New York Post (9/6, 4.31M) that "the middle class is becoming the new uninsured" as the Affordable Care Act added millions of poorer people onto the insurance rolls, "driving premiums so high that middle-class people can no longer afford insurance." McCaughey writes that a bipartisan plan by Sens. Patty Murray (D-WA) and Lamar Alexander (R-TN) to "keep the floundering health law afloat" would benefit insurance companies at the expense of the middle class. "Premiums will never go down until ObamaCare's regulations are repealed," she opines.

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Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R), chairman of the Republican Governors Association, writes for the Washington Examiner (9/6, 465K) that "Obamacare is broken, and the best place to fix it is in the states." Walker highlights how welfare was reformed in 1996 as a case for empowering states and argues that for healthcare, "adequately-funded block grants to the states, along with maximum flexibility and control, is the best option on the table." Walker touts Wisconsin as "the only state in the top 10 for health insurance coverage that did not take [Medicaid] expansion" in a recent ranking.

Lee Webb, chair of the board of directors of the Maine Center for Economic Policy, writes for the Bangor (ME) Daily News (9/6, 162K) that Medicaid "remains in the crosshairs" as Sens. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and Lindsay Graham (R-SC) "are reportedly working with the White House on a new version of a bill that would kill the Affordable Care Act." The bill "would institute a per capita cap on Medicaid funds distributed to states, costing Maine $180 million by 2026," Webb writes, citing the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Webb says the proposal also would eliminate Medicaid expansion, "discontinue the tax credits that help Mainers to buy health insurance on the private market," and "weaken protections for people with pre-existing conditions."

Opioid News:

INSYS IGNORED WARNINGS, MANIPULATED MARKETING OF OPIOID SUBSYS, INVESTIGATION SUGGESTS. The Wall Street Journal (9/6, Walker, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that according to a report released Wednesday by the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Insys Therapeutics Inc. misled a health insurer into approving payment for the prescription fentanyl painkiller Subsys that led to a New Jersey woman's death. The report comes as Insys faces multiple state, federal and civil lawsuits for allegedly defrauding insurers and paying kickbacks to doctors.

Reuters (9/6, Raymond) reports that according to the report by ranking Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill, "Insys lacked measures to prevent employees from manipulating the process insurers and pharmacy benefit managers use to deter over-prescription by requiring pre-approval of medicines." McCaskill's report also "noted that in June, Elizabeth Gurrieri, a former manager of reimbursement services for Insys, pleaded guilty to conspiring to defraud insurers into paying for Subsys."

U.S. News & World Report (9/6, Newman, 1.73M) reports that McCaskill found "extensive evidence that Insys aggressively pressured its employees and the entire medical system to increase the use of a fentanyl product during a national epidemic," and their "attempts to manipulate the prescription approval process...appear to have been systemic." The article adds that Johnson & Johnson is among the opioid manufacturers that have been contacted by McCaskill as part of her investigation.

The Washington Examiner (9/6, Leonard, 465K) reports that McCaskill said "that Congress need[s] to examine different aspects of the fentanyl problem through work with law enforcement and the Department of Health and Human Services" and she is undecided at the moment if the medication should be recalled.

In his STAT (9/6, Silverman, 43K) "Pharmalot" column, Ed Silverman writes that McCaskill's report shows that Insys Therapeutics ignored warnings regarding its lack of oversight in marketing its opioid Subsys and repeatedly engaged in misleading sales activities. McCaskill's evidence, which includes a copy of a consultant's audit and a recording of a phone call with an employee lying to an insurer, are part of the senator's "ongoing investigation into the opioid crisis."

The Hill (9/6, Hellmann, 1.68M) and the website of CNN (9/6, Kessler, 33.59M) also cover McCaskill's report.

OPINION: OPIOID EPIDEMIC WILL CONTINUE TO WORSEN UNTIL IT BURNS ITSELF OUT. Cathy O'Neil writes in a Bloomberg View (9/6, 4.52M) op-ed that "America's opioid epidemic is getting worse" and it seems unlikely "anyone involved...will do anything in time to mitigate it." O'Neil says physicians "have little incentive" to prescribe fewer opioids and, barring the introduction of safe injection sites and suing opioid manufacturers to help pay for addiction treatment, "all that remains is to wait for the epidemic to exhaust itself...after causing untold mayhem and despair."

ANALYSIS: AMID OPIOID CRISIS, SOME SHAREHOLDERS VALUE SOCIETY'S WELFARE AHEAD OF THEIR OWN PROFITS. The Atlantic (9/6, Alexander, 1.64M) reports that in a July meeting, shareholders of McKesson, a large pharmaceutical distributor, "refused to approve the company's generous executive-compensation plan after the International Brotherhood of Teamsters...campaigned against it." The Teamsters cited McKesson's "role in fueling the prescription opioid epidemic" as the basis for its opposition. The article quotes two economists who contend that "benefiting shareholders should not necessarily be just about financial gains," adding that when shareholders are given the power to vote on company proposals, they "may reveal that they're willing to sacrifice a little profit in the name of their own, and society's, greater welfare."

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CATALENT, US WORLDMEDS TO MANUFACTURE OPIOID ADDICTION MEDICATION. NJBIZ (NJ) (9/6, Calio, 22K) reports that Catalent Pharma Solutions has reached "an agreement with US WorldMeds to manufacture Lofexidine, a drug used to help treat opioid withdrawal." The article says the FDA "recently fast tracked" the medication for approval, adding it "already is being used in the U.K. under the brand name Britlofex."

ARIZONA PROPOSES FIVE-DAY LIMITS, OTHER RESTRICTIONS ON OPIOID PRESCRIPTIONS. The Arizona Republic (9/6, Alltucker, 968K) reports that Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey announced Wednesday a plan that "would limit all initial opioid prescriptions to five days for new patients." The new guidelines, intended to reduce opioid abuse, also contain restrictions on the "maximum dosages for pain medication...and require pain prescriptions to be filled electronically."

ARIZONA REPORTS AN INCREASE IN OPIOID OVERDOSE DEATHS THIS SUMMER. The AP (9/6, Silber) reports that the Arizona Department of Health released data Wednesday which show that there were 280 suspected opioid deaths from mid-June through August 24. The state report also said there were 2,361 suspected overdoses over that period, with the most common being for heroin and oxycodone. The numbers come after Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey (R) declared a public health emergency. The department issued a series of recommendations "for law enforcement, correctional facilities, opioid legislation, and medical education curriculums across Arizona" to address the problem.

Healthcare Fraud:

MEDICARE RECIPIENTS TARGETED BY BACK, KNEE BRACE SCAM. Paul Muschick writes in the "Watchdog" column for the Allentown (PA) Morning Call (9/6, 312K) about a back and knee brace scam targeting Medicare recipients. The scheme "isn't new," and involves postcards and phone calls that the Better Business Bureau has issued a warning about. "The scammer will either offer you a back brace through Medicare or claim that a caregiver previously called about receiving a back brace from Medicare," the BBB warned. "If you show interest in the brace, the scammer will start asking for personal information, such as your Social Security number or a Medicare number to access the benefits."

Healthcare News:

CONSERVATIVES OPPOSE BILL THAT PROVIDES $7.85 BILLION FOR HARVEY RELIEF, RAISES DEBT CEILING. The Hill (9/6, Eberhardt, 1.68M) reports that on Wednesday, the House approved "a $7.85 billion bill for Harvey relief...after Democrats vowed to attach language to the relief bill that will increase the debt limit and fund the government." The article says this sets "up an upcoming showdown over whether the Senate would pass a bill to increase the debt limit as part of the Harvey legislation." The piece adds that conservatives quickly "opposed the combined bill, vowing to fight back on the legislation."

FEDERAL TRIAL COULD MAKE KENTUCKY THE FIRST US STATE WITHOUT AN ABORTION CLINIC. Reuters (9/6, Kenning) reports on a three-day trial scheduled to begin Wednesday in a federal district court in Louisville "that could make [Kentucky] the first U.S. state without an abortion provider." The case revolves around Kentucky's attempt to revoke the license of EMW Women's Surgical Center for failing to "have proper state-required agreements with a hospital and an ambulance service in case of medical emergencies." EMW alleges "the regulations...are unnecessary and create an unconstitutional barrier to abortion." Reuters describes Kentucky's governor as "unapologetically pro-life."

The Los Angeles Times (9/6, Zavis, 4.49M) reports Kentucky regulators have tried to close the clinic on grounds that the facility lacks the appropriate licensing requirements, but the clinic "has countered with a federal lawsuit arguing that the requirements lack any medical justification and place an unconstitutional barrier before women seeking abortions." The case went to trial Wednesday with hearings expected to last three days.

NPR (9/6, McCammon, 2.4M) reports that similar challenges are likely to occur elsewhere as "states pass legislation known as TRAP laws, for 'targeted regulation of abortion providers.'"

The Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (9/6, Yetter, 391K) also covers the story.

OPINION: CONGRESS MUST PROTECT CONSUMERS FROM SURPRISE AIR AMBULANCE BILLS. Contributor Betsy Imholz writes for The Hill (9/6, 1.68M) "Congress Blog" that air ambulance services can result in "astronomical" surprise bills "ranging from $15,000 to $100,000 and up." Imholz says Congress must protect patients from such hardships "by adopting the Woodall amendment to the FAA Reauthorization bills, moving on the Isla Rose Life Flight Act, and examining other ways to address consumer concerns in the air ambulance industry."

PHYSICIANS, INSURERS BATTLE OVER COVERAGE FOR PCSK9 INHIBITORS. CNBC (9/6, Mullaney, 3.48M)

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reports that “two years after PCSK9 inhibitors from Amgen and Sanofi-Regeneron hit the market, patients are caught in the middle” of a battle between physicians and insurers. While physicians “largely agree that most people with cholesterol high enough to need treatment should stick with statins,” many physicians believe that PCSK9 inhibitors can be appropriate for high-risk patients. Physicians also say most patients are initially rejected by insurers even when they clearly meet the criteria because of the high cost of the drugs.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE IMPLORES INSURERS TO RELAX RESTRICTIONS ON COVERAGE FOR HARVEY VICTIMS. The Houston Chronicle (9/6, Deam, 1.97M) reports the Texas Department of Insurance is imploring health insurers to relax restrictions on coverage for beneficiaries impacted by Hurricane Harvey who have already sought or may be in need of treatment. The department has recommended insurers “cover out-of-network care...by waiving penalties and restrictions and not denying payments based on whether a doctor or counselor is in network,” and is requesting insurers “access care ‘without jumping through the standard hoops.’” According to department spokesman Ben Gonzalez, “We’re not expecting anyone to do anything wrong. ... We’re expecting them to do the right thing.”

MASSACHUSETTS SENATE PREPARING BILL TO CONTROL THE STATE’S HEALTHCARE COSTS. The Boston Globe (9/6, McCluskey, 969K) reports that Massachusetts Senate leaders expect to present a bill in October designed to curb healthcare costs in the state budget and for consumers. State senators are “targeting a long list of complex issues, including prescription drug costs, unnecessary hospital admissions, support services for the chronically ill, and access to mental health services and dental care” in what could be the state’s largest healthcare legislation in five years. The senators did not say whether the bill will include Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker’s (R) proposals to curb Medicaid costs. Any legislation would need approval by the House and the governor.

Food & Import Safety:

TRIAL BEGINS ON CLAIMS THAT COFFEE REQUIRES CANCER WARNINGS UNDER CALIFORNIA LAW. The New York Post (9/6, Fickenscher, 4.31M) reports that a bench trial began on Tuesday in Los Angeles to decide whether coffee products sold in California must have Surgeon General-like warnings because roasted coffee beans contain low levels of acrylamide, a carcinogen. The suit was brought by a “little-known” public interest group, the Council for Education and Research on Toxics, that claims that the state’s Proposition 65 – which requires labels for any product that has a carcinogen – should apply to coffee. The suit names Starbucks and other coffee sellers, while the coffee industry argues that the trace amounts are “too insignificant to cause a health risk,” pointing out that foods like toast, cereal, roasted asparagus, and baby food contain the same chemical. The American College of Physicians released a study in July saying that coffee drinkers had a lower risk of death from a number of diseases.

DAIRY LOBBYING AGAINST “SOYMILK” RESULTS IN PROPOSED FEDERAL LEGISLATION. Bloomberg BNA (9/7, Finn, 2K) reports that lawmakers from two dairy states, Rep. Peter Welch (D-VT) and Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), introduced the DAIRY PRIDE Act in January in an effort to prohibit the use of the terms “milk” or “ice cream” to describe any product that does not come from a “hooved animal,” such as soymilk. The legislation comes after the Food and Drug Administration has not definitely ruled on the question for 20 years. Both supporters and opponents have spent thousands of dollars lobbying the agency, with 11 entities lobbying the FDA on the measure this year. According to a Bloomberg Government analysis, dairy interests have “significantly” outspent “the plant-food side.” The bills are in committee in both houses of Congress.

Nutrition & Obesity:

PHILADELPHIA CONTROLLER, BEVERAGE INDUSTRY STUDY IMPACT OF SODA TAX. The Philadelphia Inquirer (9/6, McCrystal, 1.71M) reports Philadelphia’s City Controller announced Wednesday that he will begin surveying 1,000 businesses in the city to examine the effects of the city’s 1.5 cents-per-ounce soda tax after hearing reports of layoffs and reduced hours from employees in the beverage industry. The announcement comes as a St. Joseph University professor released a study funded by the American Beverage Association which found that grocery stores in the city were losing an average of $304,322 a month because of the tax. Critics questioned the partiality of the research because it was funded by the industry. Revenues from the tax, reaching $6.5 million in July, are being used to fund a pre-K program in the city.

Medicaid & CHIP:

OPINION: CONGRESS MUST ACT QUICKLY TO RE-AUTHORIZE CHIP. Gerard A. Vitti writes for The Hill (9/6, 1.68M) “Pundits Blog” that “millions of children” will be left “without health coverage” if Congress fails to renew the Children’s Health Insurance Program by Sept. 30. Vitti says that CHIP “as of last year...covered 8.4 million children nationwide” and is just as important as Medicare and Medicaid “in forming a safety net that protects people and families.”

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GROUP LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT MAINE MEDICAID EXPANSION BALLOT MEASURE. The Portland (ME) Press Herald (9/6, Thistle, 191K) reports Mainers for Health Care launched its campaign to win passage of a Nov. 7 ballot measure to expand Medicaid, "setting the stage for what is likely to be a costly and fiercely fought political battle." Robyn Merrill, the executive director of Maine Equal Justice Partners and co-chair of the Mainers for Health Care steering committee, said, "The benefit and the impact goes beyond the 70,000 people who would directly benefit." Merrill added, "We know from research that states that have expanded their Medicaid programs have seen their private insurance markets stabilize or bring down prices."

Health & Medical News:

PEN-LIKE DEVICE MAY HELP SURGEONS DETECT CANCEROUS TISSUE, RESEARCH SUGGESTS. The AP (9/6, Neergaard) reports that researchers "are developing a pen-like probe to help surgeons better tell when it's safe to stop cutting or if stray tumor cells still lurk." While this "device is highly experimental...laboratory tests show it uses molecular fingerprints to distinguish between cancerous cells and healthy ones far faster than today's technology." The findings were published in Science Translational Medicine.

TIME (9/6, Sifferlin, 5.85M) reports that investigators "tested 253 human tissue samples from lung, ovary, thyroid and breast cancer tumors and compared them to samples of healthy tissues." The study indicated that "the device was 96% accurate at identifying cancerous tissues." The investigators also tested the device, called the "MasSpec Pen, in live mice with tumors and found that the device was able to identify the presence of cancer without harming healthy surrounding tissues."

On its website, NBC News (9/6, Fox, 3.46M) reports that the researchers, "working with funding from the National Cancer Institute and the Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas, have filed patents for the technology." Also covering the story are STAT (9/6, Sheridan, 43K) and the Daily Mail (9/6, O'Neill, 5.15M).

STUDY: 94% OF US TAP WATER CONTAINS MICROSCOPIC PLASTIC FIBERS. USA Today (9/6, Diebel, 8.62M) reports researchers who tested tap water from around the world found that over 80 percent of the samples contained microplastics. The contamination is "particularly high" in the US, where 94 percent of faucet water is affected. Samples taken from the US Capitol, EPA headquarters, and Trump Tower all contained the microscopic-sized plastic fibers. The study, commissioned by the data journalism website Orb and conducted by researchers at the University of Minnesota, revealed that "the highest rates of contamination was found in Lebanon and India, while the lowest occurred in Europe, where 72% of samples contained fibers." According to Orb, scientists said most of the fibers come from clothes, upholstery, and carpets, "including particles released by the actions of washing machines and dryers."

OKLAHOMA HEALTH OFFICIALS REPORT FIRST WEST NILE VIRUS DEATH OF 2017. The AP (9/6) reports the Oklahoma State Department of Health said it has recorded its first death from West Nile virus this year. Instances of the illness this year have been reported in Bryan, Cleveland, Muskogee, Oklahoma, Pottawatomie and Tulsa counties, but the first death occurred in Pottawatomie County.

MAJORITY OF FOOTBALL FANS RECOGNIZE DANGER OF BRAIN INJURIES, BUT STILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW SPORT. The Washington Post (9/6, Kilgore, Clement, 10.38M) reports a nationwide poll conducted last month by the Washington Post and the University of Massachusetts at Lowell found professional football remains the most followed sport in the US "by a wide margin, and its massive popularity has not waned in recent years." Approximately 60 percent of Americans say they are fans of pro football, outpacing pro baseball at 45 percent and pro basketball at 49 percent. Poll results reveal more football fans "recognize the danger the sport poses to its players but have chosen to watch, anyway." According to the poll, 83 percent of respondents believe science indicating the sport causes brain injuries is "either certainly true (45 percent) or probably true." However, among those who said head injuries are a major problem, "74 percent identify themselves as football fans," and "40 percent called themselves 'big football fans.'"

ANALYSIS: RESEARCHERS EXAMINE FRESH QUESTIONS ABOUT CTE. The AP (9/7, Tanner) reports on the latest research concerning the degenerative brain disease known as chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE). The article discusses the findings from a report on 202 brains studied by researchers at Boston University and VA Boston Healthcare System which found CTE in all but one of the 111 NFL players studied and in 90 percent of college football players, as well as 20 percent of high school players. Scientists believe that CTE is caused by repeated blows to the head, but some also think genes and lifestyle habits such as diet, alcohol, and drugs may contribute, as well. The article adds that CTE has been found in boxers and players of other sports, including soccer, ice hockey, and baseball, and in soldiers, domestic violence victims, and others. Researchers are currently trying to refine brain scanning to identify CTE in living brains and looking for clues in blood or cerbrospinal fluid to allow diagnosis before death.

RESCINDING DACA MAY EXACERBATE IMMIGRANTS' HEALTHCARE PROBLEMS. In "The Health 202," the

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Washington Post (9/6, Cunningham, 10.38M) reports Dreamers may face deportation under proposed legislation by the Trump Administration, but the Obama Administration had already blocked them "from participating in the health-care marketplaces under the Affordable Care Act, to the dismay of immigration rights advocates." A July Kaiser Family Foundation report found legal immigrants in the US are twice as likely to be uninsured than US citizens, while undocumented immigrants are four times as likely to be uninsured than US citizens. Considering this, immigrants "play a big role in driving up the nation's uninsured rate," and immigration advocates fear the Administration's decision "to limit Dreamers' rights by ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program is only going to exacerbate immigrants' insurance problem."

ENDING DACA EXPECTED TO INCREASE SHORTAGE OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS. The New York Times (9/6, Scheiber, Abrams, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports the economic impact of ending DACA "could be significant" in healthcare, "depriving patients of help they depend on and driving up costs for families and taxpayers." In particular, the home care industry "relies heavily on authorized immigrant labor," and ending DACA would worsen an already "disastrous situation in terms of shortages of supply," according to Sherwin Sheik, CEO and founder of CareLinx, a company that matches home care workers with patients and their families. Surveys of DACA beneficiaries show that nearly 20 percent work in the healthcare and educational sector, suggesting a "potential loss of tens of thousands of workers from in-demand job categories like home health aide and nursing assistant." Simultaneously, projections indicate "that the economy will need to add hundreds of thousands of workers in these fields over the next five to 10 years simply to keep up with escalating demand, caused primarily by a rapidly aging population."

MEDICAL COMMUNITY SAYS ENDING DACA DISRUPTS DREAMER STUDENT DOCTORS. Fierce Healthcare (9/6, MacDonald, 146K) reports President Trump's decision to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) program "drew harsh reaction from the medical community." The Association of American Medical Colleges said they were "extremely dismayed" by the decision. Fourth-year medical students with DACA status "may not have a work permit a year from now and won't be able to go on to a residency or work with underserved populations," according to Mark G. Kuczewski, PhD, chair, department of medical education and director, Neiswanger Institute for Bioethics at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine. Kuczewski said Loyola's medical school currently has 32 students with DACA status.

Healthcare IT News (9/6, Sullivan, 5K) reports the American Medical Association has also called on Congress to consider legislation allowing dreamer doctors to remain in the country. AMA CEO and Executive Vice President James L. Madara, MD, said the decision to reverse DACA "fails to recognize the enormous contributions of hundreds of thousands of individuals who are living, working, and providing vital services in the United States, including healthcare services." He added, "We particularly are concerned that this reversal in policy could have severe consequences for many in the healthcare workforce, impacting patients and our nation's healthcare system." Madara argued that eliminating DACA protection will make the ongoing primary care physician shortage worse, and it will "also hit rural and underserved areas hard and those are places that DACA physicians are likely to work." Madara wrote, "The AMA is concerned that the quality of care provided in these communities will be negatively impacted and that patient access to care will suffer."

OPINION: PEDIATRICIANS ARE UPSET WITH TRUMP'S DECISION TO RESCIND DACA. In an opinion piece in the Huffington Post (9/6, 5.74M), contributor Claire McCarthy, MD, a pediatrician at Boston Children's Hospital and assistant professor of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School, writes that the 66,000 pediatricians that make up the American Academy of Pediatrics are a "diverse group of people," but something they all have in common is that "we care about the health and well being of children and young adults." Just hours after the Trump Administration decided to end DACA, the AAP released a statement opposing the action. McCarthy says ending DACA "is really bad for the health and well being of 800,000 children and young adults," and, "as pediatricians, this makes no sense to us." Furthermore, McCarthy says the move "calls into question our values and priorities as a country." She calls on Congress to determine a "path to safety and citizenship for these youth."

PATIENTS OFTEN FEEL INTIMIDATED BY PHYSICIANS, MAY BEHAVE LIKE HOSTAGES, STUDY SUGGESTS. Reuters (9/6, Crist) reports that medical patients frequently are reluctant "to express concerns" to their physicians and "worry about being 'difficult'" in a manner similar to hostages, according to a new study. The study's lead author, Dr. Leonard Berry, said, "Hostage bargaining syndrome is a very real phenomenon that many patients experience" as a result of intimidation, "particularly those with a serious disease or in a state of great vulnerability."

POLL: MAJORITY BELIEVE PHYSICIANS AND NURSES HAVE DUTY TO PROTECT PATIENTS IN ACTIVE SHOOTER SITUATIONS. Reuters (9/6, Rapaport) reports "18 percent of the public and 33 percent of health professionals thought the odds of a shooter in a hospital were high or very high," according to a recent survey of "1,017 members of the public and 684 health professionals." Additionally, "slightly more than 60 percent" of both groups "thought doctors and nurses had a special duty to protect patients," and "thirty-nine percent of the public and 27 percent of health professionals thought doctors and nurses should" assume "a high degree of personal risk to help patients" in the event of an active

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shooter. Both groups rated “hospitals as lower-risk” locations than places such as “shopping centers, airports or schools.”

HOSPITAL EVACUATION DURING HARVEY REQUIRED EXTENSIVE COORDINATION. The New York Times (9/6, Fink, Burton, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that 243 patients were evacuated from Baptist Beaumont hospital last Thursday and Friday as a result of Hurricane Harvey. The article details the “vast logistical effort” of conducting the evacuation, which involved matching patients to available hospitals and coordinating transportation via “ambulances and emergency service crews contributed by fire departments around the state.”

KAISER PERMANENTE, OHIOHEALTH CONTRIBUTE TO HARVEY RELIEF EFFORTS. Fierce Healthcare (9/6, Minemyer, 146K) reports on contributions made by organizations around the US to help Houston’s storm recovery process. The article says Kaiser Permanente announced a donation of $1 million for Hurricane Harvey relief efforts, split evenly between the American Red Cross and Mental Health America of Houston. Additionally, “nine laboratory technicians from OhioHealth...flew to Houston to aid” recovery efforts. OhioHealth “is a member of the MD Anderson Cancer Network, and its lab techs were able to provide the specialized expertise needed to support MD Anderson.” The article adds that area hospitals continue to face the strains of an influx of patients and overworked staff.

FDA APPROVES DRUG TO TREAT KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS PAIN. The Triangle (NC) Business Journal (9/6, Henderson, Subscription Publication, 865K) reports that the Food and Drug Administration approved Bioventus’ treatment for knee osteoarthritis pain, Durolane (hyaluronic acid). The company intends to launch Durolane in the US in early 2018.

CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN ONCOLOGISTS AND PATIENTS REGARDING CANCER COSTS MAY HELP REDUCE TREATMENT EXPENSES, STUDY SUGGESTS. Reuters (9/6, Weinstock) reports that research suggests “even brief conversations between oncologists and patients about cancer costs” may “help reduce treatment expenses.” The findings were published in the Journal of Oncology Practice. Reuters adds, “In 2009, ASCO recommended that physicians discuss the costs of cancer treatment with patients, because they can become a tremendous financial burden.” Dr. Richard Schilsky, chief medical officer of ASCO, said, “I am hopeful that as doctors read about studies like this they realize that it’s feasible to discuss cost in patient encounters.” In a telephone interview, Dr. Schilsky added, “This study is encouraging because it documents real doctor-patient encounters that were meaningful and demonstrated that doctors are knowledgeable about how to identify alternatives for patients that are less costly.” Dr. Schilsky was not involved in the study.

TIOTROPIUM MAY HELP DETERIORATION IN PATIENTS WITH EARLY COPD IF USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH STANDARD INHALER THERAPY, STUDY SUGGESTS. Reuters (9/6, Emery) reports that if chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) “can be detected early, the drug tiotropium might be able to slow that deterioration if used in conjunction with standard inhaler therapy,” researchers concluded. In 388 patients with mild COPD “who were treated with tiotropium, lung capacity declined by an average of 38 mL per year, compared with a 53-mL decline among 383 placebo recipients,” the study found. The findings were published online in the New England Journal of Medicine.

According to MedPage Today (9/6, Boyles, 60K), the authors of an accompanying editorial “questioned whether other LAMAs or long-acting beta-agonists (LABAs), or a combination of the two, may also slow lung function declines and improve QoL in patients with early-stage COPD.” The editorialists then “called for studies of newer drugs and different combinations to answer the question.”

COGNITIVE THERAPY REDUCES CYBERCHONDRIA HEALTH ANXIETY, STUDY SUGGESTS. Reuters (9/6, Kelland) reports British health experts found that as much as 20 percent of “UK hospital appointments for heart or brain scans and other exploratory tests are taken up by patients suffering from excessive health anxiety or hypochondria,” which could be worsening “due in part to people with disproportionate health worries researching symptoms online in a phenomenon known as ‘cyberchondria.’” In a presentation of a study examining the condition, “researchers said hypochondriacs given an average of six sessions of cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) over several months saw significant and sustained reductions in their anxiety levels.” The results also showed that five years after therapy ended, those who had CBT “were less over-anxious about their health than a control group who did not get the CBT.” The findings were published in the British National Institute for Health Research Journals Library.

HEALTH OFFICIALS INVESTIGATING APPEARANCE OF MERCURY ON TEXAS COAST IN HARVEY AFTERMATH. The New York Times (9/6, Healy, Kaplan, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that east of Houston, Texas, public health officials are investigating the source of liquid mercury found washed or blown ashore in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. Officials are concerned especially by “flooding at highly contaminated Superfund sites, designated by the federal government for clean up.” Some health experts speculate the poison could have emanated from the San Jacinto Waste Pits, one such “Superfund site that was inundated during last week’s storm.” According to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the neurotoxin is highly dangerous, “with a few drops generating enough fumes to contaminate the air in a room.”

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MANY MIDDLE-AGED WOMEN DO NOT SLEEP ENOUGH, STUDY FINDS. CNN (9/7, Strickland, 33.59M) reports a study from the National Center for Health Statistics found that more than one-fourth of middle-aged women said they experience difficulty falling and staying asleep four or more times each week, while more than one in three women said they sleep fewer than seven hours per night. Of those, perimenopausal women "were the least likely to sleep seven or more hours a night." Sleep experts recommend women in this age bracket sleep seven to nine hours per night.

EXCISION BIOTHERAPEUTICS DEDICATES $10 MILLION SEED FUNDING TO HIV CURE INITIATIVE. The Wall Street Journal (9/6, Gormley, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports Excision BioTherapeutics received $10 million in seed funding to develop a cure for HIV. The company will work on developing a treatment through employing gene editing to remove HIV-1 from human cells based on the results of animal studies showing Excision's Crispr-based approach can remove the virus from animals. Artis Ventures led the financing, which will allow the company to begin human trials in 2018.

LOBBYING FOR CALIFORNIA BILL TACKLING PRESCRIPTION PRICES ESCALATES. The Los Angeles Times (9/6, Mason, 4.49M) reports lobbying efforts in support of a California bill to require pharmaceutical companies to disclose prescription price information has increased during the final days of the legislative session. SB 17 has attracted the backing of advocacy groups, health plans, and "high-profile" organizations such as the AARP and NextGen. Where other similar initiatives "have faltered in the past," supporters believe that this bill, which has more bipartisan support, could fare well amid "dramatically" changed political dynamics, according to author state Sen. Ed Hernandez (D-West Covina). Nevertheless, the bill faces "vigorous opposition" from pharmaceutical manufacturers.

OPINION: RELAXING COMPOUNDED STERILE PREPARATIONS REGULATIONS JEOPARDIZES QUALITY, PATIENT HEALTH. Greg Rockers, RPh, and Brian Williamson, PharmD, managing directors of the Williamson Rockers Group in Kansas, write in an op-ed in The Hill's (9/6, 1.68M) "Pundits Blog" to advocate for the continuation of "one of the most important safeguards for patients who receive" compounded sterile preparations, a Drug Quality and Safety Act (DQSA) provision requiring facilities that produce large amounts of sterile compounds to "meet the same quality standards as conventional drug manufacturers." The authors argue that if Congress scales back on the policy and relaxes quality standards, the "clear line between traditional compounders," such as physicians and pharmacists, and "'outsourcing facilities,'" which register with the FDA and can produce large quantities for distribution without prescriptions, will become blurred, and could jeopardize patient health.

WPOST ANALYSIS: VENEZUELA'S HIV PATIENTS STRUGGLE FOR ACCESS TO MEDICATION. In an analysis, the Washington Post (9/6, Faiola, Krygier, 10.38M) reports on Venezuela's "imploding health system" plagued by "cascading medical crises" amid the economy's deterioration in recent years – one of which is the spike in complications from HIV/AIDS as the country's prevention programs have ceased. The Post highlights the story of Carmen Hernandez, a Venezuelan woman who regularly struggles to acquire her HIV medication as the nation's supply steadily dwindles.

FDA ISSUES PARTIAL HOLD FOR BRISTOL-MYERS' OPDIVO MYELOMA TRIALS. Reuters (9/6, Berkrot) reports the FDA "placed a partial hold on three clinical trials testing Bristol-Myers Squibb's immunotherapy Opdivo in combination with other medicines for multiple myeloma due to risks seen in similar studies involving a rival drug." Bristol Myers said patients involved in the trials who experienced clinical benefits will be permitted to continue treatment, but no new participants will be enrolled for the time being. The company said, "The FDA determined data currently available from non-Opdivo studies indicate the risks of PD-1/PD-L1 treatment plus pomalidomide or lenalidomide and possibly PD-1/PD-L1 treatments alone or with other combinations outweigh potential benefit for patients with multiple myeloma." Opdivo is part of a "high-profile new class of drugs called PD-1 inhibitors" that block tumors from hiding in the immune system.

FDA GRANTS APPROVAL TO NUVASIVE'S REDESIGNED MAGEC SYSTEM. The San Diego Business Journal (9/6, Whitlock, 43K) reports NuVasive announced it received FDA 510(k) approval for its "redesigned MAGEC system with its RELINE Small Stature system," a spinal implant treatment for early onset scoliosis. NuVasive EVP of strategy, technology and corporate development Matt Link said the clearance "highlights our speed to market and our further commitment to bringing procedural solutions that transform care to the pediatric deformity market."

NIH FUNDS RESEARCH ON HEALTH COMMUNICATIONS IN VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENTS. The Guardian (UK) (9/7, Ponti, 3.39M) reports on a self-funded pilot study "in which DUI posters from Mothers Against Drunk Driving were inserted into a first-person shooting game." Researchers have observed "a reduced willingness among participants to engage in these behaviors in the future." The National Institutes of Health, with support from the National Cancer Institute, last month awarded $387,354 in research funding to the study.

THREE PEOPLE TEST POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS IN JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA. The Birmingham (AL) News (9/6, Edgemon, 729K) reports that three Jefferson County, Alabama, residents have tested positive for the

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West Nile virus, according to the county health department. Two of the patients remain in the hospital. Edward Khan, medical director for the Jefferson County Health Department, said that there have been 14 people infected and one death in the state this year, but added, "There is no need for widespread panic." The article mentions the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendations for avoiding mosquito-borne diseases, including using EPA-registered insect repellents, wearing long sleeves and pants, and installing screens on all windows and doors.

MAN DIES OF WEST NILE VIRUS IN OHIO. The AP (9/7) reports that a 74-year old man in Defiance County, Ohio, became the first recorded fatality from West Nile virus in Ohio this year. Ohio officials have reported ten human cases of West Nile virus so far this year.

The Toledo (OH) Blade (9/6, Lindstrom, 187K) adds that Sietske de Fijter, state health department epidemiologist, cautioned, "Mosquito season in Ohio lasts until the first freeze, which is not usually until mid-October." Ohio recorded 17 cases and four deaths in 2016.

PARENTAL ANGST LEADS TO FEWER MINNESOTANS GETTING HPV VACCINE, OFFICIALS SAY. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (9/6, Shah, 1.27M) reports that the latest figures from the National Immunization Survey show a slight decrease in the number of Minnesota girls getting the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. The numbers prompted state health officials to "step up efforts to reach out to both parents and doctors" about the importance of the vaccine, as research has shown that the vaccine is "incredibly effective at preventing cancer." The piece discusses that some parents fear that giving their children the HPV vaccine "could be interpreted by the youngster as tacit approval of sex." The article adds that the CDC found many young people are not getting the "full dosage of the vaccine, which is administered in a series of shots," and noted that stopping partway will "not adequately protect them from the virus."

THIRD DOSE OF MUMPS VACCINE COULD HELP STOP AN OUTBREAK, RESEARCHERS SAY. STAT (9/6, Branswell, 43K) reports that a study in the New England Journal of Medicine suggests that an extra, third dose of the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine can help stop mumps outbreaks. Researchers analyzed data from a mumps outbreak at the University of Iowa in 2015 to 2016, during which 259 students contracted the virus, despite 98 percent of the student body having received two doses of the vaccine. The study found that a third dose reduced the risk of contracting the mumps by 78 percent. The article discusses that recent mumps outbreaks prompted the CDC to set up a working group to investigate the issue and to recommend changes to mumps vaccination policy. Such recommendations may come as soon as next month.

MedPage Today (9/6, Walker, 60K) adds that the authors of the study found "waning vaccine effectiveness" since students who had their second dose of MMR more than 13 years before the outbreak had a higher risk than those who had gotten it within two years of the outbreak. The authors pushed for additional research on the effectiveness of a third dose, as their study found only that "a third dose of MMR vaccine has 'suggested benefit' on outbreak control."

RABIES VACCINE FOR RACCOONS TO BE AIRDROPPED IN NEW YORK. Newsday (NY) (9/6, Ricks, 1.64M) reports that a program to airdrop small packets of fishmeal bait containing a rabies vaccine will begin Thursday over parts of Nassau County, Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island. The aerial program aims to inoculate the area's raccoon population from rabies. The program is coordinated by Cornell University, local health agencies, and the US Department of Agriculture.

AAP ISSUES NEW STANDARDS FOR IDENTIFYING, TREATING HYPERTENSION IN KIDS AND TEENS. The Philadelphia Inquirer (9/6, Giordano, 1.71M) reports that in the journal Pediatrics, a panel from the American Academy of Pediatrics issued "new standards for identifying and treating high blood pressure in children and adolescents." Under the new standards, teens "13 or older have the same definitions of abnormal blood pressures as adults," and "young people will be identified as having elevated or high blood pressure at a lower threshold than previously recommended."

TEZEPELUMAB APPEARS TO REDUCE RATE OF SERIOUS ASTHMA ATTACKS, RESEARCH INDICATES. Reuters (9/6, Hirschler) reports, "Findings from a mid-stage clinical trial involving 584 patients" indicated that "the experimental drug tezepelumab reduced the annual rate of serious asthma attacks, known as exacerbations, by between 61 and 71 percent, depending on dose." The findings were published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

According to HealthDay (9/6, Dotinga, 11K), the author of an accompanying commentary wrote that "tezepelumab appears to be the broadest and most promising biologic for the treatment of persistent uncontrolled asthma to date."

NEW TRIAL OPENS PATH TO US MARKET FOR COPD DRUG DUAKLIR. Reuters (9/7, Sandle) reports that AstraZeneca's drug Duaklir improved lung function in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) patients, according to a new study. The results pave the way for submission of the drug to US regulators in the first half of 2018 based on the data from the new trial. Britain's Circassia holds the rights to the drug in the US.

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Global Health:

THOUSANDS IN BANGLADESH, NEPAL SICK WITH DIARRHEA, MALARIA, DENGUE AS WORST FLOODS IN A DECADE RECEDE. Reuters (9/6, Diebel) reports thousands of people in Bangladesh and Nepal are suffering from an outbreak of diarrhea, malaria and dengue "as the waters from the worst floods in a decade recede, officials and aid agencies said on Wednesday." Over 1,400 people have died in the South Asian floods over the past two months. Approximately 13,000 people in "densely populated Bangladesh" are sick with diarrhea and respiratory infections due to flooding of the Brahmaputra and Jamuna rivers. In Nepal, "26,944 cases of illness have been reported by district health facilities, while 39,712 people had been treated in health camps by Aug. 30, the health ministry said."

UN REPORT: CHOLERA SPREADING THROUGH NIGERIA'S REFUGEE CAMPS. Reuters (9/6, Miles) reports a UN report said that over 530 suspected cases of cholera had been registered in camps housing people displaced by Boko Haram militants in northeast Nigeria's Borno state. Reuters adds that 23 people have died, up from 11 reported on Aug. 31. The figure suggested a 4.3 percent fatality rate, "well above the one percent rate that the World Health Organization rates as an emergency."

National News:

TRUMP, HILL LEADERS STRIKE DEAL ON DEBT CEILING, HURRICANE AID. Media reports, including those on all three major network newscasts, indicate the President overrode Republican concerns – and essentially cut a deal with Democratic leaders – to avert a government shutdown while raising the debt ceiling and providing aid for hurricane recovery. Media coverage of the agreement is starkly unfavorable toward Trump, particularly in conservative outlets. The Daily Caller (9/6, 521K), for example, said Trump "unexpectedly caved to Democrats," and Breitbart (9/6, Spiering, 2.42M) headlined its report "Meet the Swamp," and said he "appeared willing to punt his big agenda items." The President did not fare much better across the broader media landscape: Despite what Reuters (9/6, Cowan, Cornwell) calls "a rare instance of bipartisan compromise," most reports and analyses cast the deal as evidence of Trump's erratic style, and lament the fact that he appeared to undercut the leaders of his own party.

Though more flippant than much of the news analysis, Dana Milbank would appear to encapsulate the overall media take when he writes in his Washington Post (9/6, 10.38M) column, "Such chaos and confusion at the highest level of American government hadn't been seen since, well, the day before." Last night, ABC World News Tonight (9/6, story 6, 1:50, Bruce, 14.63M) referred to the "stunning image" of Trump "cutting a deal with Democrats and blindsiding his own party" in "a surprise snap decision." The CBS Evening News (9/6, story 7, 0:45, Mason, 11.17M) asked, "Why did he do it?" and concluded Trump agreed with Democratic leaders because "he's lost confidence in Republicans' ability to govern." To NBC Nightly News (9/6, story 6, 1:30, Welker, 16.61M), meanwhile, "political drama erupted within his own party" just as Trump readies a push for his agenda.

Gloria Borger said on CNN's Situation Room (9/6, 1.32M), "This is not about what the Republican Party wants or what the Republican leaders want. ... This is about what...Trump wanted, and what...Trump wanted was to show the American public that, 'Okay, I can get my hurricane funding through, I'm not going to let it get tied up.'" The deal "means...the Republicans understand now that the President doesn't care about them. So it will affect, I think...what they do on tax reform and on everything else, because they have clearly parted ways."

After the White House meeting, Politico (9/6, Bade, Everett, Dawsey, 3.6M) reports, "Democrats were gleeful." The Washington Post (9/6, Kane, 10.38M) similarly indicates Senate Minority Leader Schumer "could not hide his glee as he approached the microphones Wednesday afternoon," telling the Post reporter, "Ye of little faith." After that, in "one of the strangest news briefings of the year," Schumer "praised...Trump." Now, adds the Post, "for the first time...Democrats can envision playing offense, possibly securing victories on immigration and health issues." USA Today (9/6, Singer, Collins, 8.62M) quotes Schumer as saying, "The nation can breathe a sigh of relief, we've avoided default, avoided government shutdown. ... It was a good moment of bipartisanship."

The Los Angeles Times (9/6, Bierman, Bennett, 4.49M) reports that en route to North Dakota yesterday, the President touted the agreement, "We had a very good meeting, we essentially came to a deal. I think the deal will be very good." USA Today (9/6, Singer, Collins, 8.62M) quotes Trump as saying, "We agreed to a three-month extension on debt ceiling, which they consider to be sacred – very important – always we'll agree on debt ceiling automatically because of the importance of it. ... Also on the CRs and also on Harvey, which now we're going to be adding something because of what's going on in Florida – but we had a very good meeting."

Wolf Blitzer reported on CNN's Situation Room (9/6, 1.32M) "a source says...Trump left Republican leaders, quote, shell-

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shocked," and the Washington Post (9/6, Debonis, Snell, Viebeck, 10.38M) accuses the President of "upending negotiations on a variety of crucial policy areas this fall and further damaging relationships with Republicans on Capitol Hill." Roll Call (9/6, Bennett, 134K), meanwhile, says that "after weeks of attacking members of his own party, Trump appears to have escalated tensions" with them.

The New York Post (9/6, Schultz, 4.31M) recounts that at the meeting, "all the Republican congressional leaders" and Treasury Secretary Mnuchin "wanted a longer-debt limit increase, upwards of 18-months, according to one source, but Democrats wanted just a three-month deal." The Post adds that "there was a standstill, but instead of agreeing to disagree, Trump wanted to solve it immediately" and "offered to make a deal himself and offered up three months for a continuing resolution and a three-month debt limit increase." Then Trump, "who had previously donated to Schumer and other Democrats as a billionaire New York businessman, thanked Pelosi and Schumer for coming to the White House." Said the President, "Nancy, Chuck, I appreciate it very much." ABC World News Tonight (9/6, story 6, 1:50, Bruce, 14.63M) reported "the meeting grew even more tense when Ivanka Trump walked in," as "sources say the conversation veered off topic" and "GOP leaders grew visibly annoyed."

In the New York Times (9/6, Thrush, Haberman, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) account, Trump "interrupted...Mnuchin as he argued for an 18-month debt ceiling increase to stabilize financial markets," and "when other leaders offered yearlong or half-year extensions, the president waved them off," yielding to "two Democratic leaders he has relentlessly demonized and marginalized."

Writing for Axios (9/6, 303K), Jonathan Swan said Trump "handed Pelosi and Schumer the deal of the century over the debt ceiling," in "a move one top Republican described to me as the legislative equivalent of giving an entire stockpile of weapons to Democrats and inviting them to take the entire Republican Party hostage."

The Los Angeles Times (9/6, Bierman, Bennett, 4.49M) says Trump's "sudden move...caught his party leaders off-guard and severely undercut Republican legislative strategy," leaving GOP leaders "seething." USA Today (9/6, Singer, Collins, 8.62M) reports, however, that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell "announced he'd adopt the strategy moving forward after Trump backed it." The Hill (9/6, Carney, 1.68M) also reported McConnell "confirmed he will support the agreement," and Reuters (9/6, Cowan, Cornwell) quotes him as saying of Trump, "His feeling was that we needed to come together, to not create a picture of divisiveness at a time of genuine national crisis. ... And that was the rationale, I'm confident, for his decision to agree to what I'm going to be offering" on the Senate floor. Reuters notes, however, that earlier in the day, Speaker Ryan "had called the Democratic proposal for a three-month increase a 'ridiculous and disgraceful' idea that would 'play politics with the debt ceiling.'"

A New York Times (9/6, Peters, Haberman, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) analysis refers to "the scenario...Trump's most conservative followers considered their worst nightmare," and adds that "it seemed to come true: The dealmaking political novice, whose ideology and loyalty were always fungible, cut a deal with Democrats." The Wall Street Journal (9/6, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that Trump sided with Democrats, the AP (9/6, Werner) that he "largely sided with Democratic leaders as they pushed for" a "three-month" spending deal, McClatchy (9/6, Clark, 67K) that he "delivered a resounding victory to Democrats," and the Washington Examiner (9/6, Kasperowicz, 465K) that Republicans were "surprised and even angered."

NBC Nightly News (9/6, story 6, 1:30, Welker, 16.61M), however, showed Kellyanne Conway disputing the notion that Trump cut a deal with Democrats: "That is just false. There's no deal struck with Democrats. This is a deal on behalf of the American people."

In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (9/6, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) argues the deal is a bad one for Trump and Republicans, but puts much of the blame for the President's decision on what it casts as a dysfunctional GOP caucus, which has seemed unable to agree on much and has failed to move on the President's agenda. Along those lines, Ben Domenech writes in The Federalist (9/6, 88K) that Trump did "something that Washington should've expected, but didn't because they're locked in to bad conventional wisdom." To Domenech, "the pivot is real, and it's spectacular," as Trump wakes up "to the inaccuracy of the conventional wisdom about 'needing McConnell and Ryan' which has animated so much of the early failures of the Republican legislative agenda."

Jason Riley of the Manhattan Institute said on Fox News' Special Report (9/6, 1.81M) that Trump has been "hinting at doing this for some time, that I'll deal with Democrats if the Republicans won't push my agenda the way I see to be appropriate. In that sense, this isn't much of a surprise. But, Republicans in Congress have a different relationship with voters than the President does. I think these members of Congress need to chalk up some accomplishments, and they believe they were sent to Washington to cut spending, to address these fiscal problems we have. When they look at a President doing this, dealing with Democrats and they look like they've been backed in a corner and having to increase spending, increase the debt ceiling without anything in return, they are thinking, 'Our voters are going to say, what good

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are we?'"

Mollie Hemingway of the Federalist said on Fox News' Special Report (9/6, 1.81M) that this shows "that there is room to negotiate in the center and that...Trump has figured it out. If he's not going to get anything from Republicans anyway, and he is not a particularly conservative ideologue anyway, why not try to get some of your agenda passed? He is not a deficit hawk. He is not so concerned about these things. So, he is just kind of fed up and he is done with what Republicans are doing. But it is not good news for conservatives who were trying to extract anything in response to an increase on the debt limit."

The New York Times (9/6, Kaplan, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports Rep. Mark Walker, "chairman of the conservative Republican Study Committee, expressed frustration at what he views as a missed opportunity to address the nation's debt." Said Walker, "We're grateful that in Texas the floodwaters continue to recede...but here in the swamp, it looks like they continue to rise."

Short: "Clearing The Decks" Will Aid Tax Reform Push. Bloomberg News (9/6, Wasson, Sink, Litvan, 4.52M) reports, meanwhile, that White House legislative affairs chief Marc Short defended the deal yesterday, telling "reporters on Air Force One that 'clearing the decks' will allow lawmakers to focus on a GOP priority: overhauling the tax code."

WPost Analysis: Trump May Be In Stronger Position To Leverage Wall Funding In December. Analyzing Trump's decision to make the deal, the Washington Post (9/6, Debonis, Snell, Viebeck, 10.38M) reports that he "has threatened he would shut down the government if Congress doesn't agree to fund the wall construction, and he would be in a better position to leverage that threat in December than in September, when Congress had numerous bills lawmakers felt needed to be passed." However, adds the Post, "by agreeing to also suspend the debt ceiling until Dec. 15, Trump has given Democrats more leverage in a series of upcoming negotiations."

Unnamed "Democratic Strategist": Deal Shows Trump "Utterly Clueless." The Washington Times (9/6, Dinan, Miller, 541K) reports that "a Democratic strategist said Mr. Schumer went into the meeting with the president convinced Democrats would have more 'leverage' in other pending legislative battles if they obtained a short-term extension on the debt limit through Dec. 15." This "source" thought "the fact that Mr. Trump agreed to Mr. Schumer's proposal shows that the president is 'utterly clueless about how the Hill operates.'"

Pro-DACA Lawmakers, Activists Upset At Democrats Over Deal. Politico (9/6, Schor, Caygle, 3.6M) reports the "short-term fiscal deal...tees up a tough choice for the Democrats who triumphantly negotiated it: whether to risk a government shutdown later this year to win relief for Dreamers." Schumer "declared before reaching Wednesday's deal with Trump that if Republican leaders don't allow a vote" on DACA "this month...'we are prepared to attach it to other items this fall until it passes.'" However, "Schumer stopped short of vowing to withhold Democratic votes for must-pass bills that Congress is expected to consider this fall." Politico adds that "some lawmakers and pro-Dreamer activists were frustrated at Democratic leaders on Wednesday, lamenting that the party had ceded ground to the GOP by agreeing to a short-term funding package that allows more time to cut a broader immigration deal." Said Rep. Luis Gutierrez, "Right now there are many Democrats who feel we gave up, not just me."

Daschle: Current Congressional Dysfunction Is "Troubling." In an op-ed for USA Today (9/6, 8.62M), former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle calls "the extraordinary level of dysfunction and disarray" in the current Congress "deeply troubling." Daschle argues that "there are none more qualified to demand better governance than the more than 1.1 million men and women who have fought and died for our country's democracy," and he adds that "the least each member of Congress can do now in respect for those exceptional and historic contributions is to work together to restore a functioning federal government once again."

TRUMP REACHES OUT TO HEITKAMP, TOUTS TAX REFORM PLAN IN NORTH DAKOTA. National media coverage of the President's remarks in North Dakota highlighted his outreach to Democratic Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, viewed as a potential supporter of his tax reform agenda. The event, says the AP (9/6, Colvin, Thomas), was "an overt pitch...for Democrats to support his tax overhaul plan." Heitkamp, who is "up for re-election next year, traveled to the state with Trump aboard Air Force One as the president sought to frame the tax overhaul as a 'once in a generation' opportunity to cut taxes and simplify the tax code."

USA Today (9/6, Jackson, 8.62M) reports "White House officials are hoping she can help them win a tax overhaul," and that Trump "offered up some unusually kind words to describe" her. In fact, the Washington Post (9/6, Johnson, 10.38M) reports, "a year from now, North Dakotans may be hearing these two words a lot: 'Good woman.'" The Post adds that "as Heitkamp stepped onto an outdoor catwalk at an oil refinery...to join him on stage, Trump delivered play-by-play commentary," saying, "Everybody's saying, 'What's she doing up here?' ... But I'll tell you what: Good woman." The Post concludes that "with that, Heitkamp had the makings of a potentially powerful advertisement for her reelection campaign

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next fall."

The Washington Times (9/6, Miller, 541K) refers to "a rare display of bipartisanship," and the New York Times (9/6, Shear, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) indicates that "pitching his plan as something that should have bipartisan appeal, Mr. Trump noted that President Ronald Reagan won passage of a major tax plan with a Congress led by Democrats." Trump then "motioned toward...Heitkamp" and said, "You listening, Heidi? ... Yes, she was listening. I'm not going to put her on the spot."

The Bismarck (ND) Tribune (9/6, Dalrymple, 46K) says the President addressed "an enthusiastic crowd at the Mandan Refinery," made up of "about 700 energy workers, agriculture and business leaders and state officials." Trump "was accompanied to North Dakota by daughter Ivanka Trump, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn and North Dakota's Congressional delegation." The President invited Gov. Doug Burgum, Lt. Gov. Brent Sanford and North Dakota's Congressional delegation "to join him on stage, calling special attention to the lone Democrat on stage," Heitkamp.

Says Politico (9/6, Nussbaum, Schor, 3.6M), "Trump has already tried negotiation-by-threat in his push for tax reform – but on Wednesday he took a softer touch." Politico adds that the President "is leaning on Democratic senators from states he won in 2016 to support his effort for tax reform in hopes of avoiding the narrow defeat suffered by his health care reform proposal in August." The Hill (9/6, Kamisar, 1.68M) reported Heitkamp "has attempted to foster a better relationship with Trump than some of her Democratic colleagues as she represents a state that Trump won by almost 40 points in November." She "met with Trump at his Manhattan apartment during his transition and was briefly floated for a Cabinet post. Since then, she's given Trump a wider berth than other more liberal senators as far as his cabinet appointments."

Heitkamp's presence at the event, however, led to some Democratic complaints. US News & World Report (9/6, Catanese, 1.73M) reported there was "grousing from some corners of her party," but her "willingness to play ball with the president exhibits the a tricky conundrum confronting a slate of moderate Democrats hailing from red states who happen to be up for re-election next year." Added US News, "As the president tours the country to tout an unspecified tax reform plan, he's making sure to touch down in places where he can put pressure on such vulnerable Democrats." The Wall Street Journal (9/6, Radnofsky, Rubin, Hughes, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) offers a similar analysis under the headline "Donald Trump Urges Democrats To Join Him On Tax Overhaul."

WDAZ-TV Grand Forks, ND (9/6, 5:02 p.m. CDT) reported that Trump called tax reform "a once in a generation opportunity. He wants to simplify the tax code, make it simple and easy for everybody to do. He wants to cut taxes for the middle class. He wants to cut corporate taxes – big corporations, small businesses, medium businesses – and he wants to bring business back from overseas." Trump was shown saying, "I want all of America to be inspired by what's happened in North Dakota and the North Dakota example. This state is a reminder of what can happen when we promote American jobs instead of obstructing American jobs."

KXMC-TV Minot, ND (9/6, 5:05 p.m. CDT, 2K) said that "the message...from the President is tax reform is on the way. He highlighted a four point plan. ... Here are his goals: He wants a simple, fair, and easy to understand tax code. He stressed cutting taxes for middle class families. He wants to bring back trillions from overseas. What the president is proposing today is considered a major tax overhaul. He really pushed this tax reform as a bipartisan deal, and a win for North Dakota and the nation." Trump was shown saying, "Only if you, the American people, tell Congress to stop putting party first and start putting America first, only then will it happen." The Grand Forks (ND) Herald (9/6, Hageman, 79K) reports the President also "touted his efforts to lift restrictions on oil and natural gas development, including permitting the long-contested Dakota Access Pipeline."

CBS News (9/6, Guild, 4.42M) noted on its website that Trump "promised to 'restore America's competitive edge' in the global economy" and "called the tax code a 'self-inflicted economic wound.'" Moreover, the AP (9/6) reports, Trump "said Wednesday he's with farmers and ranchers in North Dakota '100 percent' as they cope with a deep drought, but said nothing about the state's request for a presidential disaster declaration."

In his monologue on Fox News' Hannity (9/6, 2.52M), Sean Hannity said, "What the President is calling for...will have a profound positive impact on the forgotten men and women in this country and the country as a whole. Workers would have more money in their pockets after not seeing real raises in years. Companies will be able to see lower taxes. That means they can hire more employees and invest in new technologies, build factories in manufacturing centers. Just like President Reagan, GDP growth and federal tax revenue...will soar. Ironically, Washington will have more money to waste. The destroy-Trump media, they don't care about any of this. They are not interested in the truth, they are not interested in the business of offering solutions to people that have been left behind. What is the media's main objective? They create false narratives, outright lies. Their obvious goal is to try and damage, delegitimize...Trump."

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Presidential counselor Kellyanne Conway said on Fox News' Hannity (9/6, 2.52M), "Many Americans want the dignity of work. They want to be self-sufficient. They want to know that they have high-paying jobs that are stable and secure. The best way to do that really is to lower taxes – to lower taxes on our job creators, our job holders, and our job seekers, and also repatriate all this wealth that is legally parked offshore. Bring the wealth back to this country. This is very simple. The President laid it out today."

Trump's Introduction Of His Daughter To North Dakota Crowd Merits WPost Story. The Washington Post (9/6, Johnson, 10.38M) reports Trump said during his remarks, to cheers, "Everybody loves Ivanka. ... Come up, honey. Should I bring Ivanka up? Come up." The Post adds that "as the president's 35-year-old daughter made her way up to the stage, Trump kept talking." Trump is quoted adding, "Sometimes they'll say: You know, he can't be that bad of a guy, look at Ivanka. ... Come on up, honey. She's so good. She wanted to make the trip. She said: 'Dad, can I go with you?' She actually said: 'Daddy, can I go with you?' I like that, right? 'Daddy, can I go with you?' I said: 'Yes, you can.' [She said,] 'Where are you going?' [I said,] 'North Dakota.' I said, 'Oh, I like North Dakota.'"

GOVERNMENT READIES RESPONSE AS IRMA EXPECTED TO HIT FLORIDA THIS WEEKEND. Hurricane Irma is the subject of a great deal of media coverage both in print and on all three network news broadcasts, which led with the story Wednesday evening and spent a total of 27 and-a-half minutes on it. Before a meeting with congressional leaders Wednesday, President Trump expressed concern about the path of the Hurricane, "saying that the Category 5 storm now bearing toward Florida is 'not good,'" USA Today (9/6, Korte, 8.62M) reports. Trump said, "We have a lot to discuss, including the fact that there is a new and seems to be record-breaking hurricane toward Florida and Puerto Rico and other places. ... It looks like it could be something that will be not good. Believe me, not good." Trump has "declared a state of emergency for the US Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Florida on Tuesday in anticipation of the storm's landfall, mobilizing the Federal Emergency Management Agency to begin positioning disaster relief resources in the path of the storm." Wednesday afternoon, Trump tweeted, "Just spoke w/ Governors Rick Scott of Florida, Kenneth Mapp of the US Virgin Islands & Ricardo Rosselló of Puerto Rico. WE ARE W/ YOU ALL!"

The Washington Post (9/6, Alvarado, 10.38M) reports that the Pentagon has "approved the use of two ships – originally deployed for Hurricane Harvey relief – to assist in Florida as needed." FEMA Director Long "said that incident management assistance personnel already are on the ground in vulnerable areas." Asked on CNN's Situation Room (9/6, 1.32M) if his agency's resources are stretched too think in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, Long said, "We're not stretched too thin. The goal is right now we've established recovery command in Texas, so we have a good footprint that we are establishing to make sure we are going everything in Texas. ... Now, what we have done it since the response phase has basically come to a close in Texas, we are now re-positioning search and rescue teams and other commodities into the southeastern United States and are ready to go with our partners in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands."

However, NBC Nightly News (9/6, story 5, 2:10, Holt, 16.61M) reported that while the House on Wednesday "overwhelmingly passed a nearly $8 billion disaster relief bill for victims of Hurricane Harvey in Texas," and the Senate "is expected to go along...$8 billion is just a fraction of what Harvey and now Irma are expected to cost." CNN government regulation correspondent Rene Marsh said on CNN's The Lead (9/6, 1.34M), "FEMA is dangerously close of running out of money. FEMA had just over $1 billion with $541 million of that, as they say, for immediate use, and that was as of Tuesday morning. On Wednesday...the House did approve a $7.81 billion relief aid package, but now the Senate has it and it's gotten political at this point because it's being tied to raising the debt ceiling. But again, the point is, will this be enough?"

The New York Times (9/5, Rivera, Alvarez, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that Irma "battered the islands of the northeast Caribbean early Wednesday, leaving severe damage in its wake as it barreled toward the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico," where officials "have warned that the island's fragile electrical grid could be shut down for days, weeks or even months in some areas." Gov. Ricardo Rosselló and emergency officials warned in a news conference "that with such powerful winds expected to thrash the island, infrastructure, houses and the phone system would inevitably be damaged."

In the lead story for ABC World News Tonight (9/6, lead story, 3:15, Muir, 14.63M), David Muir said that "more than 500,000 [are] without power" in Puerto Rico already. Linzie Janis added, "The head of the power company says it could be between four and six months before power is restored to some of those areas." The New York Times (9/6, Walsh, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) says Puerto Rico's "financial straits have left essential public works, from power plants to retaining walls, weakened by years of scrimping on maintenance," and correspondent Leyla Santiago said on CNN's The Lead (9/6, 1.34M), "This is an island that is $40 billion in debt. That is another crisis, another storm, if you will, looming over this island of 3.5 million people, 3.5 million US citizens." There is "a lot of fear, a lot of uncertainty of what's to come, not only for the power and the utilities, but for the infrastructure and what could be rebuilding of this island if this Category five storm is as devastating as many believe it could be."

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The CBS Evening News (9/6, lead story, 2:20, Mason, 11.17M) reported that according to the National Hurricane Center "chances have grown for a direct hit on Florida, possibly as soon as the weekend." Reuters (9/6, Malone) says "officials in Florida called for evacuations ahead of the storm's expected landfall there this weekend." Gio Benitez said on ABC World News Tonight (9/6, story 3, 2:00, Muir, 14.63M) that the Florida Keys are "under a full-scale evacuation." The Miami Herald (9/6, Hanks, Mazzei, 701K) reports that Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Gimenez has issued his first evacuation orders requiring more than 100,000 residents "to leave their homes on barrier islands, including Miami Beach, and in low-lying mainland areas starting Thursday morning." In addition, Gimenez's office "announced the opening of four hurricane shelters Wednesday afternoon, with four more...opening Thursday morning."

The Los Angeles Times (9/6, Neuhaus, King, 4.49M) reports that Florida Gov. Rick Scott "begged constituents to obey calls to flee the storm's path when the time came," saying in a statement, "I cannot stress this enough – do not ignore evacuation orders. ... If you're told to evacuate, don't wait – get out quickly." Manuel Bojorquez said on the CBS Evening News (9/6, story 2, 1:55, Mason, 11.17M) that Scott "estimates 25,000 people in the state have already evacuated."

The Miami Herald (9/6, Staletovich, 701K) reports that Scott "ordered another 900 National Guard members to duty on Wednesday." He also "said that no gas shortages have been reported, but the state is keeping watch on supplies and also tracking the availability of bottled water." The Orlando (FL) Sentinel (9/6, Torralva, Hayes, 603K) reports that Scott "pleaded for more volunteers" to "work in shelters, distribute food and for response efforts." The Sentinel adds that Florida is preparing for the storm "to be bigger than Hurricane Andrew that hit the state 25 years ago." said Scott, "Here's what we didn't have in Andrew: We didn't have this amount of wind; Andrew was not as big as this is. ... This is 185 mph winds and they're tracking it even higher than that at some times." The Wall Street Journal (9/6, Kamp, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that authorities say they storm could also impact northern Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina.

Additional network news stories covered a range of topics related to the hurricane including forecasts, preparations, and the impact the storm has had on areas it has already hit, among others: ABC World News Tonight (9/6, story 2, 2:00, Muir, 14.63M), ABC World News Tonight (9/6, story 4, 2:15, Muir, 14.63M), ABC World News Tonight (9/6, story 5, 1:35, Muir, 14.63M), ABC World News Tonight (9/6, story 13, 0:30, Muir, 14.63M), the CBS Evening News (9/6, story 3, 1:45, Strassmann, 11.17M), the CBS Evening News (9/6, story 4, 2:00, Mason, 11.17M), NBC Nightly News (9/6, lead story, 1:50, Holt, 16.61M), NBC Nightly News (9/6, story 2, 1:50, Holt, 16.61M), NBC Nightly News (9/6, story 3, 2:30, Holt, 16.61M), NBC Nightly News (9/6, story 4, 1:45, Sanders, 16.61M).

Florida Sheriff Says He'll Check For Warrants At Hurricane Shelters. The New York Times (9/6, Hauser, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that Polk County, Florida Sheriff Gray Judd said Wednesday that authorities "would check the identities of people who turn up at shelters and take to jail anyone found to have an active arrest warrant." In a series of tweets, Judd wrote, "If you go to a shelter for Irma and you have a warrant, we'll gladly escort you to the safe and secure shelter called the Polk County Jail. ... We cannot and we will not have innocent children in a shelter with sexual offenders & predators. ... If you have a warrant, turn yourself in to the jail – it's a secure shelter."

Limbaugh Offers Hurricane Advice. The Washington Post (9/6, Selk, 10.38M) reports that radio host Rush Limbaugh on Tuesday described himself as "the go-to guy" on hurricane information and spent 24 minutes of his broadcast "dispensing hurricane advice that no meteorologist or federal agency would likely dare utter." The Post goes on to contrast the advice offered by Limbaugh to that issued by FEMA.

PRESIDENT, FIRST LADY DONATE $1 MILLION TO 12 HARVEY RELIEF CHARITIES. The AP (9/6, Superville) reports that the President and First Lady "are donating $1 million to 12 charities involved in Harvey relief efforts." According to the White House, "the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Samaritan's Purse and Reachout America will share $800,000 of the donation." In addition, "the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Catholic Charities, Direct Relief, Habitat for Humanity, Houston Humane Society, Operation Blessing, Portlight Inclusive Disaster Strategies and Team Rubicon" will receive $25,000 each.

The Washington Post (9/6, Fahrenthold, 10.38M) reports that a statement from the White House "said that President Trump and first lady Melania Trump had witnessed some of these charities at work firsthand, during their two visits to areas of Texas hit by the hurricane, which was the biggest rainstorm recorded in the history of the continental US." Others were "recommended, at the invitation of the President, by members of the White House Press Corps." It was unclear from the statement "if the charities had already received the donations or if the checks would arrive in the coming days," and the Post notes that "before last summer, Trump had a long record of making pledges to give his personal money to charity but an uneven record of fulfilling them." The New York Times (9/6, Baker, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) also points out that Trump's "history of charitable contributions has come under fire." Politico (9/6, McCaskill, 3.6M) and the CBS Evening News (9/6, story 5, 0:40, Mason, 11.17M) also report on the Trumps' donations.

Bloomberg Analysis: Agency Vacancies Could Hinder Harvey Relief Efforts. Bloomberg News (9/6, Shields, Dlouhy,

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Flavelle, 4.52M) reports that there are "vacancies in hey posts related to emergency response" due to the Administration's "slow pace of appointments," which "may hamper efforts to help victims of Harvey's record rainfall and Hurricane Irma's punishing winds." FEMA and HUD are missing deputies while the EPA "doesn't have a regional director in Texas whose duties would include responding to Harvey's inundation of polluted Superfund sites." Bloomberg adds that President Trump "has said he doesn't intend to fill 'unnecessary' positions," and he "has proposed slashing the EPA's budget by almost a third, HUD's by 13 percent and FEMA's by 11 percent."

House Approves $7.85 Billion Harvey Relief Measure. Politico (9/6, Ferris, 3.6M) reports that in a 419-3 vote Wednesday, the approved a $7.85 billion measure "for response to Hurricane Harvey, with the goal of landing the legislation on President Donald Trump's desk by week's end." The measure is now headed to the Senate, "where GOP leaders plan to link it to a separate effort to raise the debt ceiling." Politico cites "multiple House and White House officials" who said that Trump "is aiming to quash growing GOP opposition to the strategy to raise the debt ceiling as part of a Hurricane Harvey relief package."

Gas Prices Climb In Harvey's Wake. The Washington Times (9/6, Wolfgang, 541K) reports that Harvey's impact is being felt across the nation as the average cost of a gallon of gas climbed "28 cents higher on average than a week ago, according to federal data." According to figures released Wednesday by the Energy Information Administration, "gas prices on Monday, Sept. 4, averaged $2.68 per gallon, which was up 28 cents from a week earlier."

Texas Town Underwater For Second Time In Two Years. The New York Times (9/6, Robertson, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that in 2016, the Sabine River "swelled up...and swallowed the whole town" of Deweyville, Texas. After Harvey, "houses that people worked on for months, gutting and renovating and refurbishing, and had finally moved back into less than a week ago" are flooded, as are "houses that people planned to move back into later this month," and "trailers brought here by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as temporary refuges after last year's flood."

Removal Of Storm Debris From Harvey Will Take Months, Cost Billions. The New York Times (9/6, Schwartz, Blinder, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports on efforts to remove the more than 100,000 piles of storm debris, from the streets of Houston, saying that of the challenges facing southeast Texas after Harvey, "few will linger longer or more visibly than the millions of pounds of debris already crowding curbs and edging onto streets." The cleanup "will take months and cost billions of dollars."

Harvey Evacuees Remain In Shelters. A front-page story in the Washington Post (9/6, A1, Hesse, 10.38M) profiles Harvey evacuees still staying in a Houston shelter while the national news appears to have "turned its attention to Hurricane Irma and to be talking less about the people still stuck in the Texas shelters."

Tax Attorneys: Aid To Texas Should Come In The Form Of A Loan. In an op-ed for the Washington Post (9/6, Barnes, Rosenbloom, 10.38M), Peter A. Barnes, a fellow at Duke University's law school, and H. David Rosenbloom, director of the International Tax Program at the New York University School of Law, both of whom are tax attorneys at law firm Caplin & Drysdale, write that while "members of Congress from New York and New Jersey complain about the hypocrisy of Texas requesting federal aid, given the fact that the Texas congressional delegation almost unanimously opposed the federal aid package for Hurricane Sandy in 2012," America "is too good to withhold support as political payback." However, the funding "should come in the form of a loan – perhaps a long-term loan at a favorable interest rate, but definitely a loan." Barnes and Rosenbloom argue that as an "avowedly a low-tax state," it is "grossly unfair for Texas to accept funds from all of America's taxpayers to allow it to continue its exceptionally low-taxed ways."

TRUMP TO HOST FULL CABINET AT CAMP DAVID THIS WEEKEND. CNN (9/7, Collins, 33.59M) reports that President Trump is expected to return to Camp David this weekend and hold a Cabinet meeting there. The meeting is expected to address "a wide range of issues, spanning from the administration's legislative strategy for tax reform to the growing nuclear crisis in North Korea."

TRUMP TO MEET WITH NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY LEADERS TO DISCUSS "GATEWAY" TUNNEL PROJECT. Reuters (9/6) reports that President Trump is scheduled to meet with New York and New Jersey state and congressional leaders at the White House Thursday to discuss the "Gateway Project" to build a tunnel under the Hudson River, according to two sources. The meeting will include Senate Minority Leader Schumer, and New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie have been invited.

STATES WARN ADMINISTRATION OVER FUEL EFFICIENCY RULES. Reuters (9/6, Shepardson) reports that at an Environmental Protection Agency public hearing on Wednesday on the fuel rules in Washington, officials from California and New York challenged the Administration's examination of US vehicle fuel efficiency standards, with one California official warning "that the state could withdraw from a nationwide vehicle emissions program if the EPA weakens the

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regulations or ignores the technical record" and with the New York official also urging the Administration not to loosen the rules. The incident comes as the Administration and major states "appear to be headed for a showdown over landmark rules aimed at doubling the fuel efficiency of vehicles sold in the United States."

SANDERS DEFENDS TRUMP ON ABC'S "THE VIEW." The Washington Post (9/6, Andrews-Dyer, 10.38M) reports that White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders appeared with her father, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee on ABC's "The View" Wednesday. Sanders, says the Post, "spent the hour almost completely unfazed and unbothered," telling the hosts "that she has spent a lot of time with the president and that she has 'always felt respected and empowered' to do her job, adding that Trump doesn't 'just put milquetoast women around him.'" Sanders "pointed out that she's the first working mother to take over the podium in the press briefing room," and added, "Instead of liberals celebrating it, they have attacked me."

STOCKS REBOUND FROM TUESDAY'S SELLOFF. Reuters (9/6) reports that stocks "bounced back from a day-earlier selloff" Wednesday. The Dow added 54.33 points to close at 21,807.64. The S&P 500 climbed 7.69 points to 2,465.54, and the Nasdaq ended the day 17.74 points higher at 6,393.31.

WSJOURNAL ANALYSIS: GROWTH-INFLATION RELATIONSHIP NO LONGER HOLDING. In an analysis, the Wall Street Journal (9/6, Sindreu, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that despite major nations reporting stronger economic growth, observers are puzzled by the absence of inflation that typically accompanies such growth. Explanations for the breakup of the standard growth-inflation relationship upon which central banks operate include globalization, the rise of large multinationals, and the decline of labor unions.

TRUMP CAMP RELEASES VIDEO TITLED "PROMISES MADE, PROMISES KEPT." The Washington Times (9/6, Miller, 541K) reports that President Trump's reelection campaign on Wednesday unveiled a video "highlighting the president's executive actions to promote apprenticeships and his 'Buy American, Hire American' program, claiming it showed he was keeping his promises from his first campaign. The video, titled 'Promises Made, Promises Kept,' featured testimonials by apprentices at Medalcraft Mint Inc. in Green Bay, Wisconsin, which makes the campaign's 'presidential medals' – commemorative coins emblazoned with Mr. Trump's image." The Trump camp said the factory "symbolizes 'President Trump's promotion of Made in America economic principles and his strong support for apprenticeships through a recent executive order for training our workforce.'"

Predictit Strongly Favors Trump To Be 2020 GOP Nominee. USA Today (9/6, Cummings, 8.62M) reports that Trump "is almost certain to face one or more challengers for his party's nomination in 2020, if he seeks re-election." However, Trump "need not worry about any threat to his nomination from outside the White House, according to the prediction market Predictit. The site, where 'traders' buy and sell shares in the outcomes of future events, opened trading on the 2020 Republican presidential nomination Wednesday," with "share prices for Trump easily [outpricing] those of all his potential Republican challengers." USA Today lists the prices as Trump "46 cents," followed by Vice President "21 cents," Ohio Gov. John Kasich "7 cents," and several other Republicans lagging further behind.

Poll: Trump Approval Rating Lower Among Voters Who Backed Him And Obama. Politico (9/6, Shepard, 3.6M) reported that President Trump "is losing support from voters who crossed over to back him in last year's election, according to a new" poll. The "survey from the bipartisan Democracy Fund Voter Study Group, which has been interviewing the same voters repeatedly for the past six years, identifies which voters have drifted away from Trump over the first six months of his presidency." Politico said, "Among all Trump voters, the president's approval rating remains high: The vast majority, 88 percent, approved of the job he is doing as president. But there is erosion among voters who backed Barack Obama in 2012 but switched to Trump in 2016. Only 70 percent of those Obama-Trump voters approved of the job the president is doing. And 22 percent disapproved – a rate more than twice the 9 percent of all Trump voters who disapproved."

NYTimes' Gabriel Again Highlights Michigan Small Business Owner Happy With Trump. Writing for the New York Times (9/6, Subscription Publication, 13.56M), reporter Trip Gabriel discusses a recent article he penned about "an auto parts factory in Michigan" owned by Anita-Maria Quillen. Gabriel says, "The time I spent at the factory was largely a period of setbacks for Ms. Quillen: She had lost $3 million in orders earlier in the year, and efforts to replace that work were fizzling. ... Since then, things have looked brighter. A customer Ms. Quillen suspected was on the verge of yanking millions in work reversed course," and another "company she thought was giving her the runaround on a new part she proposed to make decided to order up the work after all: a job worth $1.2 million annually. 'It's crazy how quickly the tides can change,' Ms. Quillen wrote to me recently, as the latest federal jobs report showed a bump in factory employment. She was looking forward to hiring again, potentially good news in Trump Country."

POLL: BY 36%-30% MARGIN, AMERICANS FEEL MORE POSITIVE ABOUT TRUMP THAN CLINTON. Politico (9/6, Nelson, 3.6M) reported, "The number of Americans who say they hold positive views" of President Trump "has dropped to

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its lowest point since his inauguration, according to an NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll" of 1,200 US "adults," taken Aug. 5-9. Politico said, "Just 36 percent of those reached by pollsters said they have either very or somewhat positive feelings about Trump, 2 points lower than in the poll's June iteration. But at 36 percent, Trump still finished 6 points higher than [Hillary] Clinton...about whom just 30 percent of respondents said they feel either very or somewhat positive."

Clinton Criticizes Biden For Saying Democrats Didn't Focus On Middle Class. The Hill (9/6, Manchester, 1.68M) reported that in her new book, titled "What Happened," Clinton criticizes former Vice President Joe Biden over "his assessment that Democrats did not focus on the middle class during the presidential race." Clinton is quoted as writing, "Joe Biden said the Democratic Party in 2016 'did not talk about what it always stood for – and that was how to maintain a burgeoning middle class.' I find this fairly remarkable, considering that Joe himself campaigned for me all over the Midwest and talked plenty about the middle class." Clinton "was referring to comments made in May by Biden, in which he criticized Democrats' strategy to win over working-class voters."

On the CBS Evening News (9/6, story 9, 2:00, Mason, 11.17M), Nancy Cordes reported that in her book, Clinton "argues she was done in, in part, by an unhealthy fixation on her marriage, her health, and her emails. 'What makes me such a lightning rod for fury? I'm really asking? I'm at a loss. I think it's partly because I'm a woman.' Clinton admits it was bad optics to give highly paid speeches in the run-up to the race, and she admits she and her team misread the mood of the country. 'I was running a tradition presidential campaign with carefully-thought-out policies and painstakingly-built coalitions, while Trump was running a reality TV show that expertly and relentlessly stoked Americans' anger and resentment.'"

GROUP CLAIMS TRUMP VOTER COMMISSION MEMBERS USING PERSONAL EMAIL ACCOUNTS. The Washington Times (9/6, Dinan, 541K) reports that members of President Trump's Presidential Advisory Commission and Election Integrity "have been using personal email accounts to conduct the panel's business, violating a federal law, according to a group that has sued to demand more transparency from the commission. In court papers filed Tuesday the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law said the Justice Department admitted in a conference call that personal email accounts were being used by some panelists." DOJ attorneys "didn't refute the substance of the claim but said in a reply that they didn't recall making any 'definitive' statements about it during the conference call."

FACEBOOK SAYS IT SOLD $100K IN POLITICAL ADS TO RUSSIAN FIRM DURING 2016 ELECTION. On ABC World News Tonight (9/6, story 10, 0:20, Muir, 14.63M), David Muir reported, "A major headline from Facebook. The social media giant revealing $100,000 in political ads were bought from fake accounts from Russia during the presidential election – 3,000 ads purchased over a two-year period, and they were displayed on accounts in the US during the election. Facebook giving the finding from an internal investigation to US authorities."

The Washington Post (9/6, Leonnig, Hamburger, Helderman, 10.38M) reports that Facebook officials on Wednesday "told congressional investigators" that the social-networking service "has discovered it sold ads during the US presidential election to a shadowy Russian company seeking to target voters. ... Facebook officials reported that they traced the ad sales, totaling $100,000, to a Russian 'troll farm' with a history of pushing pro-Kremlin propaganda." The Post adds, "A small portion of the ads, which began in the summer of 2015, directly named Republican nominee Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton, the people said. Most of the ads focused on pumping politically divisive issues such as gun rights and immigration fears, as well as gay rights and racial discrimination."

House Intelligence Committee ranking member Rep. Adam Schiff (D) said on CNN's Situation Room (9/6, 1.32M) that from what he understands, "Facebook's conclusion is that most [of the ads] were not geographically targeted, although some were." He added that "among those that were, we need to find out why...and were [the Russians] at a level of sophistication where they would have needed help or assistance" from the Trump campaign. The Wall Street Journal (9/6, Harris, Tau, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that the revelation by Facebook officials could raise more questions about the breadth of Russia's use of social media to disseminate propaganda.

House Intelligence Chair Threatens To Bring Sessions, Wray Before Panel Over Trump Dossier. The Washington Times (9/6, Noble, 541K) reports that House Intelligence chair Rep. Devin Nunes (R-CA) "is threatening to drag" US Attorney General Jeff Sessions and FBI Director Chris Wray "before the committee next week if the Justice Department fails to turn over documents related to a salacious dossier of President Trump's supposed activities in Russia." The panel issued "a pair of subpoenas to the Justice Department and the FBI, seeking documents related to the agencies' relationship with former British spy Christopher Steele, who authored the dossier, as well as copies of Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act applications that relied upon information provided by Mr. Steele, according to a letter" written "by...Nunes," who said that if the DOJ doesn't "turn over requested documents, he will seek to compel Mr. Sessions and...Wray to appear before the committee on Sept. 14 'to explain under oath DOJ's and FBI's unwillingness or inability to comply with the full subpoenas issued on August 24.'"

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Schiff: Nunes Wants To Discredit FBI's Russia Probe. In an interview with Schiff, Wolf Blitzer reported on CNN's Situation Room (9/6, 1.32M) that the committee's chairman, Nunes, has issued a letter to Sessions and Wray "threatening to hold [them] in contempt of Congress," if they fail to provide documents related to the "so-called dossier compiled by a former British intelligence agent" on allegations about "Trump's personal and financial life." Blitzer said that Nunes had previously "removed himself from the Russia investigation." Schiff said Nunes "shouldn't be" issuing subpoenas related to the probe, adding that he also doesn't understand the move because "we hadn't even sent [the FBI and Justice Department] a voluntary request for information." Schiff said he thinks Nunes wants to "discredit" both Steele and the FBI's investigation.

Rep Jim Himes (D-CT), a member of the House Intelligence Committee, said on CNN's Situation Room (9/6, 1.32M) that he also wonders why Nunes is involving himself after his recusal. Himes also discussed the dossier, saying it "has never been an important part of...the investigation that I'm involved in." He added that while the "general consensus is that many of the allegations in that dossier are unproven...I would note that none of the allegations...to my knowledge, have been refuted."

Trump Jr. To Testify Before Senate Judiciary Committee Today. USA Today (9/6, Kelly, 8.62M) reports that Donald Trump Jr. "will testify behind closed doors Thursday before the Senate Judiciary Committee about a 2016 meeting he attended with a Kremlin-linked lawyer offering dirt on Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton." Trump Jr. "attended a June 2016 meeting with Russian lawyer Natalia Veselnitskaya at Trump Tower along with Paul Manafort, who was Trump's campaign manager at the time, and Jared Kushner, who is Trump's son-in-law. Trump Jr. released emails in July of this year that showed he actively sought damaging information about Clinton from the meeting even after he was told it would come from the Russian government. Trump Jr. has described the meeting as a waste of time, saying it did not yield any useful information for his father's campaign."

The New York Times (9/6, Fandos, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports, "Committee aides said the interview, Mr. Trump's first with congressional investigators, will be transcribed and could last for much of the day. ... The closed-door interview is the clearest indication yet that the Senate Judiciary Committee – after months of being eclipsed by the Senate and House intelligence committees – is emerging into a higher-profile role in investigating the president, his family and his associates in the coming months."

Jim Sciutto reported on CNN's Situation Room (9/6, 1.32M) that Trump Jr. will meet with Senate Judiciary Committee members on Thursday, but one member of the panel, Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), is "insist[ing]" that he eventually testify in public about what "he knows about Russian meddling." Manu Raju reported on CNN's Situation Room (9/6, 1.32M) that Feinstein said Trump Jr. and the committee had reached an agreement "that there will be a public hearing." She was shown saying that subpoenas will be issued if that doesn't happen.

Politico (9/6, Samuelsohn, 3.6M) reported that Trump Jr. "was called to publicly testify before the Senate committee in July, but" he "instead offered to conduct both a private interview and hand over documents for committee investigators. Alan Futerfas, Trump Jr.'s attorney, confirmed in an email to POLITICO the interview would take place on Thursday. 'We look forward to a professional and productive meeting and appreciate the opportunity to assist the committee,' he wrote."

Himes said on CNN's Situation Room (9/6, 1.32M) that Trump Jr. is a "key" person in the investigation because he "is sort of at the point of that spear" in terms of "possible connections between the Trump campaign and the Russian hack effort."

Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE) was asked on CNN's The Lead (9/6, 1.34M) what he expects to hear from Trump Jr. on Thursday. Coons said, "What I am focused on is the future public hearing where we are going to be able to hear Donald Trump Jr. and potentially other witnesses testify under oath in public. One of the things I hope to question Donald Trump Jr. about in that future public hearing is why he was utterly unsurprised, at least according to the e-mail records, when he was told there was an effort afoot by the Russian regime, by the Putin government, to try and assist his father in winning the presidential campaign. ... His response which was to look forward to the meeting and to welcome it I think suggests he may have known more about the Russian efforts than he so far has led on."

The Hill (9/6, Williams, Savransky, 1.68M) reported, "Senate investigators from both the Intelligence and Judiciary committees have been vying to have first the crack at interviewing the president's son, who is now running Trump's real estate empire with his brother, Eric Trump."

Schiff: Moscow Trump Tower Proposal Raises New Concerns For House Intel Committee. Schiff was asked on CNN's Situation Room (9/6, 1.32M) what the impact will be on his panel regarding revelations that Trump's "personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, asked the Kremlin for help potentially with developing a [Trump Tower] hotel...in Moscow during the campaign" when Trump "repeatedly denied he had business dealings with the Russians." Schiff said it "certainly raise[s] additional concerns because...the campaign was taking a very pro-Russia, pro-Putin policy. Was this being guided

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by their financial interests?" Schiff added that one of his "chief concerns" is whether the Russians engaged in money laundering with the Trump campaign, which he said would mean "the Russians have continuing leverage over the President."

Himes said on CNN's Situation Room (9/6, 1.32M) that the revelations about Cohen concern him because they are part of a "persistent theme in this investigation" of "outright blanket denials followed by, oops, turns out that denial is not true."

According to Manu Raju on CNN's Situation Room (9/6, 1.32M), Sen. Lindsey Graham, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said the Cohen revelations raise questions, and that he would want to hear from Cohen as a witness in the panel's Russia probe.

Susan Rice Interviewed By House Intelligence Committee. Catherine Herridge reported on Fox News' Special Report (9/6, 1.81M) that Susan Rice, the national security adviser under former President Obama, met Wednesday with House Intelligence Committee members who "want more insight into Russian's election meddling as well as Rice's request to identify Trump campaign associates" caught up in foreign intelligence surveillance. According to Manu Raju on CNN's Situation Room (9/6, 1.32M), Rice had "a lot of questions from some of the Republicans who attended about [the] issue of unmasking. She contended she did nothing...wrong."

Liberal Groups Advise Democrats To Avoid Talk Of Impeachment Amid Russia Probe. USA Today (9/6, Przybyla, 8.62M) reports that congressional Democrats "are being advised by a network of progressive activists trying – for the first time – to coordinate the party's messaging on the special counsel investigation of President Trump's Russia ties. A core piece of advice: Do not 'invoke impeachment.' The guidance comes from a memo funded by groups, including MoveOn.org, Stand Up America, American Bridge and End Citizens United." USA Today says, "The memo, by the outside polling firm Greenberg Quinlan Rosner, advises Democrats to stress the need to protect the investigation, draw a line against pardons and stress the national security implications of Russian meddling in the 2016 election while avoiding talk of impeachment."

DAILY CALLER: EX-IT SPECIALIST MAY HAVE WANTED CAPITOL POLICE TO FIND WASSERMAN SCHULTZ'S LAPTOP. In an "exclusive," the Daily Caller (9/6, Rosiak, 521K) reported, "A laptop that Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz has frantically fought to keep prosecutors from examining may have been planted for police to find by her since-indicted staffer, Imran Awan, along with a letter to the US Attorney. US Capitol Police found the laptop after midnight April 6, 2017, in a tiny room that formerly served as a phone booth in the Rayburn House Office Building, according to a Capitol Police report." Beside "the laptop was a Pakistani ID card, copies of Awan's drivers license and congressional ID badge, and letters to the US attorney." The Daily Caller added, "The laptop had the username 'RepDWS,' even though" Wasserman Schultz "previously said it was Awan's computer and that she had never even seen it."

SLF DIGITAL AD HITS MCCASKILL OVER RUSSIA AMBASSADOR FLAP. The Hill (9/6, Kamisar, 1.68M) reported that the Senate Leadership Fund, a super PAC operated by allies of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, "is launching its opening salvo against" Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO) "ahead of her 2018 reelection campaign by needling her over contact with Russia with a new nickname – 'Comrade Claire.'" The group's "digital ad zeroes in on McCaskill's previous comments about the Russian ambassador." Earlier this year, McCaskill – responding "to reports that Attorney General Jeff Sessions failed to disclose meetings with then-Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak" – said in a tweet "that she had never spoken to or met Russia's ambassador to the" US "during her career in the Senate." However, "tweets surfaced of her commenting on a 2013 meeting and a 2015 phone call with the ambassador. And CNN reported that McCaskill had attended a reception at Kislyak's house back in 2015." The SLF ad "rehashes the controversy."

STUDY: PERCENTAGE OF US WHITE CHRISTIANS DROPS TO 43%, BUT THEY MAKE UP 73% OF GOP. USA Today (9/6, Singer, 8.62M) reports, "White Christians are no longer a majority in America, but they still make up nearly three-quarters of the" GOP, "according to a sweeping new study of faith in America being released Wednesday. White Christians accounted for 80% of the US population when Jimmy Carter was president; that number had dropped to 54% by 2006, and white Christians now make up only 43% of the US population." However, "the GOP remains about 73% white Christian – down slightly from 10 years ago – and 35% evangelical, despite the fact that white evangelical protestants now make up only 17% of the U.S. population, according to the yearlong survey of more than 100,000 people by PRRI, a public policy research firm that specializes in issues of faith. By contrast, fewer than one-third of Democrats are white Christians, down from about 50% a decade ago."

The Washington Times (9/6, Richardson, 541K) reports that PRRI CEO Robert P. Jones, "author of 'The End of White Christian America,' said the data suggest that [president] Trump's 'unlikely victory is better understood as the death rattle of White Christian America' rather than its resuscitation. 'Twenty years from now, there is little chance that 2016 will be celebrated as the revival of White Christian America, no matter how many Christian right leaders are installed in positions of power over the next four years,' Mr. Jones wrote in an article in The Atlantic a few days before the survey was

published. 'Rather, this election will most likely be remembered as the one in which white evangelicals traded away their integrity and influence in a gambit to resurrect their past.'"

POLL: MOORE LEADS STRANGE 52%-36% IN SEPT. 26 GOP PRIMARY RUNOFF. In a report on the Alabama special election for the former seat of Attorney General Sessions, the Huntsville (AL) Times (9/6, Gattis, 734K) says that a Southeast Research poll of 401 likely Republican runoff voters, taken Aug. 29-31, shows ex-state Supreme Court Justice Roy Moore leading appointed Sen. Luther Strange 52%-36% in the Sept. 26 GOP primary runoff; 12% were undecided. The Times adds, "It's the third post-primary poll that has reflected a double-digit lead for Moore. ... Two other polls, while still putting Moore in the lead, had Strange within the margin of error for a statistical tie."

House Freedom Caucus Chair Meadows Endorses Moore. The Hill (9/6, Kamisar, 1.68M) reported that House Freedom Caucus Chair Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC) on Wednesday backed Moore over Strange in the runoff, "spurning the incumbent backed by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and President Trump." Meadows, in a statement, "took a swipe at McConnell and his allied super PAC, the Senate Leadership Fund, which has spent millions on the airwaves to boost Strange. 'The people of Alabama are seeing millions of dollars in false advertising flow into their state. From what I know about the people of Alabama, their vote is NOT for sale. They want a strong man – a principled conservative – to send a clear message to Washington, D.C...that his vote can't be bought either,' Meadows said."

Roll Call (9/6, Garcia, 134K) reported that Moore vowed "to work with Meadows if he is elected to the Senate and praised the work of the Freedom Caucus. 'I look forward to partnering with him and other members of the House Freedom Caucus to bring real conservative change to Washington, as the first Freedom Caucus member of the United States Senate,' he said in [a] statement." Politico (9/6, Strauss, 3.6M) reported that Moore on Tuesday "was endorsed by the Senate Conservatives Fund and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee. He was also recently endorsed by former White House chief strategist Steve Bannon and Rep. Jody Hice (R-Ga.)."

Strange's First Ad Of Runoff Labels Moore A "40-Year Politician." Meanwhile, The Hill (9/6, Shelbourne, 1.68M) reported that Strange, in "his first television ad" of the runoff, labels Moore "a '40-year politician.'" The spot levies "multiple attacks against Moore, including one about the pay he received in his work at the Foundation for Moral Law, which he founded. 'Forty-year politician Roy Moore, in the Montgomery swamp. Roy Moore, it's all about him. That's risky for us,' the narrator says in the ad."

ZINKE'S WIFE TO SERVE AS MONTANA SENATE HOPEFUL DOWNING'S CAMPAIGN CHAIR. The AP (9/6) reports that Lolita Zinke, wife of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, is supporting storage company CEO Troy Downing's (R) 2018 bid to unseat Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT). Downing on Wednesday announced that Lolita Zinke will serve as "his campaign chairwoman, assisting Downing and his campaign staff." The AP adds that Ryan Zinke, a former congressman, "was the Montana GOP's top choice to take on Tester until President Donald Trump picked him for the cabinet post."

Tester: Congress Should Perhaps "Take A Solid Look At" Single-Payer Healthcare. The Hill (9/6, Roubein, 1.68M) reported that Tester, who faces what's expected to be a competitive reelection race next year, on Wednesday "said Congress should perhaps take a 'solid look' at a single-payer health care system." His remarks "during a bipartisan hearing of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee come at a time when more Democrats are getting on board with the idea of government-funded health care. Tester, a centrist," is quoted as saying that "there's been a lot of debate, there's been amendments offered on single payer for political purposes, but maybe not. Maybe it's something we should, quite frankly, take a solid look at."

JURY HEARS OPENING STATEMENTS IN MENENDEZ BRIBERY TRIAL. Reuters (9/6, Ax) reports that the bribery trial of Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ) began on Wednesday with opening statements by prosecutors and defense attorneys "in a case whose outcome could have an outsized impact on a divided Congress in Washington, D.C." Menendez "is accused of intervening with federal officials on behalf of a wealthy benefactor in exchange for lavish gifts, including luxury vacations and major political contributions." Reuters notes that if Menendez is convicted "and either resigns or is expelled by his colleagues before January, his replacement would be named by New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, a Republican and staunch supporter of President Donald Trump."

Politico (9/6, Friedman, Hutchins, 3.6M) reports that lead federal prosecutor Peter Koski said in his opening statement on Wednesday that "in a corrupt bargain, wealthy Florida eye doctor Salomon Melgen gave Senator Menendez 'a lifestyle that reads like a travel brochure for the rich and the famous' and hundreds of thousands of dollars in political contributions in exchange for official favors." Koski "laid out the corruption case against Menendez and Melgen, his co-defendant, telling jurors in federal court that the New Jersey Democrat had accepted bribe after bribe from a wealthy Florida doctor who wanted one thing: His influence." In his opening statement on Wednesday afternoon, Menendez's attorney, Abbe Lowell, "said the prosecution's arguments are moot because there was no bribery – no intent to accept a quid pro quo. 'It is that one word, friendship, that the evidence will show was the true nature' of their relationship, Lowell said."

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The Washington Post (9/6, Barrett, 10.38M) reports that Koski told jurors, "This is what bribery looks like. These two defendants corrupted one of the most powerful offices in our country. The defendants didn't just trade money for power, they also tried to cover it up." Lowell, on the other hand, "accused the Justice Department of trying to paint a decades-long friendship as something sinister and criminal. 'It is wrong for a public official to violate the public trust, but it's equally wrong for an innocent man to be charged,' he said. 'The evidence will be that Bob Menendez and Sal Melgen have a real friendship.'"

The New York Times (9/6, Corasaniti, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that "as both the prosecution and the defense presented their opening statements in the federal corruption case against" Menendez and Melgen, "they offered little in the way of new evidence or facts," and instead "debated questions that will be central to the case: What constitutes a permissible friendship with a politician? What represents an official act by a senator? And whom does a senator work for and represent?"

IN POTENTIAL BOOST FOR DEMOCRATS, GOP REP. REICHERT WON'T SEEK REELECTION. The Washington Post (9/6, Weigel, 10.38M) reports that Rep. Dave Reichert (R-WA) on Wednesday announced that he won't seek reelection next year – a decision that creates "a political opportunity for Democrats." The Post says Reichert "is one of 23 Republicans who represents a district where voters picked Hillary Clinton for president over Donald Trump." Writing for Roll Call (9/6, Gonzales, 134K), Nathan Gonzales said that Reichert's decision to not seek reelection in the "competitive" WA8 provides "Democrats a prime takeover target." Gonzales said that Clinton carried the WA8 "48-45 percent in 2016, according to calculations by Daily Kos Elections – but the political environment is unlikely to be neutral with an unpopular Republican president in the White House. Without knowing the party nominees, Democrats should start a 2018 open seat race with an initial advantage. We're changing the Inside Elections rating of the" contest "from Solid Republican to Tilt Democratic."

The AP (9/6, Corte, Daly) reports that Reichert, "a former sheriff known for his work that led to the capture of a serial killer convicted of killing 49 women, has represented" the "suburban district east of Seattle since 2005. It's one of four Republican-held House seats in a state where Democrats make up the majority of the congressional delegation." Politico (9/6, Schneider, 3.6M) reported that Reichert "has frustrated Democrats for more than a decade by holding on to the central Washington seat, even as Democratic presidential candidates continued to win the district." The Hill (9/6, Wilson, 1.68M) reported, "A senior Republican strategist who had been aware of Reichert's plans to retire said state Sen. Dino Rossi (R) was considering mounting a bid. Rossi, serving out an appointment to an open state Senate seat through November, narrowly lost two gubernatorial bids in 2004 and 2008."

GOP REP. MURPHY ADMITS TO EXTRAMARITAL AFFAIR. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (9/6, Ward, 516K) reports that Rep. Tim Murphy (R-PA) "publicly admitted Wednesday to having an extramarital affair with a personal friend, issuing a statement about the relationship hours after the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette prevailed in a court motion to unseal a divorce action." The congressman "is not a party to the divorce," but "the husband in the case, Jesse Sally, a sports medicine physician, sought in July to depose" Murphy "as part of his divorce from Shannon Edwards, a forensic psychologist." In a statement, Murphy said, "Last year I became involved in an affair with a personal friend. This is nobody's fault but my own, and I offer no excuses. To the extent that there should be any blame in this matter, it falls solely upon me."

Drawing from the Post-Gazette story, the Washington Examiner (9/6, Correll, 465K) reports, "Murphy and Edwards met when Edwards contacted Murphy's office to assist with a mental health bill, which was signed into law in December. Edwards said her relationship with Murphy was only friendly at first and they worked very hard to pass legislation to help her clients. Edwards said her relationship with Murphy has ended."

KOCHS-BACKED GROUP TAKES AIM AT NORTHAM IN NEW AD. The Washington Post (9/6, Nirappil, 10.38M) reports that the Koch brothers-backed group Americans for Prosperity (AFP) is wading into this fall's race to succeed term-limited Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D), taking aim at Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam (D) "as part of a multi-million dollar campaign." An ad set to begin airing today attacks Northam "for missing board meetings of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership." The Post says, "In 2014, while Northam served on its board of directors, the agency approved a $1.4 million state grant to a Chinese firm that promised to open a factory in Appomattox County but never did. The money was never returned to the state." AFP spokesman Levi Russell "said the ad buy ranges from $1 million to $2 million, and will run for two weeks." Northam is battling ex-RNC chief Ed Gillespie (R) in the general election.

Obama-Supported Redistricting Group Donates $500K To Help Boost Northam. In another report, the Washington Post (9/6, Nirappil, 10.38M) says, "A Democratic group backed by former President Barack Obama recently made its first campaign donation: $500,000 to the Democratic Party of Virginia to help" boost the bid of Northam. The donation "from the National Democratic Redistricting Committee (NDRC) is part of its mission to end Republican advantages in congressional and legislative redistricting after the 2020 US Census. The group, formed in January and led by former

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Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr., aims to elect more Democrats to statehouses and governor's mansions so they can expand their influence when it comes to redrawing districts."

Gillespie Outlines Plan To Reform State's Criminal Justice System. In a third article, the Washington Post (9/6, Schneider, 10.38M) reports that Gillespie on Wednesday "called for criminal justice reform that goes beyond what the GOP-controlled state legislature has so far been willing to embrace, including raising the state's felony threshold to $500 from $200 and softening marijuana enforcement. Speaking at a black-owned barbershop and surrounded by a number of local pastors and social workers who deal with people returning to the community from prison, Gillespie said he wants a system that is 'just, fair and redeeming. I believe in redemption.' Gillespie also cast his proposals in economic terms, pointing out that the state spends more than $1 billion a year on incarceration."

The Washington Times (9/6, McLaughlin, 541K) reports, "Breaking with the tough-on-crime stance that defined Virginia Republicans for decades...Gillespie laid out a plan Wednesday to try to keep drug users from ending up incarcerated. Dubbed 'three strikes and you're in,' Mr. Gillespie's proposal would keep marijuana users from having to serve jail time until their third convictions for possession." The Times adds, "On the policy spectrum, the push moves Mr. Gillespie closer to the calls for decriminalizing pot that [Northam] has embraced and away from the hard-nosed approach to crime traditionally espoused by Republican leaders."

DAYS AFTER PRITZKER DONATED $100K TO BLAGOJEVICH CAMP, HOLOCAUST MUSEUM GOT $1M GRANT. The Chicago Tribune (9/6, Heinzmann, Lighty, 1.98M) reported that in October of 2006, billionaire investor J.B. Pritzker (D), who is now seeking to take on Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner (R) in next year's election, "was raising money to build a Holocaust museum in north suburban Chicago." At the same time, then-Gov. Rod Blagojevich (D) "was raising money for his re-election campaign. ... On Oct. 27, Pritzker and his wife gave $100,000 in campaign contributions to Friends of Blagojevich." On Oct. 31 – "a week before the election – Blagojevich announced he was giving a $1 million state grant to support construction of the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center in Skokie. Pritzker was the museum's chief fundraiser. Asked Tuesday whether there was any connection between the $100,000 campaign contribution and the state grant, Pritzker said he didn't 'recall specifically' either the contribution or the grant."

Democrat Biss Drops Running Mate Over Stance On Israel. The Chicago Tribune (9/6, Pearson, 1.98M) reports that state Sen. Daniel Biss (D-IL) on Wednesday announced "he has dropped his running mate of less than a week over differences involving Israel's future. The decision represents a major embarrassment for Biss," raising "questions about his first major decision as a statewide candidate, as well as the vetting process he used to select Northwest Side Ald. Carlos Ramirez-Rosa as his" running mate. Biss "said issues related to Israel were 'deeply personal' to him with an 'Israeli mother, grandparents who survived the Holocaust and great-grandparents who did not survive' and that the position Ramirez-Rosa took had changed since being interviewed for the running mate slot." Biss "said that while he supported a two-state solution involving Israel's right to exist and 'political and economic freedom for Palestinians,' Ramirez-Rosa has moved in favor of the 'Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement' that Biss said 'moves us further away from a peaceful solution' in the Middle East."

The Chicago Sun-Times (9/6, Sfondeles, 742K) reports, "At issue are comments Ramirez-Rosa made last year about US divestment from Israel," in which the Democrat "said the US government 'has subsidized the oppression of the Palestinian people, and it's time that stopped.' 'I have not heard much discussion about the relationship of the US with Israel, with divesting from Israel to support the people of Palestine. Not a lot of that was discussed this weekend. And I think that's a conversation it needs to be had,' Ramirez-Rosa said."

Under the headline "Battle For Bernie Voters Backfires In Illinois," Politico (9/6, Korecki, 3.6M) reported that Biss' selection of "a far left running mate who was a proud member of the Democratic Socialists of America" was "designed to lure Bernie Sanders voters in a competitive Democratic governor's primary." And while Biss' "decision to drop Rosa might serve to allay some consternation in the Jewish community, it appeared to anger a major pro-Sanders group representing Illinois. 'Today, we are disappointed and shocked to learn that Sen. Biss has chosen to drop Ald. Ramirez-Rosa from the ticket,' said a statement from Our Revolution, the senator's outside political arm."

DEMOCRATIC-ALIGNED SUPER PAC AIMS TO HELP PARTY WIN BACK STATEHOUSES. Politico (9/6, Debenedetti, 3.6M) reported, "Aiming to play a similar role as Senate Majority PAC does for Senate races and House Majority PAC does for House races, Forward Majority" – a Democrat-aligned super PAC – "is launching this week as a vehicle for winning back state legislatures ahead of the next round of redistricting in 2021. Led by a group of Barack Obama campaign alums and veterans of Democratic politics and the business world, the organization is kicking off with a $1 million prototype effort to play in races for Virginia's House of Delegates this year. It's aiming to raise up to $100 million to win back legislative bodies in 12 states over the next four years." Politico added, "Democrats have lost roughly 1,000 legislative seats and 27 chambers since 2008."

The Washington Times (9/6, McLaughlin, 541K) reports that leaders of the super PAC say "the push in Virginia is part of a broader effort aimed at taking over as many as eight legislative chambers in 2018 and as many as eight more in 2020 – putting Democrats in a stronger position the following year when it is time to update legislative and congressional maps."

CHARGE DROPPED AGAINST WEST VIRGINIA REPORTER WHO QUESTIONED PRICE. The New York Times (9/6, B2, Stevens, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that Dan Heyman, a West Virginia reporter "who was arrested four months ago after he aggressively questioned Tom Price, the secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, will not be prosecuted, officials announced Wednesday." The May 9 arrest of Heyman "had stoked concerns about possible efforts to stymie the free press." The Times adds that "in a joint statement released by the Kanawha County prosecutor's office and Mr. Heyman's legal team said that the State had determined 'after a careful review' that Mr. Heyman had not acted unlawfully." Heyman had been charged with a misdemeanor count of willful disruption of governmental processes. Heyman, a reporter for the Public News Service, "has maintained that he was simply asking questions of a federal official as that official walked through the West Virginia State Capitol."

HOUSE UNANIMOUSLY PASSES SWEEPING SELF-DRIVING CAR LEGISLATION. Reuters (9/6, Shepardson) reports that the House of Representatives on Wednesday unanimously passed a "sweeping proposal" to expedite the deployment of self-driving cars and prevent states from rejecting the vehicles in legislation that "would allow automakers to obtain exemptions to deploy up to 25,000 vehicles without meeting existing auto safety standards in the first year, a cap that would rise to 100,000 vehicles annually over three years." A bipartisan group in the Senate has been composing a similar bill that could begin to circulate this week.

The New York Times (9/6, Kang, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that the House vote "sets the stage for a battle between safety advocates and companies that make driverless vehicles." Automakers tout self-driving cars' ability to reduce traffic fatalities and spur economic growth, but safety advocates say autonomous vehicle are not ready for wide distribution.

BANNON GIVES "60 MINUTES" INTERVIEW. Breitbart (9/6, Fleuette, 2.42M) reports that Breitbart News Executive Chairman Steve Bannon hosted CBS's Charlie Rose at Breitbart's famed "Embassy" headquarters near Capitol Hill to film a segment for Sunday's episode of "60 minutes." The visit included an extended interview with Bannon – his first television interview since his departure from the White House – in which Bannon "offered a full-throated defense of the president and his economic nationalist agenda," according to one source. 60 Minutes plans to use the footage in two separate segments for their Sunday show.

FEDERAL JUDGE HALTS REMOVAL OF ROBERT E. LEE STATUE IN DALLAS. The New York Times (9/6, Stack, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that the Texas US District Court Judge Sidney Fitzwater granted a temporary restraining order on Wednesday halting the removal of a statue of Robert E. Lee from a Dallas public park after the city voted earlier Wednesday for its immediate removal. The city had "planned to put the statue, which shows the Confederate general riding on horseback alongside an unidentified soldier, in temporary storage."

NATIONAL CATHEDRAL TO REMOVE WINDOWS DEPICTING CONFEDERATE GENERALS. The New York Times (9/6, Cochrane, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that church leaders at Washington National Cathedral voted Tuesday night in an "overwhelming majority" to removed two stained-glass windows "that pay tribute to the Confederate generals Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson," concluding that the windows "tell an incomplete and misleading account of our history."

LEGAL FIGHT ENSUES OVER KENTUCKY'S LAST ABORTION CLINIC. The Los Angeles Times (9/6, Zavis, 4.49M) reports on the legal battle between Dr. Ernest Marshall – a Kentucky doctor who has performed abortions in the state for 37 years – and the government of Gov. Matt Bevin, who is seeking to close the state's last abortion clinic. State regulators have tried to close the clinic on grounds that the facility lacks the appropriate licensing requirements, but the clinic "has countered with a federal lawsuit arguing that the requirements lack any medical justification and place an unconstitutional barrier before women seeking abortions." The case went to trial Wednesday with hearings expected to last three days.

PERRIELLO CALLS FOR VIRGINIA TO CREATE A "TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION ON RACE." In a Washington Post (9/6, 10.38M) op-ed, ex-Rep. Tom Perriello (D-VA), a failed 2017 Virginia gubernatorial candidate, writes, "In the 19th century, emancipation and Reconstruction sparked lynchings and the Ku Klux Klan. In the early 20th, the emergence of a black middle class and an influx of immigration sparked Lost Cause Confederate revisionism, eugenics-based immigration quotas and the firing of African Americans from the federal workforce. In our own time, the election of our first black president unleashed a wave of white supremacism, including in my home town of Charlottesville. ... It is time we break this cycle. Virginia should establish a statewide Truth and Reconciliation Commission on race that could bend this endless loop of progress and backlash into an arc of justice."

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COMPETITIVE ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE ATTORNEY: CONGRESS SHOULD END CFPB NEW ARBITRATION RULE. In an Wall Street Journal (9/6, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) op-ed, Competitive Enterprise Institute attorney Ted Frank writes that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau issued a rule in July preventing financial institutions from including arbitration clauses in their contracts – meaning customers would need to go through class-action lawsuits that cost consumers billions. Frank argues that this rule mainly benefits trial lawyers and that Congress should vote to repeal this CFPB regulation, which it has power to do under the Congressional Review Act of 1996.

WPOST: HOGAN'S OPPOSITION TO METRO FUNDING "INEXCUSABLE." In an editorial, the Washington Post (9/6, 10.38M) writes that Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan's opposition to provide any further funding for the DC Metro – citing relatively high cost and low ridership – overlooks Montgomery County's importance to Maryland as an economic hub and as a county reliant on functioning transit. The Post argues that Hogan's refusal of funds is "an inexcusable abdication of leadership" and threatens the "region itself."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"A Devious Threat To A Nuclear Deal."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (9/7, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) blasts the Administration for its "scheme," as presented by Nikki Haley, to sabotage the Iran nuclear deal, "despite its clear benefits to American security," while shifting "final responsibility to Congress." The Times says Haley is "wrong" that the President can declare Iran is not fulfilling the agreement, despite "technical compliance with the nuclear-related commitments," based on "other destabilizing or objectionable behavior." The Times warns that without a "plausible alternative for restraining Iran's nuclear ambitions" such a move will draw "outrage" from the other parties to the agreement, "invites Iran to pursue an unfettered path to a bomb," and will encourage North Korea to continue pursuing its nuclear program.

"The Murder Of An Indian Journalist." In an editorial, the New York Times (9/7, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) uses the murder of Indian journalist Gauri Lankesh to condemn the "climate of mob rule" that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has let "flourish in India," including a "climate of menace against journalists who didn't toe the Hindu-nationalist line." The Times warns that "if Mr. Modi doesn't condemn her murder forcefully and denounce the harassment and threats that critics of Hindu militancy face daily, more critics will live in fear of deadly reprisal and Indian democracy will see dark days."

"City To The News: Hang In."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Trump's Messy And Muddled Reasoning On DACA."*** A Washington Post (9/6, 10.38M) editorial says both President Trump and Attorney General Sessions "have been clear: The responsibility of saving the 'dreamers' is now on Congress's shoulders." The Post argues that they "owe the public a better explanation as to why the president rescinded" DACA, saying the "vague and haphazard account of the legal reasoning behind DACA's termination is far from a sufficient rationale for a decision on which so many lives rely."

"Cambodia's Ruthless Leader Is Stepping Up His Authoritarian Regime." In an editorial, the Washington Post (9/6, 10.38M) writes that Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen has increased his "repressive" campaign to quash independent news media and political opposition in his country ahead of the June 2018 elections – most recently arresting opposition leader Kem Sokha on Sunday for treason and fining the independent Cambodia Daily millions. The Post argues these government actions, among others, are quickly "transforming a malfunctioning democracy into a fully authoritarian state."

"Larry Hogan To Metro: Drop Dead." In an editorial, the Washington Post (9/6, 10.38M) writes that Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan's opposition to provide any further funding for the DC Metro – citing relatively high cost and low ridership – overlooks Montgomery County's importance to Maryland as an economic hub and as a county reliant on functioning transit. The Post argues that Hogan's refusal of funds is "an inexcusable abdication of leadership" and threatens the "region itself."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Pelosi-Schumer-Trump Congress."*** In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (9/6, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) argues President Trump's deal with Democratic congressional leaders is a bad one for Trump and Republicans, but puts much of the blame for the President's decision on what it casts as a dysfunctional GOP caucus, which has seemed unable to agree on much and has failed to move on the President's agenda.

"Teen Pregnancy Subsidy Panic." A Wall Street Journal (9/6, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) editorial defends the Trump Administration's decision to redirect funding for teen-pregnancy prevention programs, arguing that the programs have proven ineffective. While Senate Democrats cite a decline in teen birth rates, the Journal argues the HHS programs, which reach less than one percent of American teens, do not deserve the credit.

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"Trump's Malaysia Swamp." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (9/6, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) argues that President Trump should cancel his White House meeting next week with Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, who jailed an opposition leader on dubious charges and has been linked by the Justice Department to stealing $4.5 billion from a state-owned fund.

The Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Trump Stuns GOP By Dealing With Democrats On Debt, Harvey Aid
President Trump Unlikely To Nominate Gary Cohn To Become Fed Chairman
'Hurricane Deductibles' Shift Home-Repair Costs To Consumers
Behind North Korea's Nuclear Advance: Scientists Who Bring Technology Home

New York Times:
Trump Bypasses Republicans To Strike Deal On Debt Limit And Harvey Aid
Hurricane Irma, One Of The Most Powerful In History, Roars Across Caribbean
A Funeral Of 2 Friends: CIA Deaths Rise In Secret Afghan War
Democrats Begin Legal Assault On Trump's Move To End "Dreamer" Program
Fake Russian Facebook Accounts Bought $100,000 In Political Ads
Sale Of Brooklyn Housing Complex Would Benefit Trump
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Facebook Sold $100,000 In Political Ads To Russian Firm
Monstrous Irma Slams Caribbean, Takes Aim At Fla.
Worry, Hope And Boredom Mingle In A Houston Shelter
Sickness, Shortage As Venezuela Crumbles

Financial Times:
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Washington Times:
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White Christians Represent Minority Of US Population, But Religious Right Says It Still Has Might
With Only 30% Approval Rating, French President Takes Risk By Proposing Labor Law Reforms
Gillespie Breaks With Tough-On-Crime Virginia Republicans, Offers Plan To Keep Pot Users Out Of Jail
Gruden, Back To Calling Plays, Draws On Lifetime Of Experience

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Hurricane Irma-Carribean; Hurricane Irma-Forecast; Hurricane Irma-Florida; Hurricane Irma-Miami; Hurricane Irma-Transportation; Trump-Budget Deal; DACA Repeal-Responses; Texas-Police Vehicle Grand Theft; NFL Player-Police Violence; Facebook-Russia Meddling; Dresser Recall; Jody Messina-Cancer; Hurricane Irma.
CBS: Hurricane Irma-Puerto Rico; Hurricane Irma-Florida; Hurricane Irma-Miami; Hurricane Irma-Forecast; Hurricane Harvey-Recovery; DACA Repeal-Responses; Trump-Budget Deal; Chicago Violence; Hillary Clinton Memoir; NFL Player-Police Violence; Small Pickup Trucks-Safety Ratings; West Coast-Wildfires; Lego-Job Cuts.
NBC: Hurricane Irma-Forecast; Hurricane Irma-Puerto Rico; Hurricane Irma-Florida; Hurricane Irma-Miami; Congress-FEMA Budget; Trump-Budget Deal; DACA Repeal-Responses; West Coast-Wildfires; NFL Player-Police Violence; Texas-Police Vehicle Grand Theft; Womens Tennis-US Open; Fallen Officer's Child; Teacher-Gift For Students.

Network TV At A Glance:
Hurricane Irma – 27 minutes, 30 seconds
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Trump-Budget Deal – 4 minutes, 5 seconds
West Coast-Wildfires – 1 minute, 50 seconds

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ABC: Hurricane Irma; Trump-Budget Deal; Wall Street News.
CBS: Hurricane Irma; Trump-Budget Deal; North Korea Threats; Wall Street News.
FOX: Hurricane Irma; Facebook-Russia Meddling; Trump-Tax Plan.
NPR: Hurricane Harvey-Recovery; Hurricane Irma; DACA Repeal-Responses.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Kimmel: "There are actually three hurricanes out in the ocean right now. Irma, Katia, and Jose. And you know Jose is heading right for a Trump Hotel."

Stephen Colbert: "School is back in session, and so is Congress! Don't forget to pick up your back-to-Congress supplies. Pens to make laws. A really cool trapper keeper to keep your laws in. A mustache to hide from voters when they find out what laws you passed. A copy of 'The Art of the Deal' to curry favor with the President. A copy of 'Yertle the Turtle' to curry favor with Mitch McConnell. A cedar wardrobe to hang up your soul before you vote. Clorox wipes to sanitize anything Ted Cruz touches. And finally a spine remover for when you disregard what's best for the country and vote along party lines."

Stephen Colbert: "Another hurricane, Irma, is bearing down on Florida. It's the largest Atlantic hurricane ever reported. Experts say it's the size of France. Hey! This is America! We measure things in Delawares."

Stephen Colbert: "If there are any die-hard Hillary fans out there, you can see her in person when she goes on her book tour to spots like Michigan and Wisconsin. Again, a little late to be going to Michigan and Wisconsin."

James Corden: "Donald Trump tweeted about the hurricane in an odd way today. He wrote on Twitter, 'Hurricane looks like the largest ever recorded in the Atlantic, exclamation point.' Who uses an exclamation point in a, how insecure is this guy that he even has to brag that his hurricanes are bigger than Obama's? I mean, I understand, in a way. In Trump's defense, it's rare that he sees a natural disaster bigger than his Administration. "

Trevor Noah: "You know that Trump doesn't even care about the wall, right? He just wants to get the government to shut down so he doesn't have to work."

Trevor Noah: "So for Hurricane Harvey counting on federal aid, things were looking really bleak. But then at roughly 12:30 p.m. Eastern Time, a true miracle took place, the thing you never would expect to happen actually happened. Donald Trump made a deal."

Trevor Noah: " The government has shown that it still can function. The bad news is that it takes a hurricane to get them going. The good news is that there are more hurricanes coming. The bad news is that they're hurricanes."

Jimmy Fallon: "Did you see this today? Dennis Rodman offered to straighten things out between Trump and Kim Jong-Un. People were like, 'I can' believe I'm saying this, but let's give it a shot.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Meanwhile, Disney's CEO Bob Iger spoke out against Trump's decision to end the DACA immigration program, calling it cruel and misguided. And so to get back at Disney, Trump deported all the singing dolls from 'It's a Small World.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Former Press Secretary Sean Spicer will give his first paid speech this month here in New York City. They're saying you should get tickets now because there's only all of them left."

Seth Meyers: "President Trump broke with Republicans today and struck a deal with Democrats on a short-term extension of the debt ceiling. And you know what that means! No, you don't. Neither do I."

Seth Meyers: "As Hurricane Irma hit the Caribbean this morning, President Trump tweeted, 'Hurricane looks like largest ever recorded in the Atlantic!' Hey, man, could you try not to sound so excited?"

Seth Meyers: "When asked today if he is considering military action against North Korea, President Trump told reporters, 'Certainly, that's not a first choice, but we will see what happens.' Which is scary because Trump doesn't usually go with his first choice."

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TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2017 7:30 AM EDT

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+ WPost A1: Conservative Charities Fueled Trump's Exit From Climate Accord.
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Leading the News:

SENATE PANEL TO BEGIN HEARINGS IN BIPARTISAN EFFORT TO IMPROVE ACA MARKETPLACES. The Washington Post (9/5, Goldstein, Eilperin, 10.38M) reports the Senate's Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee will hold the first of four hearings seeking to build agreement on strengthening the Affordable Care Act's insurance marketplaces, in "the closest collaboration between Republicans and Democrats in years." Chairman Lamar Alexander and ranking Democrat Patty Murray "are eager to" mandate "cost-sharing reduction" payments, which President Trump has threatened to end. However, the two disagree on the duration of the subsidies, granting insurers flexibility over "essential health benefits" coverage, and the creation of a "reinsurance" pool to defray insurers' costs for policyholders with costly medical conditions. The Post adds that this effort could result in "a practical bipartisan response acknowledging" the continued existence of the insurance exchanges or demonstrate "that the ACA is so politically toxic that compromise on it eludes even the senators most open to collaboration on health policy."

The Washington Examiner (9/5, King, 465K) reports that if the Senate can reach agreement, "then Alexander hopes to get something passed out of the upper chamber by the end of the month and added he hasn't talked with anybody in the House."

Separately, the Washington Examiner (9/6, King, Leonard, 465K) reports that "lawmakers are hoping to come up with a plan by Sept. 27 in order to make an impact on premiums," which must be approved by states.

CONGRESS EXPECTED TO WORK ON "MORE MODEST" ACA CHANGES. Bloomberg News (9/5, Edney, 4.52M) reports that Congress has reconvened, and intends to make some changes to the Affordable Care Act, but lawmakers' "ambitions are more modest" this time. The article says a small, bipartisan bill has a much better chance of being passed than previous attempts to overhaul the ACA. The measure is expected "to include money for 'CSR' payments to insurers that help defray low-income Americans' health costs."

Similarly, Dylan Scott writes in a Vox (9/5, 1.54M) piece that the prospects for bipartisan action on stabilizing the ACA "in the aftermath of the failed GOP bid to repeal and replace it are about to be thoroughly tested." He argues that ultimately, the bill "isn't likely to contain much: just payments to insurers that help cover reduced out-of-pocket costs for lower-income Americans and some additional state flexibility under a waiver program set up under Obamacare."

The Hill (9/5, Roubein, 1.68M) reports that almost 100 groups want Congress "to quickly pass a bipartisan bill to stabilize the ObamaCare insurance markets as the Senate Health Committee gears up for a series of hearings on the issue beginning Wednesday." The groups wrote to top Republicans and Democrats, saying that they want Congress to take certain steps to stabilize ACA marketplaces, and provide funding for outreach and enrollment efforts.

SENATE EXPECTED TO FOCUS ON "PATCHING CRACKS" IN ACA MARKETPLACES INSTEAD OF REPEAL. Margot Sanger-Katz writes in the New York Times (9/6, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) "The Upshot" blog that following its return from recess, "the Senate will do something it hasn't done in seven years: hold bipartisan hearings on the future of the Affordable Care Act. Serious and creative ideas will be presented." She adds that according to some experts, even though lawmakers agree ACA marketplaces need to be stabilized, "very few reforms have any chance of becoming law before insurers begin selling Obamacare plans for next year." Therefore, the most likely scenario, assuming any action is taken, "will simply be to patch cracks in the market caused by President Trump and prevent him from doing more damage."

The Secretary in the News:

DEMOCRATIC GROUP INTENDS TO ATTACK PRICE, GOP OVER ACA REPEAL EFFORTS. The New York Times (9/5, Shear, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that this fall, Protect Our Care, a coalition of Democratic organizations, intends to attack "President Trump and Republican lawmakers for attempting to undermine the success of" the Affordable Care Act. The group plans to spend about $1 million on digital ads, launch a website which is "highly critical" of HHS Secretary Tom Price, and organize rallies and protests in ten states whose GOP lawmakers voted to repeal the ACA. The group also said it intends "to highlight what Mr. Price says about the Affordable Care Act and efforts

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he makes to undermine it." Apart from the website, the group will "begin an aggressive media campaign designed to make people question Mr. Price's statements and actions."

Protect Our Care Says It Is Impossible To Replace ACA Outreach Funding Cut By Trump Administration. The Washington Examiner (9/5, King, 465K) reports that Protect Our Care "is doubtful that outside spending can make up for a steep cut in ad funding for Obamacare outreach." Nevertheless, it said on Tuesday that "it is meeting with other outside groups on what it can do to make up for a 90 percent cut to ad funding announced by the Trump administration last week."

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE SWEARS IN NEW SURGEON GENERAL. USA Today (9/5, Groppe, 8.62M) reports that Vice President Pence swore in Jerome Adams, an anesthesiologist with a master's degree in public health, as the new surgeon general. Vice President Pence previously appointed Adams as Indiana's health commissioner when he was governor and praised him for his work "reducing the state's infant mortality rate, dealing with the nation's first case of the MERS virus, and containing the HIV outbreak caused by the injection of oral painkillers in Southern Indiana." Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator Seema Verma, who worked with Adams in Indiana, attended the ceremony. Adams said that he is eager to start helping victims of Hurricane Harvey as the "nation's doctor" and reaffirmed his commitment to "letting the science lead him to facilitating locally-led solutions to difficult health problems."

The Hill (9/5, Roubein, 1.68M) adds that Adams said his motto will be to "create better health through better partnerships" in an effort to address wide-ranging health issues, such as the opioid epidemic, childhood obesity, and mental health.

REPUBLICANS' APPROACH TO ACA POST-REPEAL DEBATE REMAINS TO BE SEEN. The Washington Post (9/5, 10.38M) "PowerPost" blog reports that it remains to be seen how Republicans will "approach the ACA's marketplaces as they open for a fifth enrollment season in November." However, "one clue came late last week when Tom Price's Health and Human Services Department announced it would slash funds that encourage people to enroll in the marketplaces." This move "comes as insurers in federal-run marketplaces are scheduled today to finalize their 2018 rates, and they're supposed to sign final contracts for next year on Sept. 27." While the Administration have been funding cost-sharing reductions subsidies to insurers "on a month-to-month basis," this approach has failed "to give them long-term certainty." An official with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services said, "The issue at hand is the law is not working. There are fundamental problems within the [ACA]. It's just not working. We can't fix something that is broken without changes at the congressional level."

MAN CHARGED WITH DISORDERLY CONDUCT AFTER ASKING QUESTION AT SEN. TOOMEY'S TOWN HALL. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (9/6, Potter, 516K) reports that a man who asked a question of Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA) at a Thursday town hall was removed from the televised event and charged with disorderly conduct and disrupting a public meeting. Simon Radecki asked the senator, "Can you confirm whether or not your daughter Bridget has been kidnapped?" After a four-second pause, he said "The reason I ask is because that's the reality of families that suffer deportation..." The article mentions a May incident when a West Virginia reporter was arrested after "aggressively questioning" Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price.

HHS in the News:

PROBLEMS WITH FINANCIAL ACCESS TO MEDICATION MORE COMMON AMONG CANCER SURVIVORS, STUDY SUGGESTS. Reuters (9/5, Lehman) reports that "a five-year study" suggests "the percentage of US adults under age 65 who skip essential prescription drugs because of price has declined." However, "consistently, problems with financial access to medication were more common in cancer survivors." In an email to Reuters Health, study co-author K. Robin Yabroff, a researcher with the US Department of Health and Human Services, said, "Spending on prescription drugs to treat cancer has been increasing in the United States, and many newer cancer drugs have annual price tags of $100,000 or more." The findings were published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

HHS TO SPEND $10 MILLION ON ACA'S NAVIGATOR PROGRAM. HealthPayerIntelligence (9/5, Beaton) reports that last week, HHS and CMS said "they will allocate $10 million to support the Affordable Care Act Navigator program, which helps health insurance consumers find coverage solutions during the Open Enrollment period." The article says the program aims "to engage consumers and provide them with information and educational outreach concerning the new health insurance exchanges." Since it took effect in 2013, the program has provided enrollment assistance to some nine million consumers. The piece adds that last year, funding for the program totaled $62.5 million.

MISSOURI'S LIMITED MEDICAID EXPANSION RENEWED, BUT STILL IN JEOPARDY. Modern Healthcare (9/5, Dickson, Subscription Publication, 238K) reports that Missouri's Gateway to Better Health program was granted a "last-minute extension" Friday by CMS Medicaid Director Brian Neale to continue running through 2022. The program covers

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low-income uninsured individuals aged 19 to 64 in the St. Louis metro area. Unlike the Affordable Care Act Medicaid expansion, however, the Gateway to Better Health is funded by disproportionate-share hospital payments and those payments are set to be cut from fiscal 2018 through 2025. The article says, "To preserve Gateway, the CMS would have to alter the DSH rule to protect programs created with waivers after July 2009," because its waiver was not approved until July 28, 2010.

LASKER FOUNDATION TO HONOR NCI RESEARCHERS, PLANNED PARENTHOOD. The Washington Post (9/6, McGinley, 10.38M) reports the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation announced on Wednesday that its Lasker Awards will be given to "two National Cancer Institute researchers whose work led to the development of vaccines that prevent cervical cancer, and to Planned Parenthood for providing 'essential health services and reproductive care' to millions of women." The NCI researchers are acting director Douglas Lowy, and "longtime researcher" John Schiller. The foundation said Lowy and Schiller's work "enabled the development of vaccines for the human papillomavirus." The New York Times (9/6, Murphy, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports the Lasker Awards "will go to Planned Parenthood and two scientists who played a crucial role in developing the vaccine to combat HPV." The Times adds, "each prize comes with $250,000." Lowy and Schiller are being honored for having taken "a bold but calculated approach toward a major public-health problem whose solution required them to vault formidable hurdles." The Times adds that Dr. Lowy and Schiller "have been working together for about 30 years at the National Institutes of Health."

The Los Angeles Times (9/6, Healy, 4.49M) leads its report with the honor for Planned Parenthood, "the 2017 Lasker Award for public service," after which it notes that the foundation "also honored Dr. Douglas Lowy and John Schiller of the National Cancer Institute with its clinical research award." The Wall Street Journal (9/6, Loftus, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) and the AP (9/6, Ritter) also report the news.

ADULT HIV DRUG MAY ALSO PROTECT GAY, BISEXUAL TEENAGE MALES. Reuters (9/5, Seaman) reports a new study in JAMA Pediatrics found that a drug that protects against HIV can be safely used by young men who have sex with men. Researchers found that "in a group of teen boys at high risk for HIV infection, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in the form of a [drug] that combines the drugs emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate was well tolerated." The drug was approved by the FDA in 2012 as Truvada. Trials found the drug "reduced the risk of HIV infection by over 90 percent." However, little evidence was gathered on its use among gay and bisexual adolescent males, "who are among those most at risk HIV infection."

The Connecticut Post (9/5, Cuda, 199K) reports the study was funded by the NIH's Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and the National Institute of Mental Health. Study author Dr. Bill Kapogiannis, of NICHD's Maternal and Pediatric Infectious Diseases Branch, said in a news release: "Several studies have shown that daily oral PrEP is effective in preventing HIV among people at high risk of becoming infected, but none of them included adolescents under age 18. Our study suggests that this therapy can safely reduce HIV risk for those under 18." The article mentions NIH is also funding studies of PrEP therapy for girls and young women.

HealthDay (9/5, Dotinga, 11K) reports the average age of the study participants was 16. Nearly 30 percent were black, 14 percent were white, and 21 percent were Hispanic.

AAP UPDATES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SCREENING, TREATING PEDIATRIC HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE. Newsweek (9/5, Arnold, 991K) reports the American Academy of Pediatrics in August "revised its guidelines for the screening, diagnosis and treatment of high blood pressure in youth, the first time these standards have been updated since 2004." The updated recommendations "simplified the diagnostic procedures for pediatric and adolescent high blood pressure, made the definition for hypertension more similar to adult guidelines and changed the term 'prehypertension' to 'elevated blood pressure.'" The revision "hints at problems to come," given that hypertension now affects 3.5 percent of US children, or over 2.5 million people under age 18. Epidemiological studies have indicated "rates of high blood pressure in children and adolescents have risen in line with higher rates of childhood obesity." Janet de Jesus, a program officer at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, said, "Kids definitely aren't as healthy as they used to be, and these guidelines are going to be a huge asset to the field."

REP. LONG PROMOTES CHILDHOOD CANCER STAR ACT. Rep. Billy Long (R-MO) writes in the Springfield (MO) News-Leader (9/5, Long, 61K) citing National Cancer Institute estimates "that 10,270 children under the age of 14 will be diagnosed with cancer this year," and adding, "sadly, 1,190 of these children won't survive." Long says that to improve this situation, "I recently cosponsored the Childhood Cancer Survivorship, Treatment, Access, and Research (STAR) Act," which "would expand the National Cancer Institute's ongoing research efforts and collect vital information on children participating in clinical trials."

NIH NATIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE AWARD TRAINEE CRITICIZES PROPOSED CUTS TO FEDERALLY-FUNDED

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NON-DEFENSE RESEARCH. Nathaniel Boyd, a NIH National Research Service Award trainee and Ph.D. candidate at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, writes in Alabama Live (9/5, 608K), opposing "major cuts to non-defense funding" that he says are being proposed by the President and Congress. He says that these "cuts have the potential to cripple the work in my lab and others like it across the country," because "grants from the National Institutes of Health" pay "for the materials necessary to perform cutting edge research and the salaries of the lab employees that conduct it."

MULTIPLE MYELOMA PATIENT: NIH NEEDS MORE FUNDING FOR CANCER RESEARCH. In an opinion piece in the Los Angeles Times (9/5, 4.49M), author Frank Lalli describes his treatment with CAR-T therapy for multiple myeloma, saying "fewer than 5% of cancer patients will get into potentially beneficial clinical trials this year, and I am one of them." He adds that since 2003, "under Democratic and Republican administrations, the National Institutes of Health budget has been cut by 15.5%, after inflation. This has left far too little NIH money for basic research and prevention, including for oncology trials."

FEDERAL BUDGET BATTLE LOOMS FOR US SCIENCE, HEALTH PROGRAMS. Nature (9/5, Lallensack, 177K) reports US scientists face uncertainty about the Federal government's 2018 spending plans. Experts believe Congress will likely pass a stopgap funding measure, keeping government agencies at 2017 funding levels until lawmakers agree to a new budget. This means agencies would be unable to start new programs or end old ones without permission from Congress. It is unclear how the funding aid package for Hurricane Harvey will affect negotiations over the budget and the debt limit, but the Senate has "yet to send half of its appropriations bills – including one that funds the National Institutes of Health (NIH) – through the relevant spending committees." Nevertheless, Jennifer Zeitzer, director of legislative relations at the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, said the NIH will "probably get a boost from both the House and Senate," which "seem to be remarkably in agreement" on NIH funding,

Health Reform:

SENATE BILL TO STABILIZE ACA WOULD VALIDATE EFFORTS OF STATE INSURANCE OFFICIALS. Politico (9/5, Cancryn, 3.6M) reports that while congressional lawmakers were "busy bickering over repealing" the ACA, state officials were working "frantically to soothe anxious insurers, tamp down rate increases and insulate their markets from the ceaseless chaos in Washington." The article says the outcome is an ACA system which is "still vulnerable, but far from the 'disaster' President Donald Trump and his top health officials describe." Because of these officials' efforts, at least one insurer is offering ACA plans in every county in the US. The piece adds that a Senate bill that seeks to stabilize ACA marketplaces "would give the insurance system a much-needed shot of certainty heading into the fall open enrollment period," and as far as state officials are concerned, "it would validate the months-long effort it took just to get to this point – and maybe set the stage for more permanent fixes before another crisis hits."

LAWMAKERS EXPECTED TO CONSIDER VARIOUS CHANGES AS PART OF EFFORT TO STABILIZE ACA MARKETPLACES. The Washington Examiner (9/5, Leonard, 465K) reports that this month, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee will hold several hearings to gather information about how to stabilize ACA marketplaces. The article says ACA exchanges "are facing higher gross premiums and fewer choices for customers heading into 2018." The piece adds that it remains to be seen if Congress will pass an ACA stabilization bill, or if such a measure "will make a significant dent in the price of premiums or the choices customers face." Regardless, their discussions are expected to focus on issues such as ACA subsidy payments to insurers, more state flexibility and suspending certain ACA taxes.

INDUSTRY GROUPS URGE CONGRESS TO REPEAL OR POSTPONE TWO ACA TAXES. The Wall Street Journal (9/5, Hackman, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that industry groups are increasing efforts to convince Congress to repeal two Affordable Care Act taxes, one of which applies to medical devices, the other to health insurance plans. The taxes will take effect in a few months unless Congress moves to postpone or repeal them. The article says while many lawmakers believe the taxes should be repealed, they are worried that attaching this matter to other bills could hinder their passage.

Chamber Of Commerce Wants Congress To Repeal ACA Tax On Insurers. The Hill (9/5, Hellmann, 1.68M) reports that the US Chamber of Commerce has "launched a six-figure digital media campaign...urging Congress to repeal an ObamaCare tax on health insurance plans." The tax is an annual fee which insurers are required to pay annually. It has been delayed since 2015, but it is scheduled to take effect in December. The group warns that once the tax becomes effective, "small business owners, families, and seniors" will bear the brunt of it.

GROUPS PRESS SENATE PANEL FOR TWO YEARS OF CSR PAYMENTS. The Hill (9/5, Weixel, 1.68M) reports that in a letter to the Senate Health Committee, insurers, hospitals and other stakeholder groups say they need cost-sharing reduction payments through at least 2019. "Without two years of CSR funding, uncertainty will persist and the Congress will need to address these same issues early next year," wrote the groups which included America's Health Insurance

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Plans, the US Chamber of Commerce, the American Hospital Association and the American Medical Association.

The AP (9/5, Fram) reports the groups wrote that "persistent uncertainty" about the money "is a significant driver of current market instability," the groups wrote, reiterating assessments that ending the payments would further drive up premiums and limit access.

The Washington Examiner (9/5, Leonard, 465K) reports that according to the Congressional Budget Office, "without the funds insurers would raise premiums for next year by an average of 20 percent," resulting in "an increase of $194 billion on the federal deficit."

CALIFORNIA, OTHER STATES WITH INDEPENDENT EXCHANGES TO ALLOW MORE TIME FOR ACA ENROLLMENT. Kaiser Health News (9/5, Bartolone, Rodriguez) reports that several states which run their own ACA exchanges, such as California, "will exempt themselves this year from a new Trump administration rule that cuts in half the amount of time consumers have to buy individual health insurance under the Affordable Care Act." California lawmakers are also mulling legislation which would exempt the state from the requirement in the future. The article says under new Trump Administration rules, consumers have 45 days (November 1 through December 15) to enroll in ACA plans for 2018. But several of these states with independent exchanges are allowing consumers more time. In California, for instance, consumers will have until January 31, 2018 to enroll.

PATTY MURRAY UNVEILS PROPOSAL WHICH AIMS TO STABILIZE ACA EXCHANGES. The Washington Examiner (9/5, Leonard, 465K) reports Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) has unveiled "proposals for helping to stabilize Obamacare's exchanges that would involve injecting billions of federal dollars into the market so that premiums don't rise as much as initial requests show." While "she didn't specify how much to spend on the program, which would help lower premiums for people who don't receive subsidies under Obamacare, previous programs that the law set up for a limited period of time allocated $10 billion in 2014, $6 billion in 2015 and $4 billion in 2016."

TENNESSEE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER TO TESTIFY ON ACA DURING HELP COMMITTEE HEARINGS. The Tennessean (9/5, Fletcher, 499K) reports on Julie Mix McPeak, commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance. The article says she "has emerged as the state's leading voice on the Affordable Care Act – and has made national headlines for her candid assessment of insurance in one of the unhealthiest states – oversees a broad array of functions." She has traveled to Washington, DC several times already to discuss healthcare issues, and this week, she will be testifying before the Senate HELP committee. According to Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN), "McPeak is a hit with Senators from both sides of the aisle because she turns insurance jargon into plain English."

NPR (9/5, Kodjak, 2.4M) reports that governors from four states will testify on Thursday, among them Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper (D) and Ohio's John Kasich (R), who proposed their own bipartisan plan which includes creating a two-year reinsurance fund to "protect people who have severe illnesses and make big claims." The proposal also offers exemptions from certain taxes to insurance companies which enter markets where there is "little to no competition."

DAYTON, OHIO OFFICE WHICH PROVIDES ACA ENROLLMENT ASSISTANCE SUSPENDS THOSE EFFORTS AFTER FUNDING CUT. The Dayton (OH) Daily News (9/5, Schroeder, 141K) reports a Dayton, OH office which "handles marketing and enrollment assistance for Affordable Care Act insurance has" put those efforts on hold "after staff members said the Trump administration slashed outreach funding." The article adds, "The four staff members with Resolute Certified Navigators, which serves a 15 county area in western Ohio, were sent home while they await word on what kind of resources the local office will have to work with after its $245,000 federal grant didn't come through last week."

KASICH, HICKENLOOPER URGE SUPPORT FOR BIPARTISAN EFFORTS TO SHORE UP ACA MARKETPLACES. The Columbus (OH) Dispatch (9/5, Ludlow, 456K) reports that on Friday, Ohio Gov. John Kasich (R) and Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper (D) will "shop for support for their proposed health care coverage reforms." Last week, the two governors unveiled a proposal which seeks to stabilize ACA marketplaces. On Friday morning, they will speak "in D.C. at an event sponsored by the conservative American Enterprise Institute and liberal Center for American Progress."

ANTHEM OUT, BUT CIGNA PLANS TO ENTER BOONE COUNTY, MISSOURI INSURANCE MARKETPLACE IN 2018. The Columbia (MO) Missourian (9/5, Coleman, 17K) reports that the Missouri Department of Insurance confirmed Tuesday that no county in Missouri will be without a health insurer on the Affordable Care Act marketplace in 2018. Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield announced on Friday that it plans to stop offering insurance plans on the exchange in the city of St. Louis and 16 counties, including Boone County. Cigna, however, plans to enter the exchange in Boone County, ensuring that there will be at least one provider offering plans next year. The article adds that even though there is just one insurer, residents will still have "multiple plans to choose from," although the plans will be limited to the provider networks that contract with Cigna. The article also reports that Cigna estimates its Missouri customers will see an increase in premiums of nearly 42 percent, on average, for next year.

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PAPER ACCUSES REPUBLICANS OF FABRICATING PROBLEM TO JUSTIFY ACA REPEAL. The York (PA) Dispatch (9/5, 42K) editorializes against what it says is a Republican theory that Medicaid expansions under the Affordable Care Act "are contributing to the near-epidemic opioid crisis", arguing opponents are "fabricating" a problem to justify repeal of the ACA. The theory stems from a private study released by the Health and Human Services Department for "noted Affordable Care Act opponent" Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI). The piece says "independent health experts" question the report's methodology and contend that Medicaid expansion is helping the crisis because opioid treatment is more widely available.

PROTECT OUR CARE: POLL FINDS DISAPPROVAL OF TRUMP, GOP HANDLING OF HEALTHCARE. CNBC (9/5, Mangan, 3.48M) reports Protect Our Care "unveiled a new public opinion poll" that found "61 percent of voters disapprove of how Trump is handling the issue of health care, while 80 percent of voters disapprove of how the GOP-led Congress is handling that issue." The Hart Research survey of 1,017 people who voted in the 2016 presidential election "found that 78 percent of voters said they agreed with the idea of Trump and Republicans in Congress taking 'necessary steps to make sure health insurance markets are stable,' said Geoff Garin, president of the polling company." Protect Our Care Chairman Leslie Dach said, "President Trump continues to play politics with people's health care and continues his effort to sabotage the law." Garin added, "As the Republicans and President Trump continue efforts to undermine the Affordable Care Act ... the political situation will become far more perilous and the efforts to undermine the ACA will be deeply unpopular."

REPUBLICANS HAVE UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30, TO REPEAL ACA UNDER RECONCILIATION RULES. The Washington Times (9/5, Howell, 541K) reports that congressional Republicans are facing "a swiftly closing window to repeal Obamacare using GOP votes alone." Their ability to do so under reconciliation rule "will expire when the fiscal year ends Sept. 30, meaning it's time for the GOP to use it or lose it." The Times says it appears "the clock will run out on their efforts, as bipartisan leaders pivot toward a short-term bill to shore up the markets before sign-ups begin this fall."

HEALTHCARE ON BIPARTISAN CAUCUS' FALL AGENDA. The Hill (9/5, Marcos, 1.68M) reports lawmakers in the House and Senate bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus met Tuesday night "to discuss the fall legislative agenda," which includes healthcare, taxes and the debt limit. The group "floated a proposal in late July making changes to the healthcare law and stabilize insurance markets" by creating a "stability fund" for states, repealing a tax on medical devices, and increasing "the threshold for the law's employer mandate from 50 workers to less than 500."

GRAHAM, CASSIDY HOPEFUL ABOUT ACA REPEAL AMENDMENT. The Washington Examiner (9/5, Leonard, 465K) reports Republican Sens. Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy are hopeful "that an amendment they are working on could act as a vehicle to repeal and replace portions of Obamacare." The amendment "would transfer Obamacare's revenue from taxes to states so they can come up with their own plans." Cassidy told governors in a call on Tuesday, "We are still refining the legislative language," adding that they hope to have text by the end of the week.

Politico (9/5, Everett, Dawsey, 3.6M) reports the White House hopes for action on the bill, as "staff have continued to work with senators over the summer on their proposal to block grant federal health care funding to the states." Politico reports that "though the bill is being rewritten and Congress faces a brutal September agenda, Trump and his allies on health care are making a last-gasp effort."

MACARTHUR: HOUSE FREEDOM CAUCUS CHAIR AGREES ON TERMS FOR ACA STABILIZATION BILL. The Hill (9/5, Sullivan, 1.68M) reports Rep. Tom MacArthur says he has reached an agreement with House Freedom Caucus chairman Rep. Mark Meadows on the terms for a bill aimed at stabilizing the Affordable Care Act. MacArthur said the proposal would fund CSR payments, expand 1332 waivers from ACA rules for states, and fight high drug prices. MacArthur "wants to fund the CSRs to insurers for three years," while Sen. Lamar Alexander, who is leading the Senate effort to stabilize the ACA, has proposed one year.

HERBERT TO TESTIFY BEFORE SENATE PANEL ON HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM. The Deseret (UT) News (9/5, O'Donoghue, 381K) reports Utah Gov. Gary Herbert will join a bipartisan group of governors appearing on Thursday before the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions "detailing ways for states to achieve flexibility in the health insurance marketplace." Herbert joins "Massachusetts Republican Charlie Baker, and Govs. Steve Bullock of Montana, Bill Haslam of Tennessee, and John Hickenlooper of Colorado."

HISPANIC CAUCUS PAC RAISES FUNDS ON SINGLE-PAYER PLAN ONLY HALF OF MEMBERS HAVE ENDORSED. The Huffington Post (9/5, Marans, 5.74M) reports that the Congressional Hispanic Caucus' political action committee, Bold PAC, "has sought to capitalize on the energy behind the so-called 'Medicare for all' push with at least eight fundraising emails in the past few months." The emails "frequently invoke Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), who is planning to introduce single-payer legislation in the coming weeks," and the group has raised nearly $3.9 million, but "just

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half of the 30 full voting members of the Congress Hispanic Caucus have publicly endorsed single-payer health care."

TWO STUDIES EXAMINE ACA EXCHANGE PLANS' PROVIDER NETWORKS. Fierce Healthcare (9/5, Small, 146K) reports on two new studies on "health plan network adequacy" published in the September issue of Health Affairs. Both studies "note that there is considerable concern about how the increased use of narrow-network insurance plans on the exchanges impacts consumers' access to care." One study found access to broad-network plans remained stable between 2015 and 2016, but "Hispanic and low-income people made up a disproportionate share of enrollees in smaller-network plans." The second study found "lower rates of network participation among mental health care providers compared to primary care providers."

COMMENTARY CONSIDERS HEALTH REFORM. Several outlets offer opinions on health reform.

In a Washington Post (9/5, 10.38M) op-ed, Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) writes that Democrats and Republicans in Congress must work together to pass legislation that will prevent health insurance premium increases by providing for ACA subsidies that reduce out-of-pocket costs for low-income people – subsidies the Administration has threatened to end. She says the bipartisan bill must maintain "protections for people with preexisting conditions," offer a "multiyear solution," and shore up health insurance markets "right away."

Paige Winfield writes in the Washington Post (9/5, 10.38M) "The Health 202" that it remains to be seen how Republicans will "approach the ACA's marketplaces as they open for a fifth enrollment season in November." However, "one clue came late last week when Tom Price's Health and Human Services Department announced it would slash funds that encourage people to enroll in the marketplaces." Winfield says this move "comes as insurers in federal-run marketplaces are scheduled today to finalize their 2018 rates, and they're supposed to sign final contracts for next year on Sept. 27."

Contributor John C. Goodman writes in a Forbes (9/5, 5.11M) piece that for more than a century, almost "every serious health reform in the United States was due to the efforts of organized medicine. The American Medical Association, along with state and county medical societies, had a single, focused objective: replace a relatively free market for medical care with a cartel, fully protected by government regulation in every market that affected the economic wellbeing of doctors." Goodman says that in the last five decades, "a new group of reformers has come on the scene, with the alleged goal of improving the wellbeing of society as a whole." Their efforts have produced policies such as the Affordable Care Act. Goodman adds, "Between unadulterated self-interest and muddleheaded altruism, it's hard to say which group of reformers was worse."

John Zern writes in The Hill (9/5, 1.68M) "Congress Blog" that Congress will probably focus on tax reform when it reconvenes, however, "no discussion on tax reform can proceed without considering the tax-related aspects of health care policy; in particular, the positive impacts to the health care marketplace of eliminating the excise tax on health benefits, preserving the current tax treatment of employer-sponsored health benefits, eliminating the health insurance tax and expanding the use of health spending accounts." Zern adds that consumers "deserve an efficient, effective and equitable health care system that nurtures a healthier, more prosperous nation."

Sarah Kliff writes in a Vox (9/5, 1.54M) piece that "quite brazenly," the Trump Administration has "moved into Obamacare sabotage mode – hurting the most vulnerable participants as it puts the law itself at risk." She adds that last week, HHS said it would slash funding for ACA outreach and enrollment efforts. Kliff argues that because the ACA's "success hinges on a large number of healthy people enrolling in marketplace coverage," such "policy changes only make sense as ones that would undermine that goal."

Dylan Scott writes in a Vox (9/5, 1.54M) piece that the Trump Administration intends "to cut money for Obamacare advertising by 90 percent. It certainly sounds like that move is likely to hurt next year's enrollment." He argues that Kentucky provides an excellent example of what happens when ACA funding for enrollment and outreach is cut. Scott says a study of data from Kentucky shows "enrollment fell from 106,300 in 2015 (under Beshear) to 93,700 in 2016 (when Bevin took over partway through enrollment) to 81,200 in 2017 (the first full enrollment period under Bevin)."

John Malcolm and Michael Cannon write in a Washington Examiner (9/5, 465K) op-ed that congressional Republicans' "failure to repeal Obamacare means ordinary citizens will continue to suffer that law's rising penalties, wage cuts, reduced choice, rising premiums, eroding coverage, administrative burdens, and collapsing markets." In the meantime, "members of Congress will continue to enjoy special exemptions and illegal subsidies that spare them from the burdens of that law." Malcolm and Cannon argue that the President "can right this wrong by immediately ending Congress' special exemptions and illegal subsidies, and investigating whether the government officials who implemented them violated criminal laws."

The San Diego Union-Tribune (9/5, 668K) says in an editorial, "It's now clear that creating a single-payer health care system is the top priority of the Democratic Party and millions of Americans." The paper argues that "Democrats who want

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universal health care should look for inspiration from the rest of the world, not embrace 'Medicare for all.'" This also applies to "Republicans who don't like how much U.S. health care costs and who think Obamacare is a clunky mess. Americans' national pride shouldn't include reverence for a flawed, costly and eminently improvable health care system."

The Brattleboro (VT) Reformer (9/5, 21K) says in an editorial that it is "frustrating" to visit HealthCare.gov for information about the 2018 open enrollment period because that information is not readily available. The paper adds, "Along with obscuring the actual dates of enrollment and reducing the time period to enroll, the Health and Human Services department said it would cut the Affordable Care Act's advertising budget by 90 percent, to $10 million." The Administration also cut funding for the ACA's navigator program. These actions have prompted ACA advocates to accuse the Administration of attempting to "undermine" and "sabotage" the healthcare law.

Opioid News:

SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS RESPONSIBLE FOR MORE OVERDOSES IN 2016 THAN HEROIN AND PRESCRIPTION PAINKILLERS, DATA INDICATE. Vox (9/5, Lopez, 1.54M) reports in continuing coverage that fatal drug overdoses in the US surpassed 64,000 in 2016, according to "preliminary figures from the National Center for Health Statistics." The data indicate "synthetic opioids," such as "fentanyl overtook both heroin and prescription painkillers in terms of overdose deaths." The article says the statistics illustrate the progression of the opioid crisis over time from the "dramatic overprescription of opioids" to "heroin and fentanyl."

"DOZENS" OF CONNECTICUT TOWNS FILE LAWSUIT AGAINST OPIOID MANUFACTURERS. The Daily Caller (9/5, Birr, 521K) reports that Waterbury's mayor announced in a press conference last Thursday that "dozens of communities" in Connecticut are suing "some of America's largest" pharmaceutical companies "for their role in spreading addiction in Connecticut." The mayor "said he expects another 15 to 20 towns to join" the lawsuit "over the coming weeks."

The CT News Junkie (9/5, Dos Santos) reports that the lawsuit accuses "11 pharmaceutical companies and three doctors" of "using deceptive practices in promoting" opioid painkillers. According to the complaint, the manufacturers "knew or should have known that, with prolonged use, the effectiveness of opioids wanes, requiring increases in doses to achieve pain relief and markedly increasing the risk of significant side effects and addiction." Johnson & Johnson is among the defendants named in the suit.

FENTANYL IS RESPONSIBLE FOR AN INCREASING NUMBER OF OHIO OVERDOSE DEATHS, STUDY SUGGESTS. The Springfield (OH) News Sun (9/5, Schroeder, 102K) reports that synthetic opioids, including fentanyl, are increasingly implicated in drug overdose deaths in Ohio, according to a new study. Researchers discovered that "more than 90 percent of unintentional overdose deaths in 24 Ohio counties in January and February involved fentanyl and drugs with a molecular structure similar to fentanyl." Heroin, meanwhile, "was identified in only about 6 percent of cases." The study was "funded by a grant from the National Institutes of Health and National Institute on Drug Abuse."

PROSPECTIVE FLORIDA GOVERNOR ADVOCATES SUING PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES FOR FUELING OPIOID CRISIS. The South Florida Sun Sentinel (9/5, Man, 530K) reports that Florida democratic gubernatorial candidate Gwen Graham said on Tuesday that she, if elected governor, would join the growing number of "states and local governments" that have sued opioid manufacturers for their role in fostering the opioid epidemic. Graham stated, "We need to be holding the pharmaceutical companies accountable for their role in addicting so many people across the state to opioids."

Healthcare News:

PRO-LIFE GROUPS ASK CONGRESS FOR IMMEDIATE DEFUNDING OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD. The Hill (9/5, Hellmann, 1.68M) reports "ten leaders of anti-abortion groups" signed a letter Tuesday requesting Congressional Republicans "fast-track" the defunding of Planned Parenthood. The letter stated, "Doing anything less brings into question whether this Congress can truly be called the Pro-life Congress. Rhetoric must be translated into law."

The Washington Examiner (9/5, King, 465K) reports that the Republicans' Affordable Care Act repeal "was originally intended to defund Planned Parenthood" but failed to receive Senate approval.

The Washington Times (9/5, Richardson, 541K) also reports.

OPINION: SOUTH CAROLINA IS JUSTIFIED IN DEFUNDING PLANNED PARENTHOOD. Contributor Jeanne Mancini writes for The Hill (9/5, 1.68M) "Pundits Blog" that South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster (R) did "what is best for women's health" by prohibiting state agencies from funding Planned Parenthood. Mancini says that Planned Parenthood has a

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$1.276 billion annual budget, “including making 77.5 million in profit,” and receives $257.9 million yearly from numerous private donors and corporations. Mancini concludes, “Clearly, there is no need for the 61 percent of Americans who oppose taxpayer funding of abortion to be forced to financially support Planned Parenthood, our nation’s largest abortion provider.”

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION PROPOSES RULE ALLOWING FOR BINDING ARBITRATION RESIDENTS IN DISPUTES WITH NURSING HOMES. WTTW-TV Chicago (9/5, Caine) reports under a rule “signed by President Barack Obama in 2016” it would have been “easier” for residents of “nursing homes” to file lawsuits by prescribing nursing home contracts requiring binding arbitration. The rule “never went into effect because the American Health Care Association” sued and was granted an injunction. WTTW adds that the Trump Administration is now proposing a rule to “force nursing home residents to agree to arbitration or risk being denied admission.” The move is supported by the US Chamber of Commerce, but opposed by the AARP.

OPINION: HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY MUST PROVIDE GREATER COST TRANSPARENCY TO CONSUMERS. STAT (9/5, Nakhjiri, 43K) contributor Anahita Nakhjiri writes in an op-ed that a lack of transparency in healthcare costs “practically eliminates any opportunity for” consumers “to be fiscally responsible or meaningfully involved in their care decisions.” Nakhjiri argues that the healthcare “industry must shift toward a more traditional buyer and seller dynamic, and provide patients with the information needed to be knowledgeable consumers.” Nakhjiri says greater transparency is especially necessary with more insurers offering high-deductible plans that require “consumers to take greater responsibility for their health care costs,” often “without knowing the cost of the care they receive.”

BLUE CROSS’ PAYMENT CUTS PROMPT PROTEST BY MINNESOTA MENTAL HEALTH THERAPISTS. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (9/5, Howatt, 1.27M) reports that Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota plans to cut payments for mental health therapy by 15 to 33 percent beginning in January. The reductions prompted some therapists to plan a protest outside Blue Cross’ Eagan, Minnesota headquarters for next Thursday. Blue Cross justified the reductions in a letter saying that “unusually high claims trends” necessitated resetting rates to “appropriate” levels. Advocates countered that the decision is “shortsighted” because Blue Cross risks paying higher costs of patients being placed in treatment centers instead. The changes will affect 2,000 smaller and midsize providers.

BALTIMORE COUNTY FACING 50 PERCENT INCREASE IN MEDICAL COSTS FOR INMATES. The Baltimore Sun (9/5, Wood, 706K) reports that the cost of providing medical care for Baltimore County inmates is rising more than 50 percent due to an increase of inmates addicted to heroin and opioids, and suffering from mental illness and chronic diseases like coronary artery disease, diabetes, and HIV. The City Council was set to vote Tuesday on a new $6.8 million per year multi-year contract with PrimeCare Medical to manage healthcare treatment for the jail’s 1,200 inmates. The article adds, “Often jails serve as a de facto community detox facility” for those who use drugs and commit crimes. Another driver of costs is for mental health services: in 2007, about 25 percent of inmates needed mental health services, but that number is now 50 percent.

NARROW NETWORKS FAR MORE COMMON FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, RESEARCH INDICATES. The Philadelphia (PA) Inquirer (9/5, Sapatkin, 1.71M) reports, “Despite years of efforts and multiple laws, insurance coverage for mental health and substance abuse still is not on a par with benefits for physical health,” researchers found in a study of Affordable Care Act plans published in the September issue of Health Affairs. Investigators analyzed “details of insurance plans around the” US, then “found that ‘narrow networks’ were far more common for behavioral health” professionals, “especially psychiatrists, than they were for primary care” healthcare professionals. This means that would-be patients “may have a hard time finding anyone to see within the network.”

Health Information Technology:

NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM FRAMEWORK SAYS INTEROPERABILITY GOES BEYOND EHR-TO-EHR DATA EXCHANGE. Healthcare IT News (9/5, Sullivan, 5K) reports that the National Quality Forum (NQF) published a framework for “measuring the progress of interoperable health information exchange.” The 83-page report outlines five guiding principles for interoperability, including that interoperability requires more than just electronic health records and should focus on ensuring patients, their families, and caregivers have access to health data. The report defines interoperability as “the ability of a system to exchange electronic health information with and use electronic health information from other systems without special effort on the part of the user,” and the article pointed out that definition is consistent with the one used by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT in its nationwide interoperability roadmap. NQF added that interoperability includes not only hospitals and health systems, but also housing agencies, schools, jails and social services, too.

Human Services News:

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WPOST GIVES THREE PINNOCHIOS TO CLAIM DACA "HELPED SPUR" 2014 CROSS-BORDER SURGE. The Washington Post (9/6, Kessler, 10.38M) examines the Trump Administration's claim that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program "contributed to a surge of minors at the southern border" causing a humanitarian crisis in its "Fact Checker" column and grades it as "three pinocchios." The article points out that DACA only applied to those who entered the US before President Obama announced the program on June 15, 2012, so the Central American children arriving in 2014 would not have qualified for DACA. The second key reason for the surge was an 2008 law signed by President George W. Bush which ordered that any unaccompanied minor from a country other than Mexico or Canada would be transferred to the Office of Refugee Resettlement, part of the US Department of Health and Human Services, and would get to stay with family pending a hearing. That rule gave the perception that the US would let the children stay.

Medicare:

CMS EXPECTS FEW HOSPITALS TO PARTICIPATE IN READMISSIONS PILOT. Modern Healthcare (9/5, Dickson, Subscription Publication, 238K) reports that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services expects no more than 100 of the 3,000 hospitals receiving Medicare payments will participate in its pilot program to "track unplanned readmissions and their causes." The pilot is a "precursor for a mandatory change in how hospitals are penalized" for readmissions that is expected to be applied in 2021. Observers speculated that hospitals may be "overwhelmed" by the quality data that they are already required to report and may not be interested in voluntarily reporting additional measures.

ADVOCATE SAYS "NO REASON FOR CONGRESS TO MESS WITH" MEDICARE PART D. Dr. Yanira Cruz, president of the National Hispanic Council on Aging, writes in the San Antonio Express-News (9/4, 1.18M) that lawmakers' plans to alter Medicare Part D prescription drug benefits could cause Hispanic seniors to "struggle to afford the medicines they need to stay healthy." The piece argues that the Part D program has increased access to prescription drugs for millions of Hispanic seniors. Part D works well because private insurers "fight hard to secure discounts" on prescription drugs and the proposal to have government negotiate prices would have a "negligible effect" on pricing, according to the Congressional Budget Office. The piece concludes, "There's no reason for Congress to mess with Medicare Part D. It is cost-effective, saves lives, and makes health care more accessible and equitable."

Medicaid & CHIP:

LESS THAN 30% OF ENROLLEES WOULD HAVE TO COMPLY WITH HEALTHY INDIANA'S WORK REQUIREMENT, DATA INDICATE. The AP (9/5) reports Gov. Eric Holcomb (R) "has proposed making able-bodied, low-income residents work at least 20 hours a week for eight months of the year in order to receive state-supported health care coverage through" the Healthy Indiana Plan, the state's Medicaid program. The article says documents indicate "less than 30 percent of those enrolled in" Healthy Indiana "would be required to comply with" the requirement. The piece adds that one-third of "participants already meet that work requirement, and most members qualify for at least one of 14 exemptions and wouldn't have to work."

CONGRESS URGED TO RENEW FUNDING FOR CHIP. Frederick Isasi, executive director of Families USA, writes in The Hill (9/5, 1.68M) that the federal Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is a "wildly popular, bipartisan program" that is "incredibly successful" and its funding needs to be renewed quickly on behalf of the nearly 9 million children covered by the program. Before CHIP, "an astounding 25 percent of low-income children were uninsured" and now "more than 95 percent of children in the United States have health insurance." In 2015, "virtually all governors of both parties" supported a "clean renewal," but today's "toxic discussions" have "drowned-out reasonable voices calling for a bipartisan agreement to fund this program which enjoys wide support." The article concludes, "Investing in a popular, successful, and bipartisan children's program should be an easy win for this Congress and the nation."

EXPERTS SAY LITTLE EVIDENCE MEDICAID EXPANSION FUELS OPIOID CRISIS. The Harrisburg (PA) Patriot-News (9/5, Wenner, 553K) reports that some conservative opponents of the Affordable Care Act used Pennsylvania as an example of a state that expanded Medicaid and has a worsened painkiller and heroin crisis. The argument appeared in a conservative-leaning National Review article that was then "bolstered" by a report done by the US Department Health and Human Services at the request of Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) which said overdose death rates nearly doubled in states that expanded Medicaid. The article adds that experts say Medicaid expansion has "increased access to drug treatment," and that the non-partisan Health Affairs recently concluded that the claim was "not credible" since there was "little evidence to support the idea that Medicaid caused or worsened the epidemic."

STUDY: MORE CHILDREN GET INSURED IF PARENTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICAID. Kaiser Health News (9/5, Luthra) reports on a study published in Health Affairs focusing on Medicaid's "welcome-mat effect" – the term describing the "spillover benefits" that children get insurance coverage when Medicaid eligibility is extended to their parents. The

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study concludes that “Children were more likely to be enrolled in public health insurance programs,” like Medicaid and CHIP,” if their parents were also able to enroll,” according to Julie Hudson, the paper’s lead author and a senior economist at the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. The study added that an estimated 700,000 kids gained coverage because of Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act and if every state had expanded Medicaid, then another 200,000 children would likely have gained coverage.

REGISTER: IOWA’S REQUEST FOR WAIVER ON RETROACTIVE ELIGIBILITY IS “SHAMEFUL.” The Des Moines (IA) Register (9/5, 324K) editorializes that House File 653 which orders the Iowa Department of Human Services to seek a waiver to avoid Medicaid’s “retroactive eligibility provision” is “shameful.” The waiver would allow the state to avoid paying for care incurred by Medicaid eligible Iowans during the prior three months of their eligibility. The state says the move will save $36.7 million, including about $9 million in state money by “stiffing health providers.” The change would impact uninsured Iowans who never applied for Medicaid but “then landed in the emergency room,” as well as those who secured Medicaid but did not realize “they no longer had it.” The piece argues, “Unfortunately, Iowa is no longer a state that wants to ensure the poorest residents receive health care. It is now a state that seeks special federal permission to avoid paying for that care.”

Health & Medical News:

GENETIC VARIANTS LINKED TO HEALTH PROBLEMS APPEAR LESS FREQUENTLY IN PEOPLE WHO LIVE LONGER, STUDY INDICATES. Newsweek (9/5, Osborne, 991K) reports genetic research published in PLOS Biology used data from over 200,000 people to show humans “appear to be evolving to hit puberty later and those who start at an older age live longer.” Researchers also discovered that “genetic variants linked to heart disease, obesity and high cholesterol appear less frequently in people who live longer.”

The Scientist (9/5, Williams, 154K) reports the study analyzed genetic alleles in two large genomic databases “from Kaiser Permanente and the UK Biobank on hundreds of thousands of sites in the genomes of 210,000 participants and compared the information to both the ages of the participants themselves and, in the case of the UK Biobank, their parents’ ages, or the ages at which their parents had died.” Researchers found “only two variants that were statistically less common in older people (or the offspring of long-lived people) than in younger one.” The findings suggest that people with these variants have shorter life spans than those without them. If the trend continues, it will make the variants less common in successive generations.

HealthDay (9/5, Dotinga, 11K) reports one of the genetic variants was lined to Alzheimer’s, and “appears to be fading in older women, possibly because women who have it tend to die earlier.” The second genetic variation was linked to heavy smoking in men and also appears to be becoming less common. The Telegraph (UK) (9/5, Bodkin, 1.08M) also covers this story.

OVER FIFTY PERCENT OF RURAL COUNTIES LACK A HOSPITAL WHERE WOMEN CAN DELIVER BABIES, STUDY SUGGESTS. The Washington Post (9/5, Johnson, 10.38M) reports in its “Wonkblog” that 54 percent of rural communities “lacked a hospital with obstetrics services” in 2014, according to a new study published in the journal Health Affairs. As a result, “2.4 million women of child-bearing age” reside “in counties without hospitals that deliver babies,” the Post says. The article states that Tufts Medical Center obstetrician and gynecologist Megan Evans “has been working with the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists” to address the problem, adding that the federal National Health Service Corps will reimburse medical students for their schooling “as long as they commit to practicing in an underserved community for a given period of time.” However, presently communities are not defined by their specific care shortages, and many young physicians are unwilling “to relocate to remote rural areas where they may feel isolated.”

ProPublica (9/5, Gallardo, Martin, 15K) reports that researcher Katy B. Kozhimannil said Medicaid is an “incredibly important... factor in hospitals’ decisions around whether to keep obstetric services.” She and her team found that “rural counties in states with more generous Medicaid programs...were less likely to lose hospital-based obstetric services.”

Modern Healthcare (9/5, Johnson, Subscription Publication, 238K) reports that “according to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, women living in more rural areas have higher rates of hospitalizations due to complications from their pregnancy compared with women in urban areas.”

Medscape (9/5, Frellick, 226K) also covers the story.

PARENTS ARE USING MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO CIRCUMVENT CALIFORNIA’S STUDENT VACCINATION LAW, STUDY SUGGESTS. The Los Angeles Times (9/5, Khan, 4.49M) reports that the “rate of medical exemptions for immunizations for incoming kindergartners rose sharply the year after California eliminated the personal-belief exemption,” according to a new study published in JAMA. While the total exemption rate has declined, the jump in medical

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exemptions concerns researchers "especially given that the increase was linked to counties that previously had very high rates of personal-belief exemptions."

Kaiser Health News (9/5, Ibarra, Ostrov) reports that "families who oppose mandated immunization for schoolchildren" may be attempting to circumvent California's new state law "by seeking medical exemptions." According to the study, "the number of medical exemptions among kindergartners...tripled to 2,850 in 2016 from the previous year," prompting the researchers to hypothesize that "anti-vaccine parents" are locating physicians "willing to exempt their kids from the mandate." The article says physicians have "wiggle room" under California's law to grant medical exemptions, such as "for children with a family history of adverse reactions to vaccines"; however, the study's lead author Paul Delamater said the American Academy of Pediatrics "states that medical exemptions should be reserved for students who could truly be harmed by vaccination."

FOR NURSING HOME RESIDENTS, MOBILITY INCREASES RISK OF FRACTURE. Reuters (9/5, Rapaport) reports a new study published in The Journals of Gerontology: Series A found that for nursing home residents, "risk factors for fracture included the ability to walk independently, wandering the halls, dementia and diabetes." The study was based on data from "419,668 nursing home residents, including 14,553 who experienced hip fractures." Lead author Dr. Sarah Berry of the Institute for Aging Research and Harvard Medical School in Boston said, "Frail nursing home residents that are still mobile and independent have opportunity to fall."

AMA URGES CONGRESS TO ACT TO PRESERVE DACA. The Washington Examiner (9/5, King, 465K) reports the American Medical Association on Tuesday "urged congressional leaders to quickly pass a bill that protects people with DACA status," after Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced the end of the program, and President Trump also urged Congress to act. The AMA said that "many" of the international medical graduates, who make up "one out of every four physicians practicing in the U.S." currently have DACA status. The AMA cited "estimates" that DACA "could help introduce 5,400 previously ineligible physicians into the U.S. healthcare system in the coming decades." The American Academy of Pediatrics criticized the decision by the Administration as the "latest, cruel setback for immigrant children, youth, and families across the country."

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS CALLS TRUMP'S DECISION TO END DACA "IMMORAL AND UNJUST." The Hill (9/5, Thomsen, 1.68M) reports the American Academy of Pediatrics blasted President Trump's decision to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program as the "latest, cruel, setback for immigrant children, youth and families." In a Tuesday statement, AAP said, "To punish individuals who were brought to the United States by their parents as children, some even as babies, and characterize them as lawbreakers, is immoral and unjust." The group said, "President Trump missed an opportunity today to reassure this vulnerable population that they have a home and future here, by recommitting at the highest levels of the federal government that diversity enriches our society and that immigrants are welcome." AAP also called on Congress to "pass legislation that keeps DACA permanently."

EXPERTS SAY RESCINDING DACA MAY IMPACT IMMIGRANT HEALTH. The Huffington Post (9/5, Almendrala, 5.74M) reports that there were "immediate physical and mental health benefits" for immigrants and their families, including a reduction in stress-induced medical conditions such as headaches, ulcers, sleep problems and eating disorders. Public health researchers expect that "those problems will arise again among DACA beneficiaries" as a result of the policy change. The article adds, "DACA recipients may face an even greater sense of loss because of all they've gained since the program began."

NEOS LAUNCHES SECOND ADHD TREATMENT. The Dallas Morning News (9/5, Rice, 984K) reports Neos Therapeutics of Grand Prairie, Texas announced the launch of a second medication to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder after its first "generated more than $10 million in revenue in just over a year." The new medication, Cotempla XR-ODTTM, is being sold "in select markets" and makes use of the company's "proprietary extended-release, orally disintegrating tablet technology." The first treatment was "Adzenys XR-ODT, an amphetamine akin to Adderall."

MEDTRONIC SPONSORS CLINICAL TESTS OF INFUSE TO SEEK EXPANDED APPROVALS. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (9/6, Carlson, 1.27M) reports, "Medtronic is sponsoring a series of new clinical tests of its controversial genetically engineered bone-growth product Infuse" in order to determine "the optimal dose of the chemical in fusing spine bones to treat lower back pain." Specifically, it is seeking information regarding "posterolateral fusion of lower-back vertebrae using fixation hardware that attaches to the back of the bones; and TLIF, or transforaminal lumbar interbody fusion, in which a device is placed between the vertebrae being fused." The company expects to use the information to apply for "expanded product approvals."

STAT INVESTIGATION: WATSON ONCOLOGY NOT LIVING UP TO PROMISE. STAT (9/5, Ross, Swetlitz, 43K) reports in a fairly critical evaluation of Watson Oncology that the system "isn't living up to the lofty expectations IBM created for it," but "is still struggling with the basic step of learning about different forms of cancer." STAT's investigation

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was based on interviews with "dozens of doctors, IBM executives, artificial intelligence experts, and others familiar with" Watson. STAT adds, "IBM hasn't published any scientific papers" to show how Watson is benefiting physicians and patients. One oncologist said the system is in its "toddler stage, and we have to wait and actively engage, hopefully to help them grow healthy." IBM executives agreed, but "said it is improving rapidly." STAT says that Watson is not producing any new insights into cancer and is basically being controlled by "a couple dozen physicians" at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York. They instruct Watson in preferred treatments for patients. As a result, some argue that Watson is biased towards American medical practice.

MOST COMMON POST-HARVEY COMPLAINT HAS BEEN SKIN INFECTIONS. The Houston Chronicle (9/5, Ackerman, 1.97M) reports on "an influx of patients with symptoms related to Tropical Storm Harvey." Those symptoms include "injuries suffered during clean-up efforts, respiratory problems including pneumonia and, most of all, skin infections." Dr. James McCarthy, chief of emergency medicine at Memorial Hermann Hospital's Red Duke Trauma Institute, said that the infections "have been treated well with antibiotics, though some cases have required hospital admission." Dr. Beau Briese, an emergency physician at Houston Methodist Hospital, "said a few skin infections there had developed into advanced sepsis." Some local physicians said they had expected more health problems from Harvey than have so far surfaced.

NO LEAKAGE OR HEALTH THREATS FOUND IN HOUSTON-AREA HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES, GOV. ABBOTT SAYS. The Houston Chronicle (9/5, Ward, 1.97M) reports that "an inspection" of five Houston-area "hazardous waste sites and landfills" has discovered "no evidence so far of any leakage or health threats," according to Gov. Abbott on Tuesday. Eleven state sites are still "awaiting inspection," and "33 federal sites have been inspected" with "no signs of damage or leakage." Abbott added that nearly all of the "hospitals closed by Harvey had reopened by Tuesday."

HURRICANE HARVEY RESPONSE EFFORTS UNDERSCORE BENEFITS OF TELEHEALTH SERVICES, ADVOCATES SUGGEST. Fierce Healthcare (9/5, Sweeney, 146K) reports that hospitals nationwide "are offering free telehealth services to those affected by" Hurricane Harvey, and "telehealth advocates" claim the technology's post-Harvey use will highlight its advantages "during disaster response" and help it "become a larger part" of future disaster planning. The article adds that telehealth applications offer "easy access to mental health providers," which could extend its benefits "beyond the initial aftermath" and help those who suffer "the devastation of losing their homes or belongings."

GETTING RECOMMENDED AMOUNT OF SLEEP HAS HEALTH BENEFITS IN CHILDREN. The Washington Post (9/5, Adams, 10.38M) "On Parenting" blog reports recommendations from the American Academy of Sleep Medicine advise children three to five years old to sleep 10 to 13 hours, including naps, each 24-hour day. Meanwhile, school-age children, six to 12 years old, should sleep between nine and 12 hours, while teenagers, 13 to 18 years old, should sleep eight to 10 hours. Getting the recommended amount of sleep was associated with benefits such as improved attention and memory and better emotional regulation. Conversely, not getting enough sleep "was associated with behavior and learning problems, increasing with behavior and learning problems, increases in accidents and injuries, and health problems, such as hypertension, obesity, diabetes and depression."

STUDY EXAMINES HEALTH RISKS POSED BY VAGINAL ESTROGEN USE. Reuters (9/5, Rapaport) reports a new study published online in the journal Menopause found that using vaginally applied estrogen to minimize menopause symptoms likely does not increase a woman's risk of heart disease or certain cancers. The federally funded Women's Health Initiative study has linked tablets containing "man-made versions of the female hormones estrogen and progestin to an increased risk for breast cancer, heart attacks and strokes." Researchers found that "compared with women who didn't use vaginal estrogen, women who did had a 48 percent lower risk of heart disease and 60 percent lower odds of hip fractures."

US JUDGE INVALIDATES MALLINCKRODT PATENTS ON NITRIC OXIDE RESPIRATORY TREATMENT. Reuters (9/5, Wolfe) reports a federal judge in Delaware on Tuesday "invalidated patents held by Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals on its Inomax [nitric oxide] respiratory treatment system." The lawsuit was brought by Mallinckrodt against the industrial gases company Praxair Inc, "which sought to market a generic version of Inomax." The judge ruled that Praxair did not infringe Mallinckrodt's patents.

SERVIER TO FACE TRIAL OVER WEIGHT-LOSS TREATMENT MEDIATOR. Reuters (9/5) reports French drugmaker Servier and the French drug regulator ANSM "will face trial over weight-loss" treatment Mediator (benfluorex), "believed to have caused at least 500 deaths in one of France's worst health scandals, the prosecutor's office said on Tuesday." The drug was "widely prescribed as an appetite suppressant to help people lose weight." But, according to the health ministry, "at least 500 people died of heart valve trouble in France because of exposure to Mediator's active ingredient," which was pulled from the French market in 2009, about a decade after it was withdrawn in Spain, Italy, and the US.

INSMED SHARES SOAR AFTER RARE LUNG DISORDER DRUG MEETS KEY STUDY'S MAIN GOAL. Reuters (9/5,

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Mukhopadhyay) reports Insmed's shares more than doubled on Tuesday "after the company said its drug to treat adults with a rare lung disorder met the main goal in a key study, leading it to apply for accelerated approval." The FDA has previously granted the inhaled once-daily drug, Alis, "breakthrough therapy designation and fast-track status." Alis was used to treat nontuberculous mycobacterial (NTM) lung infections in a late-stage study that involved 336 adult patients. Insmed said that the addition of Alis to standard treatment "showed statistical significance in reducing bacterial density, a measure of change in infection, by the sixth month in 29 percent of patients, compared with 9 percent in patients on standard treatment alone."

STAT (9/5, Feuerstein, 43K) reports the Alis's active ingredient is antibiotic amikacin formulated for inhalation into the lungs. The company said "there were no differences between arms of the study in the rates of hearing loss and kidney impairment, side effects seen with intravenous amikacin."

NOVARTIS CHARGES MORE FOR CERTAIN DRUGS IN US THAN OTHER COUNTRIES. Ed Silverman reports in his STAT (9/5, 43K) "Pharmalot" column that internal data from Novartis in 2014 revealed the Swiss drugmaker "charged its US subsidiary significantly more for four medicines than what its subsidiaries paid in roughly a dozen other countries." The price differences "ranged anywhere from 45 percent to 176 percent, after adjusting for currency fluctuations and packaging." Silverman says the US was charged "$8,911 for a month's supply of 10 mg tablets of the Afinitor (everolimus) cancer treatment, compared with $5,260 in Germany, $5,233 in France, and roughly $4,935 in the UK." Stephen Schondelmeyer, a professor of pharmaceutical economics at the University of Minnesota, said the fluctuating prices shows Novartis knows what "they can get in that market. … This just reflects the US does not have an effective market for evaluating and buying drugs, because when you have a drug that is required to be covered, you don't have leverage to negotiate."

LAW PROFESSOR: DRUG COMPANIES NEED TO BALANCE "SOCIAL CONTRACT" WITH PATIENTS, REGULATORS. In an opinion piece for Morning Consult (9/5), Joanna Shepard, professor of law at Emory University School of Law, writes that the pharmaceutical industry has started to take it upon itself to control drug prices. Several major drug companies – Allergan, Novo Nordisk, AbbVie, Takeda, and Sanofi – have made "explicit commitments" to limit annual drug increases to single digits. Meanwhile, Merck and Johnson & Johnson/Janssen have not explicitly committed to such an agreement, but have "released reports showing that they have generally increased aggregate list prices by only single digits in the past." Despite efforts by these companies to curtail drug prices, some drug companies "continue to hike prices to exorbitant levels, jeopardizing patients' ability to pay for life-saving and life-enhancing drugs."

FDA APPROVES LANNETT'S ESOMEPRAZOLE MAGNESIUM DELAYED-RELEASE CAPSULES PRODUCT. The Philadelphia Business Journal (9/5, George, Subscription Publication, 894K) reports Lannett received FDA approval Tuesday "to market a generic version of delayed-release Nexium [esomeprazole magnesium delayed-release capsules] in 20- and 40-milligram dosages." Nexium which is used to treat "gastroesophageal reflux disease and other conditions involving excessive stomach acid," was developed by AstraZeneca. Arthur Bedrosian, CEO of Lannett, said the company expects to launch its generic Nexium product "in the next several months."

VECTURA TO CONFIRM TIMETABLE FOR FDA APPROVAL OF GENERIC INHALER BY END OF 2017. Reuters (9/6, Varghese) reports that UK-based drugmaker Vectura's "troubles have continued this year, when its hopes to launch the first U.S. generic copy of GSK's best-selling Advair [fluticasone propionate and salmeterol] inhaler were hit after the U.S. Food and Drug Administration delayed approval of its version." Vectura announced on Wednesday "it would be able to confirm the timetable for regulatory approval before the end of 2017."

CLINICAL DATA INDICATE ROCHE LUNG CANCER DRUG ALECTINIB REDUCES BRAIN RISK BY 60 PERCENT. Reuters (9/5, Hirschler) reports new clinical data show Roche's targeted lung cancer drug Alecensa (alectinib) reduced the risk of disease progression in patients taking the treatment by in the CNS by 60 percent compared to those on Pfizer's Xalkori (crizotinib). Alecensa is "designed to treat advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) in patients with a mutation of the ALK gene, which is found in about 4 percent of all people with NSCLC." The results, to be presented at the Sept. 8 to 12 European Society for Medical Oncology Congress in Madrid, "reinforce" the drug's "position in an increasingly competitive market."

NOVO NORDISK TO PAY $58.7 MILLION TO SETTLE US PROBE OVER DIABETES DRUG LIRAGLUTIDE. Bloomberg News (9/6, McLaughlin, Harris, Feeley, 4.52M) reports Novo Nordisk agreed to pay $58.7 million to settle a US Justice Department probe of the company's "allegedly illegal marketing of its diabetes drugs, including its top seller Victoza [liraglutide]." Court filings indicate the Danish drugmaker "agreed to resolve eight lawsuits" accusing the company of downplaying "warnings for Victoza and misleading doctors by disguising salespeople as medical educators and paying kickbacks to persuade doctors to prescribe its medicines." The agreement also settles DOJ claims that Novo Nordisk failed to comply with a FDA requirement that it "give physicians information about Victoza's potential cancer risk."

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Reuters (9/5, Raymond) reports Novo Nordisk did not admit wrongdoing as part of the civil settlement, under which the company "will pay the government $12.15 million that the Justice Department said it earned by violating the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act from 2010 to 2012." Novo Nordisk will pay an additional $46.5 million "to resolve claims under the False Claims Act that Novo Nordisk's conduct caused the submission of false claims from 2010 to 2014 to federal health care programs, the Justice Department said."

Ed Silverman reports in his STAT (9/5, Silverman, 43K) "Pharmalot" column that Novo Nordisk specifically "failed to comply with a Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy, or REMS, a program that requires companies to develop a plan to educate doctors and monitor distribution of a drug that may cause a very serious side effect."

CEO OF UTAH HOSPITAL INVOLVED IN NURSE ARREST APOLOGIZES, CHANGES POLICIES. USA Today (9/5, Bacon, 8.62M) reports that the CEO of University of Utah Hospital in Salt Lake City, site of the controversial handcuffing of a nurse who refused a detective's request to draw blood from an unconscious patient, "has apologized to the nurse" and "changed its policies." CEO Gordon Crabtree "said hospital security should have intervened" when the nurse was arrested, and the hospital will "now require police officers to speak only to senior nurse supervisors." Crabtree stated at a Monday news conference, "This will not happen again."

The New York Times (9/5, Victor, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports videos of the encounter surfaced last week, "leading to fierce condemnation of the police tactics, including a rally in Salt Lake City on Saturday." The nurse, Alex Wubbels, was not charged with any crimes, while officer Jeff L. Payne and a second unnamed officer "were put on administrative leave as the department conducts a criminal investigation into the episode."

The Hill (9/5, Sullivan, 1.68M) and NPR (9/5, Chappell, 2.4M) also cover the story.

AVERAGE MEDICAL SCHOOL DEBT RISING, DESPITE MORE STUDENTS ALSO GRADUATING DEBT FREE, STUDY SUGGESTS. STAT (9/5, Blau, Bronshtein, 43K) reports that medical school graduates carried an average debt of $179,000 in 2016, up from $161,739 in 2010, according to new research published in JAMA. The average debt grew despite "the number of students graduating with no debt increas[ing] by 67 percent." The study authors suggested that many of the debt-free students "likely com[e] from wealthier families."

ALMOST A QUARTER OF INSTAGRAM POSTS FROM PHYSICIANS ABOUT PLASTIC SURGERY COME FROM NON-BOARD CERTIFIED PLASTIC SURGEONS. STAT (8/30, Sheridan, 43K) reports that a study published in the Aesthetic Surgery Journal suggests that "nearly a quarter" of top posts on Instagram using one or more "21 plastic-surgery related hashtags" came from physicians "who marketed themselves as cosmetic surgeons but who were not board-certified in the specialty by the American Board of Plastic Surgery or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada." Researchers found "the largest group of non-board-certified plastic surgeons using related Instagram hashtags were otolaryngologists."

PHARMACEUTICAL TRADE GROUPS CHALLENGE NEVADA'S DIABETES DRUG TRANSPARENCY LAW. STAT (9/5, Silverman, 43K) reports that the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America and the Biotechnology Innovation Organization filed a lawsuit claiming Nevada's diabetes drug transparency law is unconstitutional. They also claim it "impedes the ability to successfully to do business in other states by tying penalties to wholesale, or list, prices."

APPEALS COURT ISSUES DIVIDED OPINION RAISING DOUBT OVER PINNACLE TRIAL. Reuters (9/5) reports that the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, in a divided opinion, "denied Johnson & Johnson subsidiary DePuy's petition to halt proceedings in an upcoming trial over the company's Pinnacle hip implants, but also said the district judge 'clearly abused' his discretion." DePuy had asked the court "to block Dallas U.S. District Judge Ed Kinkeade from presiding over a trial starting Tuesday." Judge Kinkeade "is overseeing a multidistrict litigation over Pinnacle implants that has some 9,300 cases pending."

ZIKA VIRUS MAY BE USEFUL FOR ATTACKING GLIOBLASTOMA CANCER CELLS, RESEARCH SUGGESTS. The Kansas City (MO) Star (9/5, Campbell, 495K) reports that yesterday, researchers "said the Zika virus has shown it may be useful in attacking glioblastoma cancer cells." The research was published in the Journal of Experimental Medicine.

Fox News (9/5, 12.87M) reports on its website that investigators "found that the virus infected and killed patient-derived glioblastoma stem cells compared to other glioblastoma cell types or normal neural cells." Meanwhile, "in mice, the virus slowed tumor grown significantly and extended the animals' lifespan." When "testing a mutant strain of the virus, which was tailored to be more sensitive to the body's immune response, it was able to target and kill glioblastoma stem cells more effectively when combined with a chemotherapy drug." Also covering the story is the San Diego Union-Tribune (9/5, Fikes, 668K).

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SHORT STATURE MAY POSE LESS OF A RISK FOR VENOUS THROMBOEMBOLISMS, STUDY INDICATES. CNN (9/6, Howard, 33.59M) reports on its website that height can be an independent predictor of risk for venous thromboembolism, or blood clots. Lead study author Dr. Bengt Zöller at Sweden's Lund University said that "formal studies are needed to determine exactly how height interacts with inherited blood disorders and other conditions."

HealthDay (9/5, Dallas, 11K) reports researchers analyzed data on some "2.6 million people from Sweden: male soldiers whose health was tracked from the 1950s to the 1990s, and newly pregnant women tracked from 1969 to 2010." The findings were published in Circulation: Cardiovascular Genetics.

RATE OF UNNECESSARY ED VISITS MAY BE AS LOW AS 3.3 PERCENT, STUDY INDICATES. Health IT Analytics (9/5, Bresnick) reports, "According to a new large-scale study from the International Journal for Quality in Health Care, the rate of unnecessary" emergency department (ED) "visits may be as low as 3.3 percent." The study's findings "question the value of focusing too many resources on diverting patients into other forms of care."

SOUTH CAROLINA COUPLE FILES PROPOSED CLASS-ACTION LAWSUIT AGAINST AMAZON OVER FAULTY ECLIPSE GLASSES. In continuing coverage, USA Today (9/5, Hafner, 8.62M) reports that last week, a South Carolina couple filed a "proposed class-action lawsuit" against Amazon, alleging that "faulty eclipse glasses purchased through" the online retail giant has "left them with dark spots and distorted vision following last month's eclipse."

EXPERIMENTAL BLOOD TEST MAY ACCURATELY DIAGNOSE ALZHEIMER'S, RESEARCHERS SAY. CNN (9/5, Scutti, 33.59M) reports, "An experimental blood test can accurately diagnose Alzheimer's disease...according to" research published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The New York Daily News (9/5, Dziemianowicz, 3.61M) reported that for the study, investigators "followed 347 participants with neurodegenerative diseases and 202 healthy people, who ranged in age from 23 to 90." Next, "researchers analyzed subjects' blood samples with infrared spectroscopy." The study authors "identified subjects with early Alzheimer's with 80% sensitivity and 74% specificity" and "participants with later stages of the disease with up to 86% sensitivity and specificity."

NYC HEALTH & HOSPITALS EXPANDING MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS FOR KIDS, TEENS. The New York Times (9/5, Wang, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that NYC Health & Hospitals, "New York City's Public Hospital system," is now "expanding its mental health programs for children and adolescents." The programs are "designed to address the challenges facing many of the hospital system's young patients, such as poverty, violence and substance abuse – circumstances that doctors said make children more likely to need mental health treatment but less likely to get it." According to the Times, "the programs follow the increasingly popular 'integrated care' model, which aims to minimize the bouncing of patients between physical health doctors, psychiatrists and community resources."

EXPERTS GIVE TIPS ON HOW TO SUPPORT A SIBLING WITH MENTAL ILLNESS. The Huffington Post (9/6, Hallett, 5.74M) profiles two families that support their siblings with bipolar personality disorder and paranoid schizophrenia. The article mentions the National Institute of Mental Health's definition of BPD as "a mental illness that causes mood and behavioral instability, which can lead to impulsive decision-making and unstable relationships." The piece provides expert tips including to keep an "open dialogue" about mental health, checking in on the sibling, trying not to get frustrated or angry, letting go of expectations, allowing young children to be supportive, taking care of oneself, and setting boundaries.

STUDY: HOSPITAL-PHYSICIAN MERGERS FUEL HEALTHCARE MONOPOLIES. Kaiser Health News (9/5, Hancock) reports on a study published in Health Affairs examining the mergers of hospitals and physician practices leading to "highly concentrated" markets under the Federal Trade Commission's antitrust guidelines. The research showed that 22 percent of markets for primary care doctors, surgeons, cardiologists and other specialties were "highly concentrated" in 2013, based on insurance data. The authors of the study found because many of the deals are small acquisitions of a few physicians at a time, they do not attract scrutiny from regulators. One of the study's co-authors, Christopher Ody, a Northwestern University economist, urged state attorneys general and insurance commissioners to "look more closely at doctor combos."

Global Health:

ITALIAN HEALTH OFFICIALS BAFFLED BY FATAL CASE OF MALARIA. The AP (9/5) reports that health officials in Italy are investigating "the death of a 4-year-old girl from malaria." The girl had not visited "any country at risk for the disease" and "Italy is not known to have" malaria-spreading mosquitoes.

Reuters (9/5, Scherer) reports that a potential explanation is that the child, "who suffered from diabetes, had somehow contracted the disease during a previous hospital stay from two girls who were recovering" from malaria in another room

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following a visit to Africa.

NBC News (9/5, Lavanga, 3.46M) reports that "Dr. Claudio Paternoster, director of the infectious diseases ward at Santa Chiara hospital in Trento," where the girl died, "said that he had not seen a case of home-grown malaria during his 30-year career." Paternoster added, "It's not probable, almost impossible, to pass on the [parasite] from patient to patient. So the only option I can think of is that the mosquito that carried the disease may have traveled to Italy, and survived somehow."

Fox News (9/5, 12.87M) and NPR (9/5, Held, 2.4M) also cover the story.

EU OFFICIAL ANNOUNCES TAINTED EGG SCANDAL HAS AFFECTED 40 COUNTRIES SO FAR. The AP (9/5) reports the European Commission's health and food safety regulator Vytenis Andriukaitis announced on Tuesday that the continent's ongoing insecticide-contaminated egg scandal has reached 24 EU member countries and 16 non-members. So far, "Millions of eggs across Europe have been destroyed after they were found to contain traces of Fipronil."

Reuters (9/5) also provides coverage.

SCOTLAND CERVICAL CANCER SCREENINGS INCREASE FROM 2016 BUT FALL SHORT OF GOAL. BBC News (UK) (9/5, 1.61M) reports that "73.4% of eligible women" in Scotland attended cervical cancer screenings as of the end of March, "compared to 69.2% in 2016 and 70.4% in 2015." The 2016 figure was a "10-year low." According to the article, Scotland's government has set a target of 80%.

YEMEN'S CHOLERA EPIDEMIC SURPASSES 600,000 CASES. Reuters (9/5, Miles) reports that the cholera outbreak in Yemen "has infected 612,703 people and killed 2,048 since it began in April," according to data released Tuesday by the World Health Organization and Yemen's health ministry. The article says the "spread of the epidemic has slowed in the past two months," though "some districts" continue to "report sharp rises in new cases." A WHO spokesman said the organization "is currently investigating the reason" for those upticks.

National News:

ADMINISTRATION MOVES TO PHASE OUT DACA AS TRUMP CALLS ON CONGRESS TO "LEGALIZE" IT. To condemnation from Democrats, immigration activists and CEOs, among others, the Administration announced yesterday that it has begun phasing out the Obama-era DACA program – even as it asked Congress to pass legislation addressing the fate of the 800,000 affected migrants. A number of media analyses, however, cast doubt on Congress' ability to fulfill President Trump's mandate. ABC World News Tonight (9/5, story 5, 1:40, Bruce, 14.63M), for example, pointed out that "lawmakers have already tried and failed more than 10 times to act on this issue," and the CBS Evening News (9/5, story 2, 2:10, Cordes, 11.17M) that "congressional inaction was what led President Obama to resort to DACA in the first place." Moreover, the New York Times (9/5, Shear, Davis, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) notes White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders "would not say whether the president would support a stand-alone bill," and indicated instead that he "would support legislation to protect" the "young immigrants...as part of a broader immigration overhaul to strengthen the border, protect American jobs and enhance enforcement." McClatchy (9/5, Kumar, Ordoñez, 67K) also says "the White House...is willing to trade protections of Dreamers for money that would fund a wall on the southern border."

Another New York Times (9/5, Alcindor, Stolberg, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) story also reports that "Republican leaders indicated" yesterday that in order to pass DACA, "they will need sweeteners" such as "funding for a border wall," but the Washington Post (9/5, O'Keefe, Weigel, 10.38M) reports that "senior Democratic aides said" they "will oppose any attempt to spend federal dollars" on the wall, and will also "oppose the RAISE Act." Politico (9/5, Kim, Bade, Caygle, 3.6M) notes Sens. Dick Durbin and Lindsey Graham yesterday "urged Congress to take up a DACA fix this month," but "the Senate's second-ranking Senate Republican quickly dismissed that possibility." Said Majority Whip John Cornyn, "There's no way. ... We will take that up. I'm confident. But there's no way that it will stand alone." Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley "concurred, saying he doesn't believe a standalone bill granting legal status to Dreamers can pass Congress by itself."

In the President's words, as noted by USA Today (9/5, Jackson, Johnson, Gomez, 8.62M), "the legislative branch, not the executive branch, writes these laws." The Los Angeles Times (9/5, Bennett, Tanfani, 4.49M) notes that Trump also said in a White House statement, "I do not favor punishing children, most of whom are now adults, for the actions of their parents." Reuters (9/5, Holland), meanwhile, indicates that Trump "denounced Obama's program as an 'amnesty-first approach' toward illegal immigrants and pressed his nationalist 'America First' message."

Trump had taken to Twitter earlier in the morning to address the issue, writing, "Congress, get ready to do your job –

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DACA!" The President added, "Make no mistake, we are going to put the interest of AMERICAN CITIZENS FIRST! The forgotten men & women will no longer be forgotten." He later tweeted, "I look forward to working w/ D's + R's in Congress to address immigration reform in a way that puts hardworking citizens of our country 1st." Breitbart (9/5, Munro, 2.42M) runs a story on Trump's remarks titled "Donald Trump: 'Young Americans Have Dreams Too.'" The Washington Examiner (9/5, Quinn, 465K) says the President "further defended his decision to rescind DACA during his remarks Tuesday afternoon and said lawmakers he's spoken to are eager to draft legislation addressing DACA beneficiaries." Said Trump, "I can tell you, speaking to members of Congress, they want to be able to do something and do it right. ... And really we have no choice, we have to be able to do something, and I think it's going to work out very well, and long-term it's going to be the right solution."

Finally, in the evening, Trump tweeted, "Congress now has 6 months to legalize DACA (something the Obama Administration was unable to do). If they can't, I will revisit this issue!" Breitbart (9/5, Pollak, 2.42M) calls that last tweet "a rare negotiating blunder" by the President, who "may have backed himself into signing whatever form of DACA Congress passes," while Axios (9/6, Lawler, 303K) says "hinting at a way out would seem to undermine Trump's efforts to pressure Congress to act."

Beyond the grim forecast on a potential legislative solution, media coverage of Trump's decision was overwhelmingly unfavorable. The CBS Evening News (9/5, lead story, 2:50, Mason, 11.17M) opened its broadcast stating, "A promise kept by...Trump is a dream lost for thousands of undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children." To USA Today (9/5, Korte, 8.62M), Trump faced a "stark choice: Seek consensus and move to the middle, or...side with his economic nationalist base." To the Washington Post (9/5, Nakamura, 10.38M), Trump's decision "comes as the president...seeks to rally his conservative base." Philip Bump, meanwhile, titles his online analysis – also for the Washington Post (9/5, Bump, 10.38M) – "With DACA, Trump Again Prioritizes His Base Over What's Politically Popular." On NBC Nightly News (9/5, story 4, 2:25, Holt, 16.61M), on the other hand, Kristen Welker said Trump's "base is accusing" him "of punting on a core campaign promise."

Chris Cillizza headlined its piece for CNN (9/5, 33.59M) "DACA Decision Confirms It: Trump Has Killed The Bush Version Of The GOP," and says the Administration's "view – that the rule of law trumps (ahem) all else when it comes to the nation's immigration problems – is a massive reversal from views espoused by George W. Bush in his two terms as president and in the autopsy document produced by the Republican National Committee in the wake of the party's disastrous 2012 presidential election loss." Jason Sattler warns Republicans in USA Today (9/5, 8.62M) that "when we need a shortcut to explain why it's a bad long-term strategy to scapegoat immigrants for short-term gain, we point to California – where the GOP has become a sloppy karaoke version of its old self, a larger third-party that may not even field a candidate for governor in next year's general election." To Sattler, the GOP's demise began with its support of Prop. 187 in 1994.

Writing for National Review (9/5, Bauer, 892K), Fred Bauer argues that politically, the Administration is engaging in "a huge gamble. If the Republican caucus tries to pass a stand-alone fix along the lines of the DREAM Act (which would give full legal status to those covered by DACA), it could be in a lose-lose situation: Either it will succeed and infuriate the GOP base, or it will fail, as numerous attempts to pass the DREAM Act have in the past." But if "the caucus unifies around a deal trading the DREAM Act for center-right immigration reforms, it could advance conservative policy goals and strengthen its political hand."

The AP (9/5, Colvin, Gurman) reports "Trump's announcement came the same day as a deadline set by a group of Republican state officials who said they would challenge DACA in court unless the Trump administration rescinded the program." The AP adds that Sanders "said the president had been given a choice between the 'likely sudden cancellation of the program by a judge' or 'an orderly wind-down that preserved the rule of law,' and made the best decision in light of those options." Likewise, the Washington Times (9/5, Dinan, Noble, 541K) reports, DHS "portrayed the decision as the lesser of two evils, saying that the program's legality was so tenuous that a judge could have ended the program instantly, throwing hundreds of thousands of Dreamers into immediate chaos."

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton said on CNN's The Lead (9/5, 972K) that he is withdrawing the threat of litigation against the Administration. Paxton added, "We are pleased with the result. We are grateful that he rescinded this and that we are now under a President that is actually following the Constitution and acting within the scope of his authority." Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach said on Fox News' Fox & Friends (9/5, 1.09M), "DACA violates the United States Constitution in two different ways. It also violates three different federal statutes and it's not just my opinion. You've had lower federal courts already say that. So it is illegal and should end now. We shouldn't say we recognize it is illegal and we recognize it is violating our constitution but let's keep on violating the constitution for six months or however long. We need to end it and we need to start looking after United States citizens first."

The Los Angeles Times (9/5, Bennett, Tanfani, 4.49M) reports, meanwhile, that "notably," the President "left it to" Attorney

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General Sessions “to make the announcement, not himself,” and the New York Times (9/5, Apuzzo, Ruiz, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) that the AG “not only served as the administration’s spokesman, he also spoke directly to Mr. Trump’s base in a blunt, uncompromising way that the president himself was uncomfortable doing.”

The Washington Post (9/5, Nakamura, 10.38M) notes that “in announcing the decision at the Justice Department,” Sessions “said that former president Barack Obama, who started the program in 2012 through executive action, ‘sought to achieve specifically what the legislative branch refused to do.’” Sessions referred to Obama’s move as an “open-ended circumvention of immigration law through unconstitutional authority by the executive branch,” and “said the program was unlikely to withstand court scrutiny.”

Bloomberg News (9/4, Talev, Olorunnipa, Edgerton, 4.52M) reports that “rejecting calls to show compassion for the young immigrants covered by the program,” Sessions said, “The compassionate thing to do is end the lawlessness, and enforce our laws and if Congress chooses to make changes to those laws, to do so through the process enforced by our founders in a way that advances the interests of the American people.” Sanders “echoed the point,” telling reporters, “It’s not cold-hearted for the president to uphold the law.”

To Sessions, Roll Call (9/5, Bennett, 134K) reported, “the immigration program ‘contributed to a surge of minors’ coming across America’s southern border,” sparking “‘terrible’ consequences across the country.” Sessions also “contended the Obama program put the country at greater risk of ‘crime, violence and terrorism.’” The Chicago Sun-Times (9/5, Sweet, 742K), the New York Post (9/5, Schultz, 4.31M), Townhall (9/5, O'Brien, 523K), and the Wall Street Journal (9/5, Meckler, Subscription Publication, 6.45M), among other news outlets, also report the announcement along similar lines. ABC World News Tonight (9/5, story 4, 3:20, Vega, 14.63M), meanwhile, reported that in a “memo obtained by ABC News, the Trump Administration urges members of Congress to say Dreamers should prepare to self-deport, saying, they should prepare for and arrange their departure from the United States, including proactively seeking travel documentation.” The “backlash” was “immediate.”

McClatchy (9/5, Ordoñez, Kumar, 67K) recounts that Sessions “walked into the White House two weeks ago with a blunt message for his boss: The Obama-era program that keeps hundreds of thousands of people safe from deportation is unconstitutional. And setting aside any sentimentality, the attorney general told the president he would not defend the program in court.” And “that was when Donald Trump decided he had no choice.” A “source familiar with the conversation” tells McClatchy, “Once Sessions told Trump he would not defend DACA in court, he left Trump without any other legal options.”

On its front page, the New York Times (9/5, A1, Jordan, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) profiles several successful Dreamers. For example, the Times reports that “as Mr. Sessions spoke, Marcela Zhou, a Dreamer and third-year medical student at the University of California, Los Angeles, paused between patients she was seeing at a clinic to watch the announcement.”

In a blog post for the Washington Post (9/5, Capehart, 10.38M), Jonathan Capehart wrote that “listening to Sessions prattle on about respect for the rule of law after his boss ignored it last month to pardon a racist former sheriff is World Series-level gall.” The move “fits with the reprehensible zeitgeist that has always enveloped Sessions since before he took the helm of the justice department.” Rep. Maxine Waters “was as unsparing in her assessment of him as she has been on the president during an interview on my podcast “Cape Up” in May.” Said Waters, “I think he’s a racist, and I think that he absolutely believes that it’s his job to keep minorities in their place.”

USA Today (9/5, Jackson, Johnson, Gomez, 8.62M) reports DHS “will immediately stop accepting applications to the DACA program – but current recipients would not be affected until March 5 of next year.” This “gives Congress time to find a legislative solution to replace the program, which currently shields some 800,000 young immigrants from deportation.” According to The Hill (9/5, Lillis, Bernal, Savransky, 1.68M), “the new guidelines still allow for DACA enrollees to remain in the program and retain work permits well beyond that date, in some cases.” The Hill added that “for those whose eligibility is set to expire within the next six months, DHS is accepting renewal applications until Oct. 5 – creating the potential for enrollees to remain in the program almost two years after the so-called phaseout.” The New York Post (9/5, Moore, Schultz, 4.31M) outlines a similar timeline in its report.

Sean Hannity said in his opening monologue on Fox News’ Hannity (9/5, 2.78M) that the “destroy Trump establishment media” is “predictably” in “freak out mode about the President’s decision,” but, “what they won’t tell you is that DACA was, in fact, unconstitutional. The President is right to let Congress decide on the issue of immigration laws in this country. That’s how a system of checks and balances is supposed to work. The executive branch can’t usurp power from the legislative branch. You remember how President Obama himself admitted this many, many times before ever signing this executive order on DACA. He admitted it was unconstitutional, for him to change immigration laws all on his own.”

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Jonah Goldberg of National Review said on Fox News' Special Report (9/5, 2.25M), "I think on the constitutional or civic merits...Trump made exactly he right decision. I don't think – even the Obama administration said it was supposed to be temporary program. The title 'D' in DACA is 'deferred.' It was always supposed to be followed up by real legislation. Presidents aren't supposed to make law. ... On the other hand, politically, I think this is a hot mess. I think that Donald Trump is setting up Congress for potentially disastrous failure and at the same time – he wants to punt this so that he doesn't have to make this very hard decision that puts him either on the wrong side of the base or on the wrong side of everybody else."

Jeff Zeleny said on CNN's Situation Room (9/5, 1.05M), "I am told by a senior White House official it was like a tug-of-war in the West Wing of the White House. All these advisers and outside advisers who the President listens to were largely telling him different things, but business leaders and others were urging him not to do anything draconian here. We're told he's not happy necessarily with this decision but was trying to find a spot in the middle."

Cotton said on Fox News' Special Report (9/5, 2.25M), "Trump was put in this situation by...Obama," who "created this program without congressional approval five years ago even though he himself said he didn't have the legal authority. I think...Trump struck a sensible middle ground and said that in six months he's going to stop renewing these work permits for illegal immigrants in their 20s and 30s who were brought here through no fault of their own. That should give Congress time to pass legislation that would not only perhaps codify that program but also address some of the consequences of the action like encouraging future illegal immigration or allowing those people who might get legal status to also make their parents, the people who created the situation, citizens as well."

Rep. Mark Meadows said on CNN's Situation Room (9/5, 1.05M), "Obviously I support the President's decision. One of the things that's perhaps is not getting reported a whole lot is the jurisprudence that is out there would suggest this was going to go away, anyway. So it is incumbent upon Congress to act. So, the President took a decisive action. He did it in a way that gave Congress six months to deal with it. You saw Dick Durbin and Lindsey Graham working together already trying to try to look at some legislative fix. But more importantly, any solution is going to have to start, really, with securing our southern borders."

Rep. Paul Gosar writes in USA Today (9/5, 8.62M), "I applaud the president's work in upholding the rule of law and his decision to cease the Obama administration's unconstitutional amnesty program."

Meanwhile, notes USA Today (9/5, Shesgreen, King, 8.62M), "Rep. Mike Coffman, a Colorado Republican who represents suburban Denver, plans to make an end-run around House GOP leaders by filing a 'discharge petition' on the Bridge Act, a bipartisan bill that would grant DREAMers legal status for three years."

Trump Evangelical Advisers Claim Credit For Six-Month Delay. The Washington Post (9/5, Sellers, 10.38M) reports "members of the president's Evangelical Advisory Board claimed credit" for Trump's decision on DACA including "a built-in six-month delay." Said Tony Suarez, executive vice president of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, "We are responsible for this extension [the president] is offering. That's our work." Suarez "said he and NHCLC President Samuel Rodriguez have worked on behalf of the so-called 'dreamers' since the advisory board was formed during the campaign last summer and stepped up pressure on the White House last week, making calls and delivering letters signed by Hispanic pastors to the president. Then, on Friday, a handful of the evangelical pastors met with Trump," and "at that Oval Office meeting, which neither Rodriguez nor Suarez was able to attend, Jentezen Franklin, a white pastor from a multi-ethnic church near Atlanta, made a personal plea to the president on behalf of the dreamers."

Decision Sparks Protests. The CBS Evening News (9/5, story 3, 2:00, Blackstone, 11.17M) reported that "the decision to end DACA sparked protests across the country," with "thousands" gathering "near the White House and outside Trump Tower in New York." High school students, moreover, "staged a walkout in downtown Denver, and in Los Angeles." NBC Nightly News (9/5, story 4, 2:25, Holt, 16.61M) referred to "protests erupting nationwide," and (Welker) to "sound and fury with protesters storming major cities all across the country."

The Bergen (NJ) Record (9/5, Alvarado, 8.62M) reports "nearly a dozen people were arrested during an immigration demonstration outside Trump Tower," and the Washington Post (9/5, Sacchetti, Stein, 10.38M) that "undocumented immigrants and their supporters yelled, 'Shame!' in front of the White House and got arrested in front of Trump Tower in New York City."

Obama: Trump Move "Cruel," "Self-Defeating," "Wrong." Reuters (9/5) reports Obama said on Facebook yesterday that "the Trump administration's decision to rescind a program Obama instituted to protect from deportation illegal immigrants who were brought to the United States as children was 'cruel,' 'self-defeating' and 'wrong.'" The Washington Post (9/5, Johnson, 10.38M) quotes Obama as writing, "Ultimately, this is about basic decency." USA Today (9/5, Estepa, 8.62M) notes that Obama also said that "now that the issue has been punted back to Congress" lawmakers should

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"protect these young people and our future." The Washington Times (9/5, Boyer, 541K), the New York Post (9/5, Moore, 4.31M), McClatchy (9/5, Welsh, 67K), the AP (9/5, Holland), Politico (9/5, Dovere, 3.6M), The Hill (9/5, Thomsen, 1.68M), and Breitbart (9/5, Spiering, 2.42M), among other news outlets, also report Obama's post.

In an analysis piece, Politico (9/5, Dovere, 3.6M) says Obama is "purposefully keeping quiet – even as his team was already quietly consulting on steps forward Tuesday with activists and strategists." Yesterday's "statement – written in his Washington office on Tuesday and so much in Obama's voice that it even includes his 'let's be clear' tic – there's nothing about what to put in a bill, only the principles at stake and the need to do something." While he "sees protecting Dreamers as a major part of his legacy, but doesn't want Republicans to back away from a bill because they're supporting something that their base's favorite bogeyman wants."

Vox (9/5, Stein, 1.54M) noted, meanwhile, that former Vice President Biden also "condemned the Trump administration's decision," writing on Facebook, "These people are all Americans. ... So let's be clear: throwing them out is cruel. It is inhumane. And it is not America."

In Apparent Break With Party, Feinstein Says DACA Was "On Shaky Legal Ground." The Los Angeles Times (9/5, Mehta, 4.49M) reports Sen. Dianne Feinstein "signaled Tuesday that she believes...Obama's executive order to protect young immigrants who were brought into the US as minors was on shaky legal ground, and said that is why Congress must act." The senator told MSNBC, "DACA was executive order. Legal is the law of passage of something. ... You know there are 10 attorneys general that are prepared to sue. I don't want to get into that. The point is DACA is here and we've got 800,000 young people who depend on this." Chuck Todd "said that Feinstein's answer implied that the program was 'on shaky legal ground,'" to which Feinstein replied, "It is. ... That's why we need to pass a law, and we should do it." The Times adds that "Feinstein's remarks are likely to fuel criticism among the most liberal members of her party."

Gutierrez: Trump Moving Toward "Full-Throated Endorsement Of White Supremacy," Kelly "Has No Honor." The Chicago Tribune (9/5, Skiba, 1.98M) reports that "Rep. Luis Gutierrez, a Chicago Democrat and longtime advocate on immigration issues, were among the most pointed," yesterday "accused the Trump administration of being on a 'very dangerous trajectory towards the full-throated endorsement of white supremacy – the likes of which we haven't seen in the open from a sitting president for a century.'"

The Washington Post (9/5, Weigel, 10.38M) notes Gutierrez also said, "General Kelly is a hypocrite who is a disgrace to the uniform he used to wear. ... He has no honor and should be drummed out of the White House along with the white supremacists and those enabling the president's actions by 'just following orders.' "

Emanuel To Incoming High School Students: Chicago Schools A "Trump-Free" Zone. The Washington Times (9/5, Chasmar, 541K) reports Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel yesterday "assured incoming high schoolers that they need not to worry about...Trump ending the 'Dreamers' program, saying Chicago Public Schools are a 'Trump-free' sanctuary for young illegal immigrants." Said the mayor, "Chicago, our schools, our neighborhoods, our city, as it relates to what President Trump said, will be a Trump-free zone. You have nothing to worry about."

The Chicago Sun-Times (9/5, Dudek, Fitzpatrick, 742K) reports, "It was no accident that the mayor, who's been courting Hispanic voters as his popularity has flagged among the African-Americans who elected him, chose Solorio Academy High School to ring in the new school year because nearly a third of Solorio's students are undocumented immigrants."

Mexico "Profoundly Laments" Trump Decision. The Washington Post (9/5, Partlow, 10.38M) reports the Mexican government "said Tuesday that it 'profoundly laments' the decision by the Trump administration to phase out the program that protects hundreds of thousands of young immigrants from deportation." The Washington Times (9/5, Dinan, 541K) notes that in a statement, Mexico also "said it will take back the hundreds of thousands of its citizens currently living in the US without permission." Said the government, "Mexico will receive Dreamers who return to our country with open arms. ... In accordance with instructions from President Enrique Peña Nieto, the agencies of the federal government are strengthening their efforts to offer them the greatest support, take advantage of their talents and skills, and fully integrate them into our society and national economy."

WPost, NYTimes, USA Today Blast Trump; WSJournal Blames Both Parties. The Washington Post (9/5, 10.38M) writes in an editorial that Trump "ducked, dodged and shunted the issue to Congress." His "order is an assault on economic logic," and "unless Congress acts, the United States will suffer along with the dreamers."

The New York Times (9/5, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) editorializes that "Trump didn't even have the guts to do the job himself. Instead, he hid in the shadows and sent his attorney general...to do the dirty work." Adds the Times, "Contrast that with President Obama's willingness to defend a policy that has always had detractors."

USA Today (9/5, 8.62M) editorializes that "in six months...the president is likely to find himself right where he is today. He could inflict real damage on himself, his party and his country by letting the deportations go into effect. He could institute another delay. Or he could try to negotiate some face-saving deal with Democrats and Republican pragmatists to pass a DACA law." But "in the meantime" he "is playing right into the hands of Democrats, who might otherwise be troubled by their internal divisions and inability to win elections between the two coasts."

On its editorial page, the Wall Street Journal (9/5, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) criticizes Trump's campaign rhetoric threatening to end DACA, but argues that Obama should not have moved unilaterally in establishing it – and that the former president acted cynically in a bid to score political points and put Republicans in a bind. The Journal goes on to criticize both parties' handling of the issue, and suggests a deal could be made whereby Congress approves the program in exchange for added border security.

More Condemnation Of Administration. Bloomberg News (9/5, Bass, 4.52M) reports "companies from a broad range of industries, including technology, finance and retail, swiftly condemned the Trump administration's decision to end a program preventing the deportation of immigrants illegally brought to the US as children." Wrote Facebook Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg, "It is particularly cruel to offer young people the American Dream, encourage them to come out of the shadows and trust our government, and then punish them for it." Politico (9/5, Overly, 3.6M) also says "Trump's decision to end the Dreamers program is inflaming his rift with America's corporate leaders – a group he once touted as a key ally for his business-friendly administration." Politico adds "a slew of top CEOs and business groups slammed the move – warning of the human toll and its impact on the nation's economy."

USA Today (9/5, Guynn, 8.62M) reports, "Don't mess with DACA. That was the message from major technology companies." Apple and Microsoft, "two of the companies to come out swinging against the president's decision to dump Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, pledged to shield employees who could face legal troubles or deportation."

Townhall (9/5, O'Brien, 523K) indicated "Trump just lost his CEO for the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce after his decision." Javier Palomarez, "who announced his resignation Tuesday, explained" that "Sessions's DACA announcement was the last straw," saying, "This disgraceful action goes against not only the values of this country, but also against the promise of this administration to focus homeland security resources towards individuals who have committed violent crimes and pose a threat to communities across the country."

The Washington Post (9/5, Balingit, 10.38M) says "education leaders Tuesday swiftly condemned...Trump's decision...warning the move will disrupt the lives of hundreds of thousands of students."

The Washington Times (9/5, Persons, 541K), meanwhile, notes "US Conference of Bishops President Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston blasted...Trump's plan to remove protections from children brought to the US illegally as 'reprehensible.'"

Rep. John Garamendi said on CNN's Situation Room (9/5, 1.05M) that this is a "quid pro quo. It's a deal. The President has structured a deal putting 800,000 young men and women, young Dreamers, on the line in exchange for his border wall. That's what this is all about. He is putting at risk those 800,000 people."

Maggie Haberman of the New York Times said on CNN's The Lead (9/5, 972K) that Trump "had very few good options here given what he was facing, given what he had promised. You could argue he shouldn't have campaigned on a platform that included ending DACA. But he was all over the map in terms of what he wanted to do with this program. I do believe he was genuinely conflicted about this. I don't think that changes the feelings on what they're doing. I think that punting it over to Congress – he knows full well that Congress could not do a healthcare repeal. ... This is basically pushing the blame off to someone else, and I don't know how well that flies when his whole thing during the campaign was, I alone can fix this broken system."

Political commentator Paul Begala said on CNN's The Lead (9/5, 972K), "Who knows...what happens in that desperately mangled brain of his, and I think the only way to read it, 'I love these young people, and I have heart, but I'm going to kick them all out of the country – 800,000 of them who have done nothing wrong.' It's incoherent. I think politically he couldn't have hurt himself more. Even the Trump voters, most Trump voters don't want to kick these young people out of the country. And he notion that Ken Paxton, the Attorney General of Texas...is pushing Donald Trump around is pretty appalling."

Rep. Ruben Gallego said on CNN's Situation Room (9/5, 981K), "You're basically destabilizing their lives. These young men and women have started families, bought homes, started businesses, some of them are police officers, firefighters, some have joined the military and are now veterans and we're going to cruelly take them away from this life." Gallego

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added that if Congress does not "act to stop the President," Dreamers "will be deported. The way ICE is operating right now, they don't care who they are nabbing and grabbing. They'd rather go for the easiest targets. They're going to go for people that they know are good citizens. They know they have steady routines. They're going to...start taking these young men and women and their families, anyone they encounter. At the end of the day all they want to do is hit their quotas and that's what's going to happen."

Gloria Borger said on CNN's Situation Room (9/5, 981K), "I think the real story here is the President was faced with a real problem. He had been on the campaign trail consistently saying that the wanted to end DACA, and then he had also said since he came into office, he spoke to President Obama about it, he spoke to others about it and he said that he really cared about the dreamers. Well, how do you square those two things? It's very difficult. So, what he did was he said, 'Okay, I'm going to pass the buck. I'm going to pass the buck here to Congress and let's see if Congress can resolve it.'"

Dreamer Killed Trying To Rescue Harvey Victims. The CBS Evening News (9/5, story 6, 2:25, Villafranca, 11.17M) reported that Harvey's death toll "includes a 31-year-old undocumented immigrant who could have faced deportation next year. Instead, he died a hero." CBS (Villafranca) added that Alonso Guillen "came to the US from Mexico when he was 15 to live with his dad, a permanent resident. He signed up for DACA, and as a Dreamer was working towards citizenship." He "and a friend drove 120 miles from Lufkin, Texas to Houston, to rescue people stuck in an apartment. They were in a boat that hit a bridge and capsized." His body was found downstream four days later.

Daily Caller Says Most Dreamers Are Adults; NYTimes Says "Typical" Dreamer Came To US At Age Six. The Daily Caller (9/5, 521K) reported that "CNN and MSNBC are repeating the false claim that DACA recipients are 'children' or 'kids,' while actually most are adults." DACA "recipients were illegally brought to the United States by their parents when they were children," but "the minimum age to apply for the program is 15 years old," and "in fact, the majority of the applicants were over the age of 20 based on 2014 data from the US government. Some have estimated that the average age of dreamers is 25 or 26 years old – hardly children." USA Today (9/5, Gomez, 8.62M), meanwhile, reports "those affected were brought illegally to the United States as children. Now, at an average of 25, many know no other country than the US."

The New York Times (9/5, Parlapiano, Yourish, Subscription Publication, 13.56M), meanwhile, analyzes the program in a story headlined "A Typical 'Dreamer' Lives In Los Angeles, Is From Mexico And Came To The US At 6 Years Old."

Poll: 58% Support Allowing Dreamers To Stay, 15% Want Them Removed. Politico (9/5, Shepard, 3.6M) reports that according to a POLITICO/Morning Consult poll, "voters overwhelmingly support allowing undocumented immigrants brought to the U.S. as children to stay in the country." Fifty-eight percent "think these undocumented immigrants...should be allowed to stay and become citizens if they meet certain requirements – a sentiment which goes well beyond the existing DACA program." Meanwhile, "another 18 percent think they should be allowed to stay and become legal residents, but not citizens," and "only 15 percent of voters think these undocumented immigrants should be removed or deported from the country." Politico adds that "support for allowing these immigrants to remain in the U.S. spans across party lines: 84 percent of Democrats, 74 percent of independents and 69 percent of Republicans think they should stay."

Newsweek: Melania Trump's Immigration Attorney A Supporter Of DACA. Writing on the website of Newsweek (9/5, 991K), Melina Delkic said that first lady Melania Trump's attorney, Michael Wildes, "who once vouched for the former model regarding her immigration status, is 'prayerful' that President Barack Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) immigration program won't be dismantled by the Trump administration and Congress. He says he works to help DACA beneficiaries, whom he calls 'good souls.'" Delkic added that Wildes' "father, Leon Wildes, planted the seeds of DACA when he represented the musician John Lennon in his deportation trial and clarified the meaning of deferred action in a court of law."

After Having Opposed DREAM Act, Tester Criticizes Trump Over DACA Repeal. The Washington Free Beacon (9/5, Griswold, 158K) reported that Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT), who was among "the five Democratic senators who joined Republicans to defeat the DREAM Act," on Tuesday chided Trump "for revoking similar protections of so-called 'Dreamers.' In 2010," the Montana Democrat "voted against the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act, which would have granted legal residency status to illegal immigrants who were brought to the United States as minors. Tester voted against a similar bill in 2007." In a Tuesday statement, Tester said of Trump's decision to revoke DACA protections, "America's immigration system is badly broken and needs fixing, but breaking a promise to these children-who are here through no fault of their own-is not the solution." Tester faces reelection next year.

WPOST A1: CONSERVATIVE CHARITIES FUELED TRUMP'S EXIT FROM CLIMATE ACCORD. The Washington Post (9/5, A1, O'Harrow, 10.38M) reports on its front page that "for nearly two decades...the Cooler Heads Coalition, an umbrella group of tax-exempt public charities and other nonprofit organizations," led efforts to "cast doubt on the gravity of climate change and thwart government efforts to address it." Their efforts were "part of a wave that crested with

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[President] Trump's rejection on June 1 of the Paris agreement." The Coalition's leader, Myron Ebell, told the Post, "He made the decision. We helped create the circumstances. When you are persistent, good things can happen." The Post says the "story behind the coalition illuminates the influential, little-known role that tax-exempt public charities play in modern campaigns to sway lawmakers and shape policy in the nation's capital, while claiming to be nonpartisan educational organizations."

DOJ WON'T APPEAL RULING AGAINST OBAMA-ERA OVERTIME RULE. The Washington Free Beacon (9/5, McMorris, 158K) reports that, ending "one of the most controversial regulatory decisions from the Obama era," the Justice Department will not appeal Judge Amos Mazzant's decision striking down the Obama Labor Department's move to increase the salary threshold of white collars and administrative workers who have to be paid overtime from the current below $23,660 to $47,476. Mazzant held the rule was "unlawful" because classes of workers Congress exempted from overtime considerations would have received benefits.

DAILY CALLER ANALYSIS: EX-TRUMP AIDES THINK MANAFORT WILL BE INDICTED IN RUSSIA PROBE. The Daily Caller (9/5, Pfeiffer, Ross, 521K) reports that in interviews it conducted with ex-Trump campaign aides, those people say "they increasingly believe former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort will be indicted for crimes such as money laundering or tax evasion." The Daily Caller reports that a "former aide said that his knowledge of Manafort's history of working with despots, coupled with news reports about [special counsel Robert] Mueller's investigation, led him to believe that an indictment of Manafort is becoming more likely." The Daily Caller adds, "The former Trump advisers told TheDC they have no knowledge of any collusion with the Russian government on the presidential campaign. One aide stressed that any financial crimes by Manafort are his own problem and not that of the White House."

House Intelligence Committee Subpoenas DOJ, FBI Over Trump Dossier. The Washington Examiner (9/5, York, 465K) reports, "In the most significant escalation yet in the wrangling between Congress and the FBI over the Trump dossier, the House Intelligence Committee has subpoenaed the bureau and the Justice Department for documents relating to the dossier, the FBI's relationship with dossier author Christopher Steele, and the bureau's possible role in supporting what began as an opposition research project against candidate Donald Trump" during the 2016 "presidential campaign." The panel "issued the subpoenas...on August 24, giving" the DOJ and FBI "until last Friday, September 1, to turn over the information. Neither FBI nor Justice turned over the documents, and now the committee has given them an extension until September 14 to comply." The Examiner added that "late Tuesday the committee issued two more subpoenas, specifically to FBI Director Christopher Wray and Attorney General Jeff Sessions, directing them to appear before the committee to explain why they have not provided the subpoenaed information."

Drawing from the Examiner report, the Washington Times (9/5, Morton, 541K) quotes committee member Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-SC) as saying, "We got nothing. The witnesses have not been produced and the documents have not been produced."

House Judiciary Committee To Weigh Seeking Documents On Comey Firing. In a brief report, Reuters (9/5, Zengerle) says that the House Judiciary Committee on Tuesday said "it will consider this week a resolution asking President Donald Trump and Attorney General Jeff Sessions to provide documents related to Trump's firing of James Comey as FBI director." The panel "said it would consider the resolution of inquiry asking Trump to provide the documents to the House and directing Sessions to do so on Thursday."

Congressional Democrats: New Revelations Mean Russia Probes Likely To Be Extended. Bloomberg News (9/5, Dennis, House, 4.52M) reports that Democratic members of the Senate and House Intelligence Committees on Tuesday said that congressional probes of alleged Russian interference in the 2016 US presidential election "likely will be extended – perhaps into next year – because of revelations during Congress' August recess about Trump associates' contacts and meetings." Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA), ranking Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, told reporters, "It seems like there's not a week that doesn't go by that another undisclosed meeting doesn't come up or another relationship." Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA), ranking Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, "said he agrees that new information will extend his panel's probe as well. 'It merely adds to the witness list' and the documents to be sought, Schiff said."

NYTimes Examines Fallout At CNN After Investigative Unit's Story Was Retracted. The New York Times (9/5, Ember, Grynbaum, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports on the fallout at CNN after the network in June "retracted [an] article about Russia and a close ally of President Trump," Anthony Scaramucci. The incident saw three members of CNN Investigates leave the network, and CNN executive Terence Burke announced "the team would stop publishing stories while managers reviewed what had gone wrong. It was a chilling moment for a unit that boasted Pulitzer Prize winners and superstar internet sleuths, and had been introduced at the beginning of the year as the vanguard of CNN's original, high-impact reporting." Citing interviews with "more than half a dozen CNN staff members," the Times adds "the investigative team has been reshaped and redirected. Its members were told they should not report on perhaps the most compelling political story of the year: potential ties between the Trump administration and Russia. That subject is now

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largely handled by CNN's reporting team in Washington."

MCCLATCHY ANALYSIS: HILL REPUBLICANS RETURN FROM RECESS EAGER TO WORK WITH TRUMP. Under the headline "After Summer Of Charlottesville, Investigations, GOP Sticks With Trump," McClatchy (9/5, Douglas, Dumain, Clark, 67K) reports, "After a summer of white supremacy protests in Charlottesville and a relentless investigation into possible Russian ties to the Trump campaign, Republicans returned to Washington ready not to confront the president, but eager to please his supporters and find ways to deliver" on his agenda. GOP congressional members on Tuesday "said there's too much work to do and too little time to let President Donald Trump's controversial response to last month's deadly clash in Charlottesville or Special Counsel Robert Mueller's probe alter the way they deal with the White House." Rep. Dan Donovan (R-NY) told McClatchy, "There are people in Washington who just want to see the president fail, who won't work with him at all, no matter what he does or what he proposes. And that's a shame, because we're down here to govern, we're not supposed to be down here as opposition."

NBC News: Bannon Planning For "Bloody September" In Fight Over Trump Agenda. On its website, NBC News (9/5, Jackson, Welker, 3.46M) reported, "Multiple sources familiar with the [Steve] Bannon/Breitbart strategy say they're gearing up for the long-expected battle against those who they deride as the 'globalists' in the West Wing – and that the decision has been made to go after 'one globalist at a time.' First on the hit list? Gary Cohn," who is "key on the tax reform push." NBC added, "A source said Bannon and Rep. Mark Meadows, R-NC, of the House Freedom Caucus met Sunday to discuss the fall agenda. A source familiar with the discussion said part of their dialogue focused on the idea that the GOP should brace for a 'bloody September,' as the president's far-right base prepares to dig in on key issues from DACA to the debt ceiling. It's being described as a fight between the 'grass roots versus leadership' to support Trump's program."

FRANKEN OPPOSITION TO JUDICIAL NOMINEE SETS UP CLASH OVER SENATE TRADITION. Politico (9/5, Kim, 3.6M) reports that, in "a move that will trigger a standoff in the Senate over" the century-old tradition that the Judiciary Committee only holds confirmation hearings for judicial nominees with the permission of the candidate's home-state senators, Sen. Al Franken is preparing to block David Stras' nomination to the 8th US Circuit Court of Appeals. Franken criticized Stras, saying he would "reliably rule in favor of powerful corporate interests over working people, and that he would place a high bar before plaintiffs seeking justice." Franken also criticized the White House for choosing Stras before consulting with Franken about the vacancy. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, Minnesota's other senator, said in a statement that while she believes that Stras, whom she opposes, deserved a hearing, she supports Franken. Meanwhile, panel's chairman, Sen. Chuck Grassley, previously "signaled that he is prepared to go around opposition from home-state senators to move Trump's circuit court picks."

The Minneapolis Star Tribune (8/24, Brooks, Montemayor, 1.27M) reports Klobuchar has expressed concerns that the Administration will fill the vacant seat with a jurist from a neighboring state with two Republican senators. Stras "is well regarded by colleagues from both sides of the aisle, who have called him a fair-minded scholar and consensus builder." The Obama Administration found that the process of getting both home-state senators to sign off on judicial nominees from their state, called blue slipping, "can stretch for months or years." The Washington Times (9/5, Swoyer, 541K) calls Franken's move "an escalation" of "a nasty fight" via an "arcane" tradition.

SENATORS OFFERING AMENDMENTS TO DEFENSE BILL ON TRANSGENDER TROOPS, AUMFS. The Washington Post (9/5, Demirjian, 10.38M) reports Sens. Kristen Gillibrand and Susan Collins are drafting an amendment for the upcoming $700 billion defense bill to challenge President Trump's ban on transgender troops. While there has been "swift and quite bipartisan" backlash against the order, it isn't clear how much support the amendment would receive. Additionally, Sen. Rand Paul is holding up the bill, seeking "a vote on an amendment giving Congress a chance to weigh in on the US military's engagement in foreign wars." Operations in Afghanistan and against the Islamic State have been justified by a pair of AUMFs authorizing "military operations against al-Qaeda, the Taliban and associated groups" as well as in Iraq; many in Congress object to this justification. Paul's amendment would sunset the AUMFs after six months, which he says would force debate on the issue.

IN NEW BOOK, CLINTON CLAIMS SANDERS DID "LASTING DAMAGE" TO HER CAMPAIGN. The Washington Times (9/5, Wolfgang, 541K) reports that in her new book, "What Happened," Hillary Clinton argues that Sen. Bernie Sanders "did 'lasting damage' to her campaign and paved the way for President Trump's eventual victory in the general election." Citing excerpts from the book, The Times quotes Clinton as writing of Sanders, "His attacks caused lasting damage, making it harder to unify progressives in the general election and paving the way for Trump's 'Crooked Hillary' campaign."

The Hill (9/5, Easley, 1.68M) reported that in excerpts of the book, Clinton rips "Sanders's supporters – the so-called 'Bernie Bros' – claiming that some of the attacks against her were 'sexist' and arguing that Sanders's attacks against her for raking in tens of millions of dollars for paid corporate speeches made it impossible for her to appeal to progressives

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during the general election campaign. 'Some of his supporters, the so-called Bernie Bros, took to harassing my supporters online,' Clinton writes. 'It got ugly and more than a little sexist.'"

In an "analysis" for the Washington Post (9/5, Blake, 10.38M), Aaron Blake quoted Clinton as writing that Sanders "isn't a Democrat – that's not a smear, that's what he says. He didn't get into the race to make sure a Democrat won the White House, he got in to disrupt the Democratic Party." Clinton later adds, "I am proud to be a Democrat and I wish Bernie were too." Blake adds that Clinton's comments aren't "likely to help the Democratic Party heal any time soon."

Rasmussen Poll: 64% Of Likely Voters Think Clinton Broke Law With Private Email Server. Meanwhile, The Hill (9/5, Bowden, 1.68M) reported that in a Rasmussen Reports poll of 1,000 US likely voters, taken Aug. 31-Sept. 3, 64 percent of respondents said "Clinton likely broke the law when she sent and received classified emails through her personal server while serving as secretary of State. Just 30 percent said it was 'unlikely' that Clinton violated the law. Nineteen percent of Democratic voters in the poll said it was 'very likely' that" Clinton "had committed a crime."

IN REVERSAL, STRANGE NOW SAYS HE SUPPORTS ELIMINATING LEGISLATIVE FILIBUSTER. In a report on the Alabama special election for the former seat of Attorney General Sessions, the AP (9/5, Chandler) says that appointed Sen. Luther Strange, who is battling ex-state Supreme Court Justice Roy Moore in the Sept. 26 GOP primary runoff, on Tuesday "reversed course," siding with President Trump "in seeking to change Senate rules to make it easier for Republicans to push through legislative priorities." In a letter to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Strange asked "to get rid of the Senate filibuster rule that requires 60 votes to stop debate and pass legislation. He asked for his name to be withdrawn from an earlier letter he signed seeking to maintain the threshold. Trump has called for an end to the 60-vote rule." The Moore camp called Strange's shift "a blatant flip flop that career politicians do when they're in trouble."

Alabama Live (9/5, Hrynkiw, 608K) reports, "In the letter, Strange says he is 'disheartened' by Republican colleagues who are 'unwilling to put politics aside in order to accomplish the will of the American people by moving the priorities of President Donald J. Trump forward.'" The Washington Times (9/5, McLaughlin, 541K) reports that in calling for the elimination of the legislative filibuster, Strange argued "it must be done to get around 'obstructionist tactics by Democrats' and advance the White House's 'America First' agenda through the upper chamber on a simple majority vote."

Under the headline "Luther Strange Sides With Trump Over McConnell By Backing Filibuster Change," the Washington Examiner (9/5, Weaver, 465K) reported that Trump "has been a loud advocate for the change, which McConnell has resisted and shot down in recent months." The Examiner added, "According to the latest RealClearPolitics average, Moore leads" Strange "by 10.2 points (45.5-35.3 percent) in the" GOP runoff. Strange "is losing despite earning Trump's endorsement during [the] primary."

Roll Call (9/5, Bowman, 134K) reported that Moore "supports eliminating the 60-vote threshold to end debate. He said in an interview in August that the rule keeps Congress from voting on difficult pieces of legislation. He also said there is no provision in the Constitution that requires the procedure." The Hill (9/5, Bowden, 1.68M) also reported on Strange's reversal.

McConnell To Appear At Fundraiser For Strange On Thursday In Washington. The Washington Post (9/5, Sullivan, 10.38M) reports that McConnell plans to lend Strange a fundraising hand "this week for his closely watched primary runoff – even as Strange sides with...Trump over McConnell" on the elimination of the legislative filibuster. McConnell is slated "to appear at a high-dollar fundraiser on Thursday in Washington to benefit Strange." The Post adds that Sen. John Thune (R-SD), "the third-ranking Republican senator, is slated to appear at a Tuesday evening dinner fundraiser for Strange in Washington."

Moore: "Federal Government Should Have No Involvement In Education." Breitbart (9/5, Berry, 2.42M) reported that Moore posted a video message on his Twitter account, in which he "says it is time to end the federal government's involvement in education and allow parents to take the lead in how best to educate their children." Moore is quoted as saying in the video, "Education has always been in the purview of the parent. ... The states have various forms of education, but the federal government has no involvement in education under the Constitution." Moore continues, "The federal government should have no involvement in education. Common Core is an example of an attempt to indoctrinate our children with ideas that most people – at least in Alabama – don't agree with."

OPENING ARGUMENTS IN MENENDEZ CORRUPTION TRIAL TO BEGIN TODAY. The Philadelphia Inquirer (9/5, Seidman, 1.71M) reports that opening arguments in Sen. Bob Menendez's (D-NJ) "federal corruption trial are set to begin Wednesday, more than two years after" he "was charged with bribery as part of a scheme to sell his influence in exchange for luxury vacations, gifts, and hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions from" ophthalmologist Salomon Melgen, who is also charged in the case. The Inquirer adds that prosecutors allege that Melgen "lavished Menendez with gifts, sometimes on demand, in exchange for the senator's efforts to resolve a multi-million dollar

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dispute with the federal government, protect his financial interests in the Dominican Republican, and obtain visas for the doctor's foreign girlfriends."

Bloomberg News (9/5, Voreacos, Weinberg, 4.52M) reports that Menendez and Melgen "will begin their corruption trial this week with a very different tale – one focused on two decades of warm friendship far removed from the sort of gift-for-favor bargain that could send them to prison. It's a stark contrast to the typical conspiracy case, where defendants often try to distance themselves from their accused accomplices." Bloomberg News adds that jurors "will have to weigh whether Menendez was just helping a longtime friend in three disputes with the government – which wouldn't be illegal – or a dirty politician who sold his office for seven years."

The Washington Post (9/5, Barrett, 10.38M) reports, "Prosecutors plan to call a wide range of witnesses – including jet pilots, former public officials, and even members of Menendez's staff – to paint a picture of what they say is a seven-year scheme between Menendez and...Melgen." The Post adds, "The trial is expected to last up to two months, and will likely feature testimony from former Obama administration officials who say they were pressured by Menendez to help Melgen."

The AP (9/5, Porter) reports that the corruption trial of Menendez and Melgen "promises to put the very business of governing under a microscope – and could eventually lead to a Republican taking over" the Democrat's "seat in the deeply divided Senate." The AP adds that if Menendez "is convicted and steps down or is forced out of the Senate by a two-thirds majority vote before" Gov. Chris Christie (R-NJ) exits "office Jan. 16, the Republican governor would pick a successor."

Politico (9/5, Bresnahan, 3.6M) reported, "If Menendez is convicted, there will a battle over who will replace the 63-year-old Democrat, both in the state and potentially on the Senate floor. In a 52-48 Senate controlled by Republicans, every vote is immensely valuable."

RNC Ad Campaign Pressures Menendez To Resign, If Convicted. The Bergen (NJ) Record (9/5, Jackson) reports that the RNC is "launching an aggressive campaign now to get" Menendez's "colleagues to pressure him to resign if convicted." The campaign targets Menendez's "fellow Democrats, including Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York; senators running for re-election in states that President Trump won last year; and those with potential aspirations for the presidency in 2020, such as Sens. Cory Booker of [New Jersey] and Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts."

NJ News (9/5, Salant, 1.21M) reports that the RNC on Tuesday "launched an online ad campaign to force" Menendez "out immediately if convicted." Said RNC chief Ronna Romney McDaniel, "A sitting US senator involved in a federal bribery trial and facing 14 corruption-related counts is no small potatoes. If convicted, Senate Democrats need to immediately call for his resignation." NJ News adds that the spot "features both 2008 major-party presidential nominees, Sens. Barack Obama, D-Ill., and John McCain, R-Ariz., calling on then-Sen. Ted Stevens to resign after his conviction. Stevens, R-Alaska, later saw his conviction overturned. 'Democrats and Republicans were against a convicted felon serving in the Senate then,' the ad said. 'Why would it be any different now?'"

The Philadelphia Inquirer (9/5, Tamari, 1.71M) reports that Christie's "term ends in January and" ex-Goldman Sachs executive Phil Murphy (D) "is heavily favored to win the race to be the next governor. If so, Murphy might be able to name the replacement, if Menendez" is convicted and "can hang on long enough for the new administration to take power. The odds, however, are against the trial and Senate reaction taking so long – which means Christie would likely get to appoint a senator if Menendez is, indeed, convicted."

The Federalist's Payton: Media Mostly Mum On Menendez Trial. Writing for The Federalist (9/5, Payton, 88K), Bre Payton said that Menendez's trial has received "very little attention from members of the media. When they do talk about it, they like to leave out the fact he's a Democrat. On Sunday, The New York Times published a 1,288-word article about the trial...without once mentioning Menendez's political party affiliation," before "then stealth-edited the piece hours later," identifying Menendez "once in the fourth paragraph as a Democrat." Payton added that "columnist Phil Kerpen pointed out via Twitter last week" that "the news arms of the big three networks hadn't mentioned Menendez by name in months."

PRO-TRUMP CARR MOVING CLOSER TO A 2018 PRIMARY CHALLENGE TO CORKER. The Washington Times (9/5, McLaughlin, 541K) reports that ex-state Rep. Joe Carr (R-TN) "is laying the foundation to" mount a 2018 primary challenge to Sen. Bob Corker (R-TN), "accusing the incumbent of being too reluctant to back President Trump's agenda. He's formed a political action committee dubbed 'Stand Firm America' that raised $500,000 over the last three weeks." Speaking on Tuesday with the Times, Carr said, "There is a great opportunity for someone like myself to run against Sen. Corker and be victorious because there is an appetite for change, for someone to stand with President Trump, and stand up against the establishment of our party." The Times adds Corker "has pointedly broken with the president rhetorically, including last month when he said Mr. Trump has 'not yet been able to demonstrate the stability nor some of the competence that he needs to demonstrate in order to be successful' following the violence in Charlottesville, Virginia."

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DONNELLY FAMILY BUSINESS CONTINUED MANUFACTURING IN MEXICO AS HE HELD STOCK IN FIRM. The Washington Free Beacon (9/5, Scher, 158K) reported that the company run by the brother of Sen. Joe Donnelly (D-IN) "has continued manufacturing in Mexico despite scrubbing the outsourcing operation from its website, according to official shipment records showing thousands of dollars' worth of materials transported across the border by the company while the" Democratic lawmaker "still owned its stock." Donnelly, up for reelection in 2018, said "he would sell his stock in Stewart Superior," in the wake of an AP report "on July 13 that the company had outsourced its manufacturing to Mexico. His campaign announced last week that the stock was not sold until Aug. 11, for $17,410. US Customs records...show that on July 17 and July 19, with Donnelly still invested, Stewart Superior used its wholly owned subsidiary to send nearly 1,600 kilograms of raw materials to a factory in Jalisco, Mexico."

Roll Call Analysis: Donnelly Has Bucked Democratic Party On A Number Of Issues. Roll Call (9/5, Williams, 134K) reported that Donnelly's odds of winning a second term in 2018 may hinge on "his ability to convince Hoosiers he's not always on the same page as the national Democratic Party." Donnelly was elected "to Congress as a House member in the 2006 Democratic wave. An anti-abortion member of the Blue Dog Coalition, he didn't toe the party line on a range of issues," including opposing "the budget resolution in 2007," voting "against the climate change legislation championed by Democrats in 2009," and refusing "to support Nancy Pelosi to be House Democratic leader in 2011." Roll Call added, "So it is no surprise, perhaps, that in 2017, Donnelly has embraced key aspects of President Donald Trump's legislative agenda, openly criticizes his national party's failures in last year's elections, and expresses a strong willingness to support the president when it's good for Indiana."

IN CROWDED PA7 PRIMARY, DEMOCRATS BATTLE OVER WHO CAN BEST APPEAL TO UNHAPPY TRUMP VOTERS. In a report on Rep. Patrick Meehan's (R-PA) 2018 reelection race, Roll Call (9/5, Bowman, 134K) focused on the Democratic primary battle between "a liberal state senator, a former Capitol Hill staffer and community leader, a biomedical engineer, a real estate agent, an IT consultant, and a political outsider who has worked in education." While Meehan won "re-election by 19 points" in 2016, Hillary Clinton carried the PA7 "by 2 points last fall," and "Democrats see an opening" in the 2018 contest, "especially with voters who are unhappy with President Donald Trump. But they're battling over which candidate can best speak to those voters." Roll Call quoted "a Democratic strategist with ties to the [Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee]" as saying, "These primaries present some real challenges for the [DCCC] and the Democrats at large here. If a candidate wins, who takes out positions that are too extreme, that will be a huge challenge for winning the general election."

REPUBLICAN BRAUN ANNOUNCES BID TO SUCCEED ROKITA. The AP (9/5, Slodysko) reports that ex-state Department of Workforce Development chief Steve Braun (R) on Tuesday announced a 2018 bid to succeed Rep. Todd Rokita (R-IN), "billing himself as a 'conservative business leader.'" In a statement, Braun, who stepped down from this post in August, said, "It's been an honor working with Gov. Eric Holcomb and Gov. Mike Pence to improve career outcomes through workforce initiatives that create jobs and increase wages. As a conservative, I want to continue to use my experience creating thousands of private sector jobs to serve my community and country." Ex-Pence aide Diego Morales (R) is also in the race. Rokita is running for Senate next year.

WITH DEMOCRAT MURPHY FAVORED TO WIN 2017 RACE, DGA RAKING IN DONATIONS. The Philly (PA) (9/5, Seidman, 1.19M) reports, "In 2013, when Gov. Christie was a national GOP star heavily favored to win reelection," the Republican Governors Association raked in cash from donors. The Inquirer adds that as Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno (R-NJ) and ex-Goldman Sachs executive Phil Murphy (D) battle in this year's race to succeed the term-limited Christie, "donations from the Garden State are filling the coffers of the" Democratic Governors Association – "now that a Democrat is expected to" win. The Inquirer says, "In 2013, New Jersey individuals, political action committees, and companies" contributed "$1.8 million to the RGA through June 30 of that year. That's $1 million more than New Jersey donors had contributed to the RGA through the first six months of this year." Meanwhile, "the DGA has raised about $1 million more from New Jersey donors than it had over the same period in 2013."

POLL: CUOMO'S FAVORABILITY NUMBER INCHES UP, BUT JOB APPROVAL RATING STANDS AT 43%. The AP (9/5) reports that a Siena College poll of 771 New York voters, taken Aug. 26-30, shows that New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo's (D) "favorability ratings are inching upward after a tough summer." In the poll, Cuomo's favorable rating stands at 56%, with 37% viewing him unfavorably. In a similar poll taken in July, Cuomo's favorable rating stood at 52%, with 41% viewing him unfavorably. Cuomo faces reelection next year.

The New York Daily News (9/5, Blain, 3.61M) reports that despite the higher favorable numbers, Cuomo "continues to be dogged by low job approval scores, which are being driven, at least in part, by the city's ongoing mass transit woes. Only 43% of New York voters say Cuomo is doing a good or excellent job, compared to 55% who rate his job performance as poor or fair. The job performance numbers are unchanged from July." The Daily News adds, "On mass transit, only 26% of New York voters give Cuomo positive job performance ratings, while 65% disapprove, according to the poll."

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GOP REPUBLICAN STATE TREASURER SCHWARTZ ENTERS NEVADA GOVERNOR'S RACE. The AP (9/5, Ritter) reports that state Treasurer Dan Schwartz (R-NV) on Tuesday announced that he will seek to succeed term-limited Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval (R) in next year's election. The AP says that Schwartz joins Las Vegas bicycle shop owner Jared Fisher (R) in a GOP primary "that is expected to also include state Attorney General Adam Laxalt." The AP adds that Schwartz "has in the past criticized Laxalt's links to billionaire casino mogul and GOP donor Sheldon Adelson."

GOP Super PAC Aims To Torpedo Schwartz's Bid. Meanwhile, the Las Vegas Review-Journal (9/5, Lochhead, 458K) reports, "A national Republican group is looking to" torpedo "Schwartz's campaign for governor. ... 'We plan to ensure that Schwartz's latest campaign fails as spectacularly as his ill-conceived, publicity-seeking alternative budget gimmick failed back in 2015,' said Brian Baker, senior adviser to the American Integrity Project, a Washington D.C.-based super PAC." The Review-Journal adds, "In past election cycles, Baker ran PACs funded by GOP megadonors, the Ricketts Family and Sheldon Adelson. American Integrity Project has not received funding from either, he said."

EX-MILWAUKEE SHERIFF CLARKE SIGNS ON WITH PRO-TRUMP SUPER PAC. Politico (9/5, Conway, 3.6M) reported that ex-Milwaukee Sheriff David Clarke, "a controversial figure in law enforcement and a vocal supporter of President Donald Trump, is joining the pro-Trump super PAC America First Action as a spokesman and senior adviser. Over his tenure in Milwaukee law enforcement, Clarke's jail was repeatedly accused of mistreating inmates, and some staff members there are currently under investigation." In a statement, Clarke said his new role "gives me the chance to do what I love most – promote President Trump's agenda, including his fierce support for the American law enforcement officer, and ensure that the will of the American people who got President Trump elected is not derailed by the left or the self-serving Washington establishment."

DE BLASIO SAYS HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS MAYOR HAVEN'T BEEN PROPERLY APPRECIATED. The New York Times (9/5, Neuman, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports, "In an interview published in New York magazine and a subsequent news conference on Tuesday," New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio (D) "touted his accomplishments during his first term and cast himself as a misunderstood mayor, hounded by an unfair press corps and underappreciated by what should be a grateful public." De Blasio's comments "echoed an essay" he "posted online on Friday, sounding a tone that, as he appears to be cruising toward a likely re-election without strong opponents, is remarkably both self-aggrandizing and self-pitying. 'When I think about how crime's gone down for four years, graduation rates up, test scores are up, more jobs than ever in our history – I think, wow, just that quick profile, any candidate anywhere would want it,'" he told New York magazine in response to a question on "why he was not more popular. 'You'd assume they'd be having parades out in the streets.'"

FIFTH CIRCUIT STAYS INJUNCTION AGAINST TEXAS VOTER ID LAW. The AP (9/5) reports that a three-judge panel of the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans on Tuesday "stayed a permanent injunction to throw out the Texas law requiring voters to present an accepted photo identification card." By a 2-to-1 vote, the panel "left in the injunction's place a previous order by Judge Nelva Gonzales Ramos of United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas," which "allows those without an accepted ID to vote by signing a sworn declaration stating they have a reasonable impediment to obtaining one." Judge Gonzales Ramos had issued the permanent injunction "against a subsequent voter ID law on Aug. 23, calling it a 'poll tax' on minority voters," and the stay "suspends that order until the appeals court can hear the merits for and against the state's appeal."

BIPARTISAN GROUP OF LAWMAKERS FILE SUPREME COURT BRIEF AGAINST GERRYMANDERING. Politico (9/5, Dovere, 3.6M) reports that "Arnold Schwarzenegger's push for nonpartisan redistricting gained significant Republican support on Tuesday," with Ohio Gov. John Kasich "signing on to his amicus brief at the Supreme Court and Arizona Sen. John McCain filing a separate friend-of-the-court brief." According to Politico, "36 current and former members of Congress, both Republicans and Democrats, filed yet another amicus brief that includes the chairman of the Freedom Caucus and the former chairman of the Progressive Caucus." The court is scheduled in October to hear the case Gill v. Whitford, which "could abolish partisan gerrymandering." Schwarzenegger, a former California governor, "has made gathering support for it a priority," and "he spent last week calling members of Congress and governors directly, urging them to sign on."

ECONOMIST: TRUMP LABOR MARKET BETTER FOR CLINTON SUPPORTERS. Indeed.com chief economist Jed Kolko writes in the New York Times (9/5, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) "The Upshot" blog that while "likelier Trump supporters were doing better over all in the labor market than likelier Clinton supporters both before and after the election," under the Trump Administration Clinton supporters have seen a drop in unemployment and rise in wages that has "been stronger" than Trump supporters, by some measures, including the U-6 rate, which measures people working part-time who want a full-time job and those who want a job but stopped looking, and median usual weekly earnings. Despite this data, Democrats have lost confidence about the economy, possibly because likelier Clinton supporters' improved labor market outcomes could be due to "a closing of gaps that widened during the recession, such as racial

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differences in the unemployment rate."

WSJournal A1: E-Commerce Boom Creating More Jobs Than It Eliminates. The Wall Street Journal (9/5, A1, lp, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports on its front page that the debate about the how robots, artificial intelligence, and other forms of automation may eliminate jobs often doesn't take into account that historically automation creates more, and better-paying, jobs than it eliminates. While retailers are loosing jobs due to the e-commerce boom, it has created even more jobs, which pay better due to workers' increased productivity. The reason is that companies use automation to offer new and improved products, attracting more customers and requiring more employees to be hired. Still, those who lose jobs to automation often aren't those hired for jobs that are created, and economists and technologists are concerned that this wave of automation is distinct because it involves technology doing tasks long thought to require human thought.

NYTIMES ANALYSIS: SCHOOL FOOD DEREGULATION UNLIKELY TO AFFECT SCHOOL LUNCH MOVEMENT. The New York Times (9/5, Severson, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that despite Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue's move to relax Obama Administration school food regulations, his changes "are actually quite minor." Meanwhile, "school-food leaders on both sides of the political spectrum" say such "efforts are unlikely to affect what they agree is a powerful and well-established movement to improve school lunches" in which "most of the key players have bought in: food producers, schools and even the children." Currently, "many districts are already improving school meals without federal intervention," and while what is considered a healthful school meal varies widely, "cooking from scratch is on the rise, salad bars have been added to tens of thousands of schools and a federally supported farm-to-school program is operating in 42,500 schools." School food has moved to mimic restaurant fare. With schools increasingly treating students "as customers to be wooed" food has become fresher, more varied in fruits and vegetables, and increasingly prepared from scratch.

MCCAIN BACK ON CAPITOL HILL. The Washington Post (9/5, Viebeck, 10.38M) reports Sen. John McCain, "far from shrinking from public life" during his treatment for brain cancer, "is back on Capitol Hill." GOP leaders "publicly welcomed" the return of McCain, who oversees the ongoing work on the National Defense Authorization Act. He will also help the GOP "gather support for crucial votes such as raising the debt ceiling, funding the government and perhaps" the response to President Trump suspending protections for undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children, which McCain called "unacceptable."

HOUSE VOTES TO AWARD CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO BOB DOLE. The Washington Examiner (9/5, Kasperowicz, 465K) reports the House voted to give former Sen. Bob Dole a congressional gold medal, the highest civilian honor given by Congress. The measure passed on "a voice vote, a sign the measure is not controversial."

"SECRET HITLER" GAME GROWS IN POPULARITY AFTER 2016 ELECTION. Writing for the New York Times (9/5, Subscription Publication, 13.56M), reporter Jonah Bromwich discusses a board game called "Secret Hitler," describing it as "a social deduction game...in which players try to identify a traitor in their midst." In the game, "players are divided into two uneven teams: a larger team of liberals and a smaller team of fascists. ... One player is chosen as Secret Hitler. The fascists, aware of their leader's identity, work to install him by fooling the liberals, who are kept in the dark." Bromwich says, "The game was conceived in early 2015 and...benefited from" an "unforeseen trend: a significant surge in interest in fascism around the 2016 election." Bromwich adds, "The gamemakers have not been shy about linking the game to [President Trump]. At the website, they advise those who 'don't think there's anything funny or cool about fascism' to address complaints to the White House."

BOOK REVIEWER: IN NEW TOME, RUSHDIE HITS TRUMP WITH "NOVELISTIC ATTACK." Writing for the Washington Post (9/5, 10.38M), Ron Charles, editor of Book World and host of TotallyHipVideoBookReview.com, discussed Salman Rushdie's new book, "The Golden House," saying that the author has hit President Trump with a "novelistic attack." Charles says the book "doesn't mention Trump by name – Rushdie wouldn't give him that satisfaction – but there's no doubt about the real identity of the 'giant victorious green-haired cartoon king.' That gothic villain rages around the background of this story, setting the tone for a nation in peril. The narrator howls, 'The best had lost all conviction, and the worst were filled with passionate intensity and the weakness of the just was revealed by the wrath of the unjust.'"

MILBANK: LAUGH AT SESSIONS AT YOUR PERIL. In his column for the Washington Post (9/5, 10.38M), Dana Milbank writes that "it's illegal to laugh at" Attorney General Sessions, as "liberal activist Desiree Fairooz is now being put on trial a second time by the Justice Department – Jeff Sessions's Justice Department – because she laughed at Sessions during his confirmation hearing." Milbank notes that in May, a jury "found her guilty of disorderly conduct," but "the judge threw out the verdict." At a hearing on Friday, the Justice Department "said it would continue to prosecute her," and "a new trial is scheduled for November." Milbank "went to the Justice Department on Tuesday to watch the Sessions announcement," and writes that "it took strength not to commit misdemeanor mirth." Milbank writes that "if the attorney general is going to continue doing laughable things and the Justice Department is going to keep making laughing at him a

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crime, we are going to need some new guidelines about which laughter is illegal."

WPOST'S VON DREHLE: SMART PHONES GAVE US PRESIDENT TRUMP. In a Washington Post (9/5, 10.38M) column, David Von Drehle writes that the use of mobile communication and social networking, which he asserts propelled President Trump to win the 2016 election, has upended traditional political models by breaking down parties' ability to make and control candidates, manage connections to key donors, and control access to a broad public reach. Von Drehle argues that this reality hangs over Senate Majority Leader McConnell as he seeks to implement his legislative agenda amid the President's social media use.

CHERTOFF: CONGRESS SHOULD PASS VOTING SYSTEMS PROTECTION AMENDMENT. In a Wall Street Journal (9/5, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) op-ed, former Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff writes that recent exposures of voter registration information in Chicago – in addition to evidence of foreign agents' targeting of voting systems in 21 states during the 2016 election – has highlighted that election security is a matter of national security and that Congress needs to upgrade security systems and create meaningful standards. Chertoff endorses an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act that would limit access to election systems to qualified vendors, among other reforms.

WPOST: ADMINISTRATION RIGHTLY REINS IN REVERSE MORTGAGES. In an editorial, the Washington Post (9/5, 10.38M) applauds the Administration for announcing new rules in the Department of Housing and Urban Development to rein in the Federal Housing Administration's Home Equity Conversion Mortgage program – more commonly known as the "reverse mortgage" – which the Post describes as a "dubious" and "non-transparent" program that diverts resources "from less affluent first-time home buyers to seniors who already own homes."

NYTIMES: NEW YORK DAILY NEWS SHOULD CONTINUE ITS BRASH STYLE. In an editorial, the New York Times (9/5, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) expresses hope that the New York Daily News, recently acquired by Tronc, will continue to retain its "New York-ness" and "brashness" as a tabloid newspaper that for "nearly a century" has offered blunt assessments of politics and current events.

WPOST: MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER ITS COUNCIL CHANGES. In an editorial, the Washington Post (9/5, 10.38M) writes that Montgomery County's Charter Review Commission – which is considering proposals to reshape the nine-member Montgomery County Council by reducing or eliminating the four at-large members whom some see as carrying unequal voting advantage – should consider any council changes carefully, given that it has been 27 years since the last change and that any changes would require a referendum.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Donald Trump's Cowardice On 'Dreamers.'"*** Regarding President Trump's decision on DACA, The New York Times (9/5, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) editorializes that "Trump didn't even have the guts to do the job himself. Instead, he hid in the shadows and sent his attorney general...to do the dirty work." Adds the Times, "Contrast that with President Obama's willingness to defend a policy that has always had detractors."

"An Incoherent Strategy On North Korea." A New York Times (9/6, Board, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) editorial warns President Trump's approach so far to North Korea "have not only produced zero positive results but they have also sowed confusion about his intentions," as Trump "and his team seem unable or unwilling to put together a realistic and coherent strategy that goes beyond pressure tactics and harsh rhetoric to include a serious effort to engage the North Koreans." The Times points to "some inexplicable errors along the way," and says while Kim Jong-un has not signaled whether he "is interested in talking," the President "needs to test the possibility before design or miscalculation leads to war."

"Myanmar Intensifies Its Abuse Of Rohingya." In an editorial, the New York Times (9/5, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) writes that Burma's government has intensified violence against the Muslim Rohingya minority in its Rakhine State – killing nearly 400 people and causing tens of thousands of Rohingya to flee the state since the government began its most recent operation on August 25. The Post condemns the government's actions as "a colossal moral failure" and argues that Burmese leader Aung San Suu Kyi must give her people their rights.

"City To The News: Hang In." In an editorial, the New York Times (9/5, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) expresses hope that the New York Daily News, recently acquired by Tronc, will continue to retain its "New York-ness" and "brashness" as a tabloid newspaper that for "nearly a century" has offered blunt assessments of politics and current events.

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Trump's Heartless Decision."*** The Washington Post (9/5, 10.38M) writes in an editorial that

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President Trump "ducked, dodged and shunted the issue to Congress." His order on DACA "is an assault on economic logic," and "unless Congress acts, the United States will suffer along with the dreamers."

"A Welcome Change Of Course From The Trump Administration." In an editorial, the Washington Post (9/5, 10.38M) applauds the Administration for announcing new rules in the Department of Housing and Urban Development to rein in what the Post describes as a "dubious" and "non-transparent" program that diverts resources "from less affluent first-time home buyers to seniors who already own homes" – the Federal Housing Administration's Home Equity Conversion Mortgage program, more commonly known as the "reverse mortgage."

"Montgomery County Should Approach Council Changes With Care." In an editorial, the Washington Post (9/5, 10.38M) writes that Montgomery County's Charter Review Commission – which is considering proposals to reshape the nine-member Montgomery County Council by reducing or eliminating the four at-large members whom some see as carrying unequal voting advantage – should consider any council changes carefully, given that it has been 27 years since the last change and that any changes would require a referendum.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"The Dreamer Debacle."*** On its editorial page, the Wall Street Journal (9/5, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) criticizes President Trump's campaign rhetoric threatening to end DACA, but argues that Obama should not have moved unilaterally in establishing it – and that the former president acted cynically in a bid to score political points and put Republicans in a bind. The Journal goes on to criticize both parties' handling of the issue, and suggests a deal could be made whereby Congress approves the program in exchange for added border security.

"The Godfather Of Missile Defense." A Wall Street Journal (9/5, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) editorial argues that antimissile defense systems can protect the US from the threat posed by North Korea.

"Making Canada Great Again." A Wall Street Journal (9/5, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) editorial writes that according to the Globe and Mail, Canadian NAFTA negotiators spent Sunday's talks trying to persuade their US counterparts to pass a federal law negating right-to-work laws, which they argue are stealing job through lower-cost labor. The Journal notes that this is the same argument President Trump makes against Mexico.

The Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Array Of Threats Stir Up Markets
Trump Rescinds Protections For DACA Immigrants
Automation Kills Jobs In Retail—And Replaces Them With Better Ones
Lego Hits Brick Wall With Sales, Sheds 8% Of Workforce

New York Times:
Trump Moves To End DACA And Calls On Congress To Act
After 16 Futile Years, Congress Will Try Again To Legalize 'Dreamers'
Worried And Frustrated, 'Dreamers' Say They Won't Give Up
North Korea's Nuclear Arsenal Threatens China's Path To Power
Crisis Is Over At Texas Plant, But Chemical Safety Flaws Remain
Red Sox Used Apple Watches To Help Steal Signs Against Yankees

Washington Post:
Trump Orders DACA's End, Challenges Congress
'This Is Our Country,' Program's Beneficiaries Say, Promising A Fight
Syrians Break An ISIS Siege In A Victory For Assad
Fla. Areas Evacuate As Irma Strengthens
'A Disaster On Top Of A Disaster'
How Charities' Long Fight Fueled Climate-Pact Exit

Financial Times:
Trump Ends 'Dreamers' Immigration Program
Putin Says Sanctions Drive Against North Korea Is Pointless
UTC And Rockwell Eye Economies Of Scale From $30bn Deal
Lego Suffers First Drop In Revenues In A Decade
Washington Times:

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Trump Phaseout Of DACA Gives Congress Six Months To Devise Solution For Dreamers
Congressional Path To Dreamer Protections Unclear
Al Franken Will Use Senate Blue-Slip Tradition To Block Trump Judiciary Nominee
U.S. Poised To Sell Military Weapons To Pacific Allies In Response To North Korean Nuclear Tests
Democrat Heitkamp To Appear With Trump Wednesday

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Hurricane Irma-Forecast; Hurricane Irma-Florida Preparation; Hurricane Irma-Puerto Rico Preparation; DACA Repeal-White House; DACA Repeal-Congress; North Korea Threats; Hurricane Harvey-Vehicle Damages; West Coast-Wildfires; Tokyo-NYC Flight Bird Strike; North Carolina-Cold Medicine Murder; Drunk Driving-Social Media Post; Elderly-Children Community Connection.
CBS: DACA Repeal-White House; DACA Repeal-Congress; DACA Repeal-Reactions; Hurricane Irma-Forecast; Hurricane Irma-Preparation; Hurricane Harvey-Dreamer; North Korea Threats; British Royal-Paparazzi Ruling; MLB-Cheating Scandal; Berry Gordy Jr Mansion On Sale; Elderly Sailor.
NBC: Hurricane Irma-Florida Preparation; Hurricane Irma-Puerto Rico Preparation; Hurricane Irma-Forecast; DACA Repeal-White House; DACA Repeal-Reactions; North Korea Threats; Hurricane Harvey-Recovery; North Carolina-Cold Medicine Murder; West Cost-Wildfires; MLB-Cheating Scandal; Surviving WW2 Veterans.

Network TV At A Glance:
DACA Repeal – 16 minutes
Hurricane Irma – 15 minutes, 5 seconds
North Korea Threats – 6 minutes, 5 seconds
Hurricane Harvey – 5 minutes, 30 seconds
West Coast-Wildfires – 55 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Hurricane Irma; DACA Repeal; Arizona-F15 Crash.
CBS: Hurricane Irma; DACA Repeal; NAFTA Renegotiation; MLB-Cheating Scandal; Hurricane Harvey-Gasoline Price.
FOX: DACA Repeal; Hurricane Irma.
NPR: DACA Repeal; Hurricane Irma; Hurricane Harvey-Recovery; North Korea Threats.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Kimmel: "I hope you had a good Labor Day. In case you don't know history, Labor Day was established all the way back in 1894 as a way to give Americans an extra day to dread going back to work after the weekend. And it's been very successful. ... When we left, we were busy reliving the Civil War. Now we're back with the good old-fashioned Korean War."

Jimmy Kimmel: "It seems like [President Trump's] main agenda is just to undo everything Obama did. I hope he doesn't bring Bin Laden back to life."

Jimmy Kimmel: "The President's spokesperson said it was a difficult decision, the President's been debating it for months, but ultimately Donald Trump believes that if these kids want to be American, they have to do it the right way, by marrying Donald Trump."

Stephen Colbert: "According to reporters on the scene, 'the President didn't meet a single storm victim, see an inch of rain, or get near a flooded street.' It was surprising. He's been closer to a flood in a Russian hotel room."

James Corden: "This morning, Donald Trump decided to end DACA, a program that protects young undocumented immigrants from being deported. So, now, this means a lot of immigrants may get sent back to their native countries. When she heard this, Melania said, 'I volunteer as tribute.'"

James Corden: "The immigrants who have benefited from DACA are called dreamers. [Attorney General Jeff] Sessions explained that the kids will still be 'dreamers,' but more of a 'Nightmare On Elm Street' sort of way."

James Corden: "'Not my bride.' Of course, Putin and Trump aren't married. Trump would never marry someone who is only seven years younger than him."

Trevor Noah: [Referring to Attorney General Jeff Sessions' announcement of DACA repeal] "Very smart, President

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Trump. How do you soften the blow when telling the kids the bad news? You get one of Santa's elves to do it. Nicely played."

Trevor Noah: "Even the big tech companies are strongly against sending these kids back to their birth countries. I'm telling you this, if Amazon says you can't return something, then you know you're doing something wrong."

Trevor Noah: "You know, if you really love someone, putting their fate in the hands of Congress is a pretty weird way to show it. I wouldn't even trust Congress to water my plants while I'm away. Mitch McConnell would be giving excuses, like, 'We intended to water the plants, but the plant watering initiative included 'Planned Parenthood,' so we had to let it die.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "It was announced today that President Trump is ending the DACA program, and may deport immigrants who came to the US decades ago. Many people are outraged, while Melania was like, 'Well, rules are rules. So, see ya. Take care.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "But first, Trump wants the end the DACA program, but only after a six-month delay. You know, because by then, it will be President Pence's problem."

Jimmy Fallon: "In fact, President Obama called Trump's decision to end DACA wrong and cruel, but if Obama really wants to save DACA, he should say he hates it. Then Trump will say, 'In that case, I love it.'"

Seth Meyers: "Former President Obama today criticized President Trump's decision to end the DACA program. Of course, the only reason Trump wants to end it is because he thinks DACA is Obama's middle name."

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Subject: HHS Secretary's News Briefing for Thursday, September 07, 2017

HHS SECRETARY'S NEWS BRIEFING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2017 6:00 AM EDT

Top National Stories:

A GOP SENATE LEADER CALLS FOR BIPARTISAN COMPROMISE ON ACA MARKETPLACES

Washington Post (9/6, Amy Goldstein and Juliet Eilperin)
The Washington Post reports that on Wednesday, Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN), chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, said he is attempting "to forge a modest, bipartisan plan by the end of next week to strengthen the Affordable Care Act marketplaces." He described the proposal as a "small, limited bipartisan step on health insurance." Alexander also urged the Trump Administration to guarantee "funding through 2018 for cost-sharing payments to ACA health plans to offset a requirement in the law that insurers give lower-income customers discounts on deductibles and other out-of-pocket expenses."

More Coverage. Top Senator Sees Both Parties Blamed If No Health Compromise (Associated Press, 9/6, Alan Fram), Senators Seek Bipartisan Deal To Shore Up Insurance Markets (Associated Press, 9/6, Alan Fram), GOP Chairman: 'Timing Is A Challenge' In Stabilizing ObamaCare Markets (The Hill, 9/6, Jessie Hellmann and Rachel Roubein), Lamar Alexander Wants Bipartisan Obamacare Fix By End Of Next Week (Washington Examiner, 9/6), Insurance Regulators Want Obamacare Reinsurance Funds (Washington Examiner, 9/6), Senate Panel Eyes Federal Money And State Flexibility To Stabilize ACA (Axios, 9/6), In The Face Of Major Premium Hikes, State Insurance Regulators Urge Congress To Act Quickly (Los Angeles Times, 9/6, Noam N. Levey), Health-Care Industry Asks Senate For Two Years Of Obamacare Subsidies (Forbes, 9/6, Bruce Japsen), Fund CSR Payments For No Fewer Than 2 Years, Healthcare Trade Groups Urge Senate (Fierce Healthcare, 9/6), GOP Turns To `Small Step' On Obamacare, Working With Democrats (Bloomberg News, 9/6), Despite Trump Threats To End Cost-sharing, Tennessee Insurance Commissioner Says They Are Critical To Health Care (Tennessean, 9/6), With Obamacare In Limbo, Senators Look For Fix To Stabilize Health Insurance Market (USA Today, 9/6, Michael Collins), Sen. Alexander: 'The Blame Will Be On All Of Us' If Congress Doesn't Stabilize Obamacare Markets (CNBC, 9/6), State Officials Plead For Bipartisan ObamaCare Fix (The Hill, 9/6, Jessie Hellmann), GOP, Dem Senators Calmly Discuss Bolstering Obama Health Law (Associated Press, 9/6, Alan Fram), How Insurance Commissioners Would Fix Obamacare, If It Were Up To Them (Vox, 9/6), Lawmakers Look For Compromise To Stabilize Health Insurance Markets (Modern Healthcare, 9/6), Senate Committee Recommends Extending Cost-sharing Reduction Payments Through 2018 (Healthcare Finance News, 9/6), State Officials Sound Alarm On ObamaCare Premium Hikes, Market 'Collapse' (Fox News, 9/6), Senate Tries For A Bipartisan Compromise On Obamacare Fixes (Connecticut Mirror, 9/6), Bid To Shore Up Obamacare Faces Time Crunch, Conservative Countereffort (Politico, 9/6, Jennifer Haberkorn, Adam Cancryn and Rachael Bade), Baker To Offer Senate Suggestions On Stabilizing Health Care Markets (Boston Globe, 9/7, Matt Murphy), Work Toward Bipartisan Fix For Health Markets Begins In Senate (New York Times, 9/6, Robert Pear), Senators Discuss Bipartisan Approach To Repair Obamacare (Wall Street Journal, 9/6, Michelle Hackman), At A Hearing, A Hint That Lawmakers Could Reach Some Bipartisan Agreement On Obamacare Improvements (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 9/6, Tracie Mauriello), A Few Simple Ideas From State Officials To Shore Up Obamacare Markets (Huffington Post, 9/6, Jonathan Cohn), Senate Panel Launches 'modest' Push To Patch Up Obamacare (Washington Times, 9/6, Tom Howell Jr.)

Health Reform, Marketplaces & Healthcare:

DR. MARC SIEGEL: IN HOUSTON AFTER HARVEY, HHS SECRETARY PRICE IS A SURGEON OPERATING ON A HEALTH DISASTER

Fox News (9/6)
Dr. Marc Siegel writes in a Fox News op-ed that when President Trump said Hurricane Harvey was a natural disaster and HHS Secretary Tom Price subsequently declared a public health emergency, "they initiated a coordinated federal, state and local health care response that has likely saved thousands of lives." Siegel says during an interview last week, Price

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"emphasized that responders are facing everything from a shortage of potable water to floodwater contamination with chemicals and bacteria, from mosquito-borne illnesses like West Nile virus and Zika to black mold, which can worsen asthma, emphysema and allergies." Price explained that HHS' "operations center is open 24/7, 365 days a year, and it is currently tracking hospital, shelter and dialysis centers to determine which remain open and which are closed." Price added, "The challenge in this storm is, because of the incredible flooding that has occurred, is getting the resources to the individual, so the pharmaceutical supplies are available." Siegel also states that Dr. Robert Kadlec, assistant HHS secretary for preparedness and response, "was confirmed just in time for the storm, and he has played a crucial role in moving the lifesaving chess pieces around."

More Coverage. 'It Really Was All Hands On Deck.' How Federal Health Officials Responded To Hurricane Harvey (TIME, 9/6, Elizabeth Dias)

PRICE DIALS BACK PHYSICIAN-PAYMENT REFORMS

National Journal (9/6)

National Journal reports that Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price is "pressing forward" on transforming how Medicare pays providers "with an eye on physician interests and making payment experiments voluntary, rather than mandatory." The piece discusses the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' moves to make more physician practices exempt from the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS), which aims to make payments based more on quality than quantity of care, and its decision to make bundled-payment models voluntary rather than mandatory. John O'Shea, a senior fellow at the Heritage Foundation's Center for Health Policy Studies, observed, "[Price is] a physician. He would like to see more physician input to see where these things kind of are headed."

CHARGE DROPPED AGAINST REPORTER WHO QUESTIONED TOM PRICE

New York Times (9/6, Matt Stevens)

The New York Times reports that Dan Heyman, a West Virginia reporter "who was arrested four months ago after he aggressively questioned Tom Price, the secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, will not be prosecuted, officials announced" on Sept. 6.

More Coverage. Charge Dismissed Against Arrested West Virginia Journalist (Associated Press, 9/6, John Raby), Charges Dropped Against Reporter Arrested For Questioning HHS Chief (The Hill, 9/6, Olivia Beavers), Charge Dropped Against W.Va. Reporter Arrested After Questioning HHS Secretary : The Two-Way : NPR (NPR, 9/6), Charleston Gazette-Mail | Pulitzer Prize-winning West Virginia News | Charges Dropped Against Reporter Arrested At WV Capitol (Charleston (WV) Gazette-Mail, 9/6), Prosecutors Drop Charges Against Reporter Who Questioned U.S. Health Secretary (Reuters, 9/6), West Virginia Case: It's Still Lawful To Pose A Question To A Government Official (Washington Post, 9/6, Erik Wemple)

TRUMP PROMISES ANOTHER TRY ON HEALTHCARE: 'WE HAVEN'T GIVEN UP'

Washington Examiner (9/6, Gabby Morrongiello)

The Washington Examiner reports President Trump assured a crowd in North Dakota that Republicans will try again to overhaul the healthcare system, "and may soon try a different approach." White House officials "have continued to weigh various legislative options on healthcare reform that could appeal to both Republicans and Democrats," including an amendment proposed by Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA) that "would redirect federal spending on Obamacare to the states." White House counselor Kellyanne Conway told Fox News on Wednesday that President Trump "is ready with pen-in-hand to sign healthcare reform if, say, Graham-Cassidy moves forward," adding, "People have been working on that very strongly over recess."

MCCAIN CONSIDERS A NEW OBAMACARE REPEAL BILL, AND ACTIVISTS SCRAMBLE TO STOP IT

Washington Post (9/6, David Weigel and Sean Sullivan)

The Washington Post reports that on Wednesday, Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) told The Hill that he supports a proposal from Sens. Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy to "end the ACA's Medicaid expansion and insurance subsidies and instead dole out money to states for whatever health insurance programs they favored." The article says McCain's endorsement of "the bill did not queue it up for a vote." The piece adds that although "Graham and Cassidy began discussing the bill in July, there is no text right now – meaning there's nothing for the Congressional Budget Office to score."

More Coverage. McCain Backs Graham-Cassidy ObamaCare Repeal Effort (The Hill, 9/6, Peter Sullivan), John McCain Supports Block Granting Healthcare Money To The States (Washington Examiner, 9/6)

CONWAY: TRUMP WOULD SIGN GRAHAM-CASSIDY OBAMACARE REPEAL BILL

The Hill (9/6, Rachel Roubein)

The Hill reports that on Wednesday, White House adviser Kellyanne Conway said "President Trump would sign an ObamaCare repeal plan from GOP Sens. Bill Cassidy (La.) and Lindsey Graham (S.C.) if Congress passed it." The article

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says the President "has continued to press for legislation repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act, but the Senate's Republican leadership has moved away from the effort after the chamber failed to pass a scaled-down version of a repeal bill in late July."

WHAT'S IN THE CASSIDY-GRAHAM HEALTH CARE BILL

Washington Post (9/6)

The Washington Post "Post Graphics" blog says after the Senate failed to pass an ACA repeal bill in July, "there's one repeal-and-replace plan for the Affordable Care Act left standing. Trump is pushing for a vote, per Politico, but the bill has yet to gain significant traction." The piece says the plan was put forward by Sens. Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Lindsey O. Graham (R-SC) and Dean Heller (R-NV), and it "essentially turns control of the health-care markets over to the states."

INSURANCE OFFICIAL TO CONGRESS: OBAMACARE NOT COLLAPSING

The Hill (9/6, Peter Sullivan)

The Hill reports that on Wednesday, Teresa Miller, Pennsylvania's acting Human Services secretary and former insurance commissioner, told members of the Senate HELP committee that the ACA "is not collapsing, as some Republicans have argued." She is quoted as saying, "I'm not going to sit here this morning and tell you that the ACA is perfect. ... I think we all know that it's not, but the narrative that the ACA is failing and imploding is just false."

CENTRIST DEM: MAYBE WE SHOULD LOOK AT SINGLE-PAYER HEALTH CARE

The Hill (9/6, Rachel Roubein)

The Hill reports that on Wednesday, Sen Jon. Tester (D-MT) "said Congress should perhaps take a 'solid look' at a single-payer health care system." He made the comments during the HELP committee's hearing about how to stabilize ACA exchanges. The article says "more Democrats are getting on board with the idea of government-funded health care."

HEALTH-CARE SIGN-UP GROUPS BRACE FOR ENROLLMENT CHALLENGE

Wall Street Journal (9/6, Stephanie Armour)

The Wall Street Journal reports after HHS said last week that it is slashing funding for ACA enrollment and outreach efforts, Democrats and activists are taking steps to promote the healthcare law on their own, and raise funds for outreach. The article says some 1,500 volunteers are attempting to promote the ACA open enrollment period on social media. The effort is called the Indivisible ACA Signup Project.

ANTHEM CUTS BACK OBAMACARE COVERAGE IN KENTUCKY

Reuters (9/6)

Reuters reports that on Wednesday, Anthem said "it will offer Obamacare plans in only about half of the counties in Kentucky next year, after covering the whole state in 2017." The company intends to "offer the healthcare plans in 59 counties in the state in 2018."

More Coverage. Anthem To Exit ObamaCare Markets In Half Of Kentucky (The Hill, 9/6, Nathaniel Weixel), Anthem Scales Back By Half In Kentucky's Obamacare Market (Washington Examiner, 9/6), Anthem To Scale Back Obamacare To Half Of Kentucky's Counties (Forbes, 9/6, Bruce Japsen), Anthem Will Sell Insurance In Fewer Kentucky Counties (Associated Press, 9/6)

OBAMACARE INSURER IN VIRGINIA TO SCALE BACK PLANNED EXPANSION

Wall Street Journal (9/6, Anna Wilde Mathews)

The Wall Street Journal reports that Optima Health announced that it will scale back the areas in which it will offer individual health insurance plans on the Affordable Care Act marketplace. The exit may leave 48 counties and parts of six more, plus 15 cities, without any exchange insurer in 2018.

More Coverage. Optima Will Stay In Obamacare Marketplace In Hampton Roads. Some May Pay Hundreds More Per Month (Hampton Roads (VA) Virginian-Pilot, 9/6), Optima's Exit May Leave Many Virginia Counties With No ObamaCare Insurer (The Hill, 9/6, Nathaniel Weixel), Optima's Exit Could Leave 62,000 Virginians Without Health Insurance Options Next Year (Washington Times, 9/6, Tom Howell Jr.)

COLORADO REGULATORS APPROVE 27 PERCENT INCREASE IN INDIVIDUAL HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS FOR 2018

Denver Post (9/6)

The Denver Post reports that the Colorado Division of Insurance announced Wednesday that it approved rates proposed by nine insurers "expecting to offer plans both on and off of the state's [ACA] insurance exchange in 2018," averaging a nearly 27 percent premium increase. Breakdowns of rate increases by county are expected later this month. The article notes that regulators negotiated a reduction to Cigna's original request from 41 percent to 31 percent, and additionally lists Anthem's approved rat hike at 30.2 percent.

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More Coverage. State Health Exchange Premiums Will Rise Significantly In 2018 (Durango (CO) Herald, 9/6)

SEN. SASSE: 'THE PELOSI-SCHUMER-TRUMP DEAL IS BAD'

The Hill (9/6, Robin Eberhardt)

The Hill reports that on Wednesday, the House approved "a $7.85 billion bill for Harvey relief...after Democrats vowed to attach language to the relief bill that will increase the debt limit and fund the government." The article says this sets "up an upcoming showdown over whether the Senate would pass a bill to increase the debt limit as part of the Harvey legislation." The piece adds that conservatives quickly "opposed the combined bill, vowing to fight back on the legislation."

KENTUCKY TRIAL COULD MAKE STATE FIRST IN U.S. WITH NO ABORTION CLINIC

Reuters (9/6)

Reuters reports on a three-day trial scheduled to begin Wednesday in a federal district court in Louisville "that could make [Kentucky] the first U.S. state without an abortion provider." The case revolves around Kentucky's attempt to revoke the license of EMW Women's Surgical Center for failing to "have proper state-required agreements with a hospital and an ambulance service in case of medical emergencies." EMW alleges "the regulations...are unnecessary and create an unconstitutional barrier to abortion." Reuters describes Kentucky's governor as "unapologetically pro-life."

More Coverage. Kentucky Could Become The Only State Without A Clinic That Performs Abortions : NPR (NPR, 9/6), Louisville Abortion Clinic Fights Kentucky Law To Stay Open (Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal, 9/6), Kentucky Could Become First State With No Abortion Clinics (Los Angeles Times, 9/6, Alexandra Zavis)

NEW REPORT A "WAKE-UP CALL" ABOUT STROKE RISK

CBS News (9/6)

On its website, CBS News reports that "after decades of seeing improvements, progress has slowed in preventing stroke deaths in American adults, according to" a report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The report indicated that "in addition to progress slowing among most demographic groups and states, stroke death rates have also increased among certain groups of people." In a statement, CDC Director Brenda Fitzgerald, MD, said, "These findings are a wake-up call. We've made enormous progress in reducing stroke deaths, but that progress has stalled." Dr. Fitzgerald added, "We know the majority of strokes are preventable, and we must improve our efforts to reduce America's stroke burden."

More Coverage. CDC Director: Every 40 Seconds Someone In The US Has A Stroke. This Is A Wake Up Call, America (Fox News, 9/6), Stroke Deaths Are Rising In Some Parts Of America (TIME, 9/6), The War Against Stroke Is Stalling (Bloomberg News, 9/6, John Tozzi), America Is Losing Battle To Prevent Strokes, As Risk Factors Increase Across Population (CNBC, 9/6)

SANOFI STOPS WORK ON TWO ZIKA VACCINES

Wall Street Journal (9/6, Peter Loftus)

The Wall Street Journal reports Sanofi SA recently ended the development of two Zika vaccines due to what it said has been a decline in the number of new infections and a limit on federal funding. The US Department of Health and Human Services' Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) informed Sanofi in August that it would limit funding, contributing to Sanofi's discontinuation of developments for a vaccine it has been testing in partnership with the US Army since 2016. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease director Dr. Anthony Fauci said the decline in infection rates could prolong vaccine development timelines due to researchers needing to enroll more participants in trials. The NIAID also is testing its own vaccine in a study that Dr. Fauci said could be impacted by a drop in the number of participants.

THE FDA IS TAKING A PAGE FROM SILICON VALLEY AND LOOKING FOR ITS FIRST 'ENTREPRENEUR IN RESIDENCE'

CNBC (9/6)

CNBC reports the FDA is "looking for its first entrepreneur-in-residence" by launching a fellow recruitment program through its digital health division to assess product quality and develop data collection methods. The expansion comes as the FDA also prepares to launch its "pre-certification" process "for digital health start-ups, which aims to fast-track the approval process for less risky software products," and would involve assistance from the entrepreneur-in-residence. FDA associate center director for digital health Bakul Patel told CNBC that he is on "cloud nine" with the speed of the program's development, adding that Commissioner Scott Gottlieb has made the initiative a priority.

CMU IS THE WORLD'S BEST AT PREDICTING INFLUENZA ACTIVITY

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (9/6)

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reports that Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) forecast US influenza activity during the

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2016-17 flu season "better than any other forecasting system nationwide," according to a US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study. The article says the two forecasting systems used by CMU placed first and second "among 28 university and government systems evaluated." The article adds that CMU's research group also is developing a prognostication tool for dengue fever and plans to apply existing tools to diseases such as "Human Immunodeficiency Virus, drug resistance and other epidemic viral infections including Ebola, Zika and Chikungunya."

LOBBYING FOR CALIFORNIA BILL TO CRACK DOWN ON PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES INTENSIFIES

Los Angeles Times (9/6)

The Los Angeles Times reports lobbying efforts in support of a California bill to require pharmaceutical companies to disclose prescription price information has increased during the final days of the legislative session. SB 17 has attracted the backing of advocacy groups, health plans, and "high-profile" organizations such as the AARP and NextGen. Where other similar initiatives "have faltered in the past," supporters believe that this bill, which has more bipartisan support, could fare well amid "dramatically" changed political dynamics, according to author state Sen. Ed Hernandez (D-West Covina). Nevertheless, the bill faces "vigorous opposition" from pharmaceutical manufacturers.

94% OF U.S. TAP WATER CONTAMINATED BY PLASTIC FIBERS – INCLUDING FROM THE FAUCETS AT TRUMP TOWER

USA Today (9/6, Matthew Diebel)

USA Today reports researchers who tested tap water from around the world found that over 80 percent of the samples contained microplastics. The contamination is "particularly high" in the US, where 94 percent of faucet water is affected. Samples taken from the US Capitol, EPA headquarters, and Trump Tower all contained the microscopic-sized plastic fibers. The study, commissioned by the data journalism website Orb and conducted by researchers at the University of Minnesota, revealed that "the highest rates of contamination was found in Lebanon and India, while the lowest occurred in Europe, where 72% of samples contained fibers." According to Orb, scientists said most of the fibers come from clothes, upholstery, and carpets, "including particles released by the actions of washing machines and dryers."

Opioid News:

OPIOID MAKER BENT RULES TO GET DRUG TO PATIENTS, SENATE REPORT SAYS

Wall Street Journal (9/6, Joseph Walker)

The Wall Street Journal reports that according to a report released Wednesday by the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Insys Therapeutics Inc. misled a health insurer into approving payment for the prescription fentanyl painkiller Subsys that led to a New Jersey woman's death. The report comes as Insys faces multiple state, federal and civil lawsuits for allegedly defrauding insurers and paying kickbacks to doctors.

More Coverage. Sen. Claire McCaskill Finds Insys Inappropriately Pushed Opioid To Patients (Washington Examiner, 9/6), McCaskill Releases First Findings From Opioids Investigation (U.S. News & World Report, 9/6), Insys Ignored Warnings About Marketing Powerful Opioid Subsys (STAT, 9/6), Report: Drugmaker Used Dodgy Tactics To Push Opioids To Patients (The Hill, 9/6, Jessie Hellmann), Senator Reveals Results Of Opioid Inquiry Into Insys (Reuters, 9/6), Report: Drug Company Faked Cancer Patients To Sell Drug (CNN, 9/6, Aaron M. Kessler)

WE'RE LOSING THE WAR ON OPIOIDS

Bloomberg View (9/6, Cathy O'Neil)

Cathy O'Neil writes in a Bloomberg View op-ed that "America's opioid epidemic is getting worse" and it seems unlikely "anyone involved...will do anything in time to mitigate it." O'Neil says physicians "have little incentive" to prescribe fewer opioids and, barring the introduction of safe injection sites and suing opioid manufacturers to help pay for addiction treatment, "all that remains is to wait for the epidemic to exhaust itself...after causing untold mayhem and despair."

GOV. DOUG DUCEY'S OPIOID PLAN SEEKS TO LIMIT INITIAL PAIN-PILL FILLS

Arizona Republic (9/6)

The Arizona Republic reports that Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey announced Wednesday a plan that "would limit all initial opioid prescriptions to five days for new patients." The new guidelines, intended to reduce opioid abuse, also contain restrictions on the "maximum dosages for pain medication...and require pain prescriptions to be filled electronically."

Blogs:

INSURANCE REGULATORS CONDEMN TRUMP SABOTAGE OF OBAMACARE, CALL FOR HELP

Talking Points Memo (9/6, Alice Ollstein)

Alice Ollstein writes for Talking Points Memo that "health insurance commissioners from across the country" testified before the Senate Health, Labor, Education, and Pensions Committee on Wednesday that "the Trump administration's

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multi-pronged sabotage of the Affordable Care Act is driving up rates and sowing uncertainty in their states." The commissioners "pleaded with lawmakers to send federal aid in the form of guaranteed funding for Obamacare's cost-sharing reduction payments (CSRs) for multiple years, creating a federal reinsurance program" and restoring ACA outreach funding.

More Coverage. After Failing To Repeal It Multiple Times, The Senate Finally Held A Hearing On Obamacare (Think Progress, 9/6), Calendar's Turn Brings New Congressional Approach To Health Reform (Health Affairs, 9/6)

NOT SO FAST: MCCAIN SAYS HE WANTS TO SEE FINAL DRAFT OF GRAHAM-CASSIDY PLAN
Talking Points Memo (9/6, Esme Cribb)
Esme Cribb writes for Talking Points Memo that Sen. John McCain on Wednesday "said he wants to see the final draft of a plan by Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA) to repeal Obamacare before he commits to a final position on the proposal." Earlier Wednesday, McCain said he would support the plan, emphasizing the Graham-Cassidy plan should follow regular order.

More Coverage. McCain Throws Support Behind Graham-Cassidy Obamacare Repeal Effort (Talking Points Memo, 9/6)

OBAMACARE EXCHANGES IN VIRGINIA EMPTY AFTER OPTIMA EXIT
Business Insider (9/6, Bob Bryan)
Bob Bryan writes for Business Insider that Optima announced Wednesday it will exit many of the ACA exchanges in Virginia in 2018, "following the exits of large insurers like Anthem from the same areas." According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, "the exit will leave 63 counties in the state with no insurer," meaning over 70,000 people enrolled in ACA exchange plans in 2017 will be "at risk of having no coverage next year."

Opinion:

HEALTH CARE SMACKDOWN: LAST-DITCH REPEAL DRIVE THREATENS BIPARTISAN FIXES
USA Today (9/6, Andy Slavitt)
Andy Slavitt, a columnist and former administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, writes for USA Today that despite a bipartisan Senate effort to improve the Affordable Care Act, Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Bill Cassidy (R-LA), and Dean Heller (R-NV) are advancing "another partisan effort to repeal the ACA" that is "out of touch with public sentiment." The first draft of Graham-Cassidy-Heller plan features a "cynical redistribution of federal money from mostly urban, blue states that have expanded Medicaid to rural, red states that did not." Slavitt argues that the plan "[divides] the country into winners and losers" to score a Senate win.

TEEN-PREGNANCY SUBSIDY PANIC
Wall Street Journal (9/6)
The Wall Street Journal editorializes that the US Health and Human Services Department's decision to wind down the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program saves $200 million on a program that had failed to produce results. The paper mentions a letter sent by Senate Democrats to HHS Secretary Tom Price objecting to the decision. The Journal also asks for the prompt Senate confirmation of assistant health secretary Brett Giroir.

OBAMACARE IS MAKING THE MIDDLE CLASS THE NEW UNINSURED
New York Post (9/6, Betsy McCaughey)
Betsy McCaughey, London Center senior fellow and author of "Beating ObamaCare," writes for the New York Post that "the middle class is becoming the new uninsured" as the Affordable Care Act added millions of poorer people onto the insurance rolls, "driving premiums so high that middle-class people can no longer afford insurance." McCaughey writes that a bipartisan plan by Sens. Patty Murray (D-WA) and Lamar Alexander (R-TN) to "keep the floundering health law afloat" would benefit insurance companies at the expense of the middle class. "Premiums will never go down until ObamaCare's regulations are repealed," she opines.

CONGRESS COULD LEAVE MILLIONS OF CHILDREN WITHOUT HEALTH CARE
The Hill (9/6, Gerard A. Vitti)
Gerard A. Vitti writes for The Hill "Pundits Blog" that "millions of children" will be left "without health coverage" if Congress fails to renew the Children's Health Insurance Program by Sept. 30. Vitti says that CHIP "as of last year...covered 8.4 million children nationwide" and is just as important as Medicare and Medicaid "in forming a safety net that protects people and families."

MISGUIDED REGULATION HELPED CREATE THE DRUG PRICE CRISIS
The Hill (9/6, David Balto)
In an opinion piece for The Hill, David Balto, former policy director at the FTC and former attorney in the DOJ's antitrust

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division, writes that pharmaceutical companies “have found at least four successful tactics for abusing regulations to avoid the patent cliff: abuse of FDA’s Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS), product hopping, citizen petition abuse and pay-for-delay.” According to Balto, “fixing these regulatory problems would have a significant impact on drug prices.”

ENSURING AIR AMBULANCES DON’T SAVE LIVES ONLY TO RUIN THEM WITH SURPRISE MEDICAL BILLS
The Hill (9/6, Betsy Imholz)
Contributor Betsy Imholz writes for The Hill “Congress Blog” that air ambulance services can result in “astronomical” surprise bills “ranging from $15,000 to $100,000 and up.” Imholz says Congress must protect patients from such hardships “by adopting the Woodall amendment to the FAA Reauthorization bills, moving on the Isla Rose Life Flight Act, and examining other ways to address consumer concerns in the air ambulance industry.”

National Front Page News:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
Trump Stuns GOP By Dealing With Democrats On Debt, Harvey Aid
President Trump Unlikely To Nominate Gary Cohn To Become Fed Chairman
‘Hurricane Deductibles’ Shift Home-Repair Costs To Consumers
Behind North Korea’s Nuclear Advance: Scientists Who Bring Technology Home

New York Times:
Trump Bypasses Republicans To Strike Deal On Debt Limit And Harvey Aid
Hurricane Irma, One Of The Most Powerful In History, Roars Across Caribbean
A Funeral Of 2 Friends: CIA Deaths Rise In Secret Afghan War
Democrats Begin Legal Assault On Trump’s Move To End “Dreamer” Program
Fake Russian Facebook Accounts Bought $100,000 In Political Ads
Sale Of Brooklyn Housing Complex Would Benefit Trump
If You Build It, The Dutch Will Pedal

Washington Post:
Trump Reaches Across Aisle
Facebook Sold $100,000 In Political Ads To Russian Firm
Monstrous Irma Slams Caribbean, Takes Aim At Fla.
Worry, Hope And Boredom Mingle In A Houston Shelter
Sickness, Shortage As Venezuela Crumbles

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Bell, Michael (OS/ASPA)

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Sent: Wednesday, September 06, 2017 6:00 AM
To: HHS@BulletinIntelligence.com
Subject: HHS Secretary's News Briefing for Wednesday, September 06, 2017

HHS SECRETARY'S NEWS BRIEFING

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2017 6:00 AM EDT

Top National Stories:

SENATE PANEL BEGINS BIPARTISAN HEARINGS TO TRY TO IMPROVE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT
Washington Post (9/5, Amy Goldstein and Juliet Eilperin)
The Washington Post reports the Senate's Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee will hold the first of four hearings seeking to build agreement on strengthening the Affordable Care Act's insurance marketplaces, in "the closest collaboration between Republicans and Democrats in years." Chairman Lamar Alexander and ranking Democrat Patty Murray "are eager to" mandate "cost-sharing reduction" payments, which President Trump has threatened to end. However, the two disagree on the duration of the subsidies, granting insurers flexibility over "essential health benefits" coverage, and the creation of a "reinsurance" pool to defray insurers' costs for policyholders with costly medical conditions. The Post adds that this effort could result in "a practical bipartisan response acknowledging" the continued existence of the insurance exchanges or demonstrate "that the ACA is so politically toxic that compromise on it eludes even the senators most open to collaboration on health policy."

More Coverage. Sen. Lamar Alexander Tries To End Long Stalemate On Obamacare (Washington Examiner, 9/5), Senate Starts Bipartisan Effort To Overhaul Obamacare (Washington Examiner, 9/6)

CONGRESS RETURNS TO MORE MODEST PLANS FOR CHANGES TO OBAMACARE
Bloomberg News (9/5, Anna Edney)
Bloomberg News reports that Congress has reconvened, and intends to make some changes to the Affordable Care Act, but lawmakers' "ambitions are more modest" this time. The article says a small, bipartisan bill has a much better chance of being passed than previous attempts to overhaul the ACA. The measure is expected "to include money for 'CSR' payments to insurers that help defray low-income Americans' health costs."

More Coverage. Groups Press Lawmakers To Stabilize ObamaCare Markets (The Hill, 9/5, Rachel Roubein), Congress Prepares To Do The Bare Minimum To Stabilize Obamacare (Vox, 9/5)

DREAM OF OBAMACARE REPLACEMENT FADES TO BIPARTISAN PATCH JOB
New York Times (9/6, Margot Sanger-Katz)
Margot Sanger-Katz writes in the New York Times "The Upshot" blog that following its return from recess, "the Senate will do something it hasn't done in seven years: hold bipartisan hearings on the future of the Affordable Care Act. Serious and creative ideas will be presented." She adds that according to some experts, even though lawmakers agree ACA marketplaces need to be stabilized, "very few reforms have any chance of becoming law before insurers begin selling Obamacare plans for next year." Therefore, the most likely scenario, assuming any action is taken, "will simply be to patch cracks in the market caused by President Trump and prevent him from doing more damage."

Health Reform, Marketplaces & Healthcare:

DEMOCRATIC GROUP PLANS ATTACKS ON G.O.P. EFFORTS TO UNDERMINE OBAMA HEALTH CARE LAW
New York Times (9/5, Michael D. Shear)
The New York Times reports that this fall, Protect Our Care, a coalition of Democratic organizations, intends to attack "President Trump and Republican lawmakers for attempting to undermine the success of" the Affordable Care Act. The group plans to spend about $1 million on digital ads, launch a website which is "highly critical" of HHS Secretary Tom Price, and organize rallies and protests in ten states whose GOP lawmakers voted to repeal the ACA. The group also said it intends "to highlight what Mr. Price says about the Affordable Care Act and efforts he makes to undermine it." Apart from the website, the group will "begin an aggressive media campaign designed to make people question Mr. Price's

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statements and actions."

More Coverage. Obamacare Supporters Fear It Is 'Impossible' To Make Up For Trump Ad Cuts (Washington Examiner, 9/5)

SENATE'S OBAMACARE FIXES WOULD BUILD ON HEAVY LIFTING BY STATES

Politico (9/5, Adam Cancryn)

Politico reports that while congressional lawmakers were "busy bickering over repealing" the ACA, state officials were working "frantically to soothe anxious insurers, tamp down rate increases and insulate their markets from the ceaseless chaos in Washington." The article says the outcome is an ACA system which is "still vulnerable, but far from the 'disaster' President Donald Trump and his top health officials describe." Because of these officials' efforts, at least one insurer is offering ACA plans in every county in the US. The piece adds that a Senate bill that seeks to stabilize ACA marketplaces "would give the insurance system a much-needed shot of certainty heading into the fall open enrollment period," and as far as state officials are concerned, "it would validate the months-long effort it took just to get to this point – and maybe set the stage for more permanent fixes before another crisis hits."

INDUSTRY GROUPS PUSH FOR REPEAL OR DELAY OF TWO AFFORDABLE CARE ACT TAXES

Wall Street Journal (9/5, Michelle Hackman)

The Wall Street Journal reports that industry groups are increasing efforts to convince Congress to repeal two Affordable Care Act taxes, one of which applies to medical devices, the other to health insurance plans. The taxes will take effect in a few months unless Congress moves to postpone or repeal them. The article says while many lawmakers believe the taxes should be repealed, they are worried that attaching this matter to other bills could hinder their passage.

More Coverage. Chamber Of Commerce Urges Congress To Stop ObamaCare Tax (The Hill, 9/5, Jessie Hellmann)

GROUPS PRESS SENATORS FOR TWO YEARS OF OBAMACARE SUBSIDY FUNDING

The Hill (9/5, Nathaniel Weixel)

The Hill reports that in a letter to the Senate Health Committee, insurers, hospitals and other stakeholder groups say they need cost-sharing reduction payments through at least 2019. "Without two years of CSR funding, uncertainty will persist and the Congress will need to address these same issues early next year," wrote the groups which included America's Health Insurance Plans, the US Chamber of Commerce, the American Hospital Association and the American Medical Association.

More Coverage. Health Insurers Ask For Two Years Of Obamacare Funding (Washington Examiner, 9/5), Health Care, Business Groups Want Congress To Pay Insurers (Associated Press, 9/5, Alan Fram)

JULIE MIX MCPEAK, TENNESSEE'S INSURANCE CHIEF, LEADS BROAD AGENCY

Tennessean (9/5)

The Tennessean reports on Julie Mix McPeak, commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance. The article says she "has emerged as the state's leading voice on the Affordable Care Act – and has made national headlines for her candid assessment of insurance in one of the unhealthiest states – oversees a broad array of functions." She has traveled to Washington, DC several times already to discuss healthcare issues, and this week, she will be testifying before the Senate HELP committee. According to Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN), "McPeak is a hit with Senators from both sides of the aisle because she turns insurance jargon into plain English."

More Coverage. After Health Care Reform Efforts Fail, Republicans Look For Small Bipartisan Victories : Shots (NPR, 9/5)

CUTS SUSPEND EFFORTS BY LOCAL AFFORDABLE CARE ACT OUTREACH OFFICE

Dayton (OH) Daily News (9/5)

The Dayton (OH) Daily News reports a Dayton, OH office which "handles marketing and enrollment assistance for Affordable Care Act insurance has" put those efforts on hold "after staff members said the Trump administration slashed outreach funding." The article adds, "The four staff members with Resolute Certified Navigators, which serves a 15 county area in western Ohio, were sent home while they await word on what kind of resources the local office will have to work with after its $245,000 federal grant didn't come through last week."

KASICH, HICKENLOOPER TO SELL HEALTH-CARE FIX IN D.C.

Columbus (OH) Dispatch (9/5)

The Columbus (OH) Dispatch reports that on Friday, Ohio Gov. John Kasich (R) and Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper (D) will "shop for support for their proposed health care coverage reforms." Last week, the two governors unveiled a proposal which seeks to stabilize ACA marketplaces. On Friday morning, they will speak "in D.C. at an event sponsored

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by the conservative American Enterprise Institute and liberal Center for American Progress."

INDIANA PROPOSES WORK MANDATE FOR STATE HEALTH COVERAGE

Associated Press (9/5)

The AP reports Gov. Eric Holcomb (R) "has proposed making able-bodied, low-income residents work at least 20 hours a week for eight months of the year in order to receive state-supported health care coverage through" the Healthy Indiana Plan, the state's Medicaid program. The article says documents indicate "less than 30 percent of those enrolled in" Healthy Indiana "would be required to comply with" the requirement. The piece adds that one-third of "participants already meet that work requirement, and most members qualify for at least one of 14 exemptions and wouldn't have to work."

NEW SURGEON GENERAL SWORN IN BY VICE PRESIDENT PENCE

USA Today (9/5, Maureen Groppe)

USA Today reports that Vice President Pence swore in Jerome Adams, an anesthesiologist with a master's degree in public health, as the new surgeon general. Vice President Pence previously appointed Adams as Indiana's health commissioner when he was governor and praised him for his work "reducing the state's infant mortality rate, dealing with the nation's first case of the MERS virus, and containing the HIV outbreak caused by the injection of oral painkillers in Southern Indiana." Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator Seema Verma, who worked with Adams in Indiana, attended the ceremony. Adams said that he is eager to start helping victims of Hurricane Harvey as the "nation's doctor" and reaffirmed his commitment to "letting the science lead him to facilitating locally-led solutions to difficult health problems."

More Coverage. Pence Swears In New Surgeon General (The Hill, 9/5, Rachel Roubein)

HPV RESEARCHERS, PLANNED PARENTHOOD WIN PRESTIGIOUS LASKER MEDICAL AWARDS

Washington Post (9/6, Laurie McGinley)

The Washington Post reports the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation announced on Wednesday that its Lasker Awards will be given to "two National Cancer Institute researchers whose work led to the development of vaccines that prevent cervical cancer, and to Planned Parenthood for providing 'essential health services and reproductive care' to millions of women." The NCI researchers are acting director Douglas Lowy, and "longtime researcher" John Schiller. The foundation said Lowy and Schiller's work "enabled the development of vaccines for the human papillomavirus." The New York Times reports the Lasker Awards "will go to Planned Parenthood and two scientists who played a crucial role in developing the vaccine to combat HPV." The Times adds, "each prize comes with $250,000." Lowy and Schiller are being honored for having taken "a bold but calculated approach toward a major public-health problem whose solution required them to vault formidable hurdles." The Times adds that Dr. Lowy and Schiller "have been working together for about 30 years at the National Institutes of Health."

More Coverage. 3 Scientists, Planned Parenthood Win Lasker Medical Prizes (Associated Press, 9/6, Malcolm Ritter), Two U.S. Government Researchers Honored With 2017 Lasker Award (Wall Street Journal, 9/6, Peter Loftus), Lasker Prizes Go To Planned Parenthood And Developers Of HPV Vaccine (New York Times, 9/6, Heather Murphy), Lasker Awards Honor Planned Parenthood And Research On Preventing And Fighting Cancer (Los Angeles Times, 9/6)

ANTI-HIV PILL SAFE AMONG GAY, BISEXUAL ADOLESCENT BOYS

Reuters (9/5)

Reuters reports a new study in JAMA Pediatrics found that a drug that protects against HIV can be safely used by young men who have sex with men. Researchers found that "in a group of teen boys at high risk for HIV infection, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in the form of a [drug] that combines the drugs emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate was well tolerated." The drug was approved by the FDA in 2012 as Truvada. Trials found the drug "reduced the risk of HIV infection by over 90 percent." However, little evidence was gathered on its use among gay and bisexual adolescent males, "who are among those most at risk HIV infection."

More Coverage. NIH Study: Adult HIV Drug May Also Work For Teens (Connecticut Post, 9/5)

MORE THAN HALF OF RURAL COUNTIES DON'T HAVE A HOSPITAL WHERE WOMEN CAN GIVE BIRTH

Washington Post (9/5, Carolyn Y. Johnson)

The Washington Post reports in its "Wonkblog" that 54 percent of rural communities "lacked a hospital with obstetrics services" in 2014, according to a new study published in the journal Health Affairs. As a result, "2.4 million women of child-bearing age" reside "in counties without hospitals that deliver babies," the Post says. The article states that Tufts Medical Center obstetrician and gynecologist Megan Evans "has been working with the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists" to address the problem, adding that the federal National Health Service Corps will reimburse medical students for their schooling "as long as they commit to practicing in an underserved community for a given period of time." However, presently communities are not defined by their specific care shortages, and many young physicians are

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unwilling "to relocate to remote rural areas where they may feel isolated."

More Coverage. Another Thing Disappearing From Rural America: Maternal… (ProPublica, 9/5), Rural Hospitals Cut Back On Maternity Care As Financial Pressure Grows (Modern Healthcare, 9/5)

CANCER SURVIVORS MORE LIKELY TO SKIP DRUGS DUE TO COST
Reuters (9/5)
Reuters reports that "a five-year study" suggests "the percentage of US adults under age 65 who skip essential prescription drugs because of price has declined." However, "consistently, problems with financial access to medication were more common in cancer survivors." In an email to Reuters Health, study co-author K. Robin Yabroff, a researcher with the US Department of Health and Human Services, said, "Spending on prescription drugs to treat cancer has been increasing in the United States, and many newer cancer drugs have annual price tags of $100,000 or more." The findings were published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

Opioid News:

DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS SKYROCKETED IN 2016
Vox (9/5, German Lopez)
Vox reports in continuing coverage that fatal drug overdoses in the US surpassed 64,000 in 2016, according to "preliminary figures from the National Center for Health Statistics." The data indicate "synthetic opioids," such as "fentanyl overtook both heroin and prescription painkillers in terms of overdose deaths." The article says the statistics illustrate the progression of the opioid crisis over time from the "dramatic overprescription of opioids" to "heroin and fentanyl."

Blogs:

HAPPY SEPTEMBER! CONGRESS RETURNS TO A HEALTH CARE CLUSTERFK**
Talking Points Memo (9/5, Alice Ollstein)
Alice Ollstein writes for Talking Points Memo that September promises to a "wild" month in healthcare with lawmakers "scrambling to pass legislation to stabilize Obamacare's marketplaces and reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) before it expires at the end of the month." Members of Congress are also "floating various permutations of how to attach politically riskier measures—such as billions in cost-sharing reduction (CSR) payments" to must-pass legislation.

THE ANTHEM-CIGNA MERGER: A POST-MORTEM
Health Affairs (9/5, David Dranove)
Northwestern University professor David Dranove writes for the Health Affairs blog on Anthem's failed two-year effort to acquire Cigna. Dranove, who gave expert testimony in support of the Department of Justice's antitrust case against the deal, explains his arguments against the deal and the analysis behind them. Dranove argues that the court's decision "has saved consumers hundreds of millions of dollars in annual premium increases," particularly in Anthem's territories.

Opinion:

HOW WE CAN FIND COMMON GROUND ON HEALTH CARE
Washington Post (9/5, Patty Murray)
In a Washington Post op-ed, Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) writes that Democrats and Republicans in Congress must work together to pass legislation that will prevent health insurance premium increases by providing for ACA subsidies that reduce out-of-pocket costs for low-income people – subsidies the Administration has threatened to end. She says the bipartisan bill must maintain "protections for people with preexisting conditions," offer a "multiyear solution," and shore up health insurance markets "right away."

THE HEALTH 202: OBAMACARE, THE SEQUEL, STARTS NOW
Washington Post (9/5, Paige Winfield)
Paige Winfield writes in the Washington Post "The Health 202" that it remains to be seen how Republicans will "approach the ACA's marketplaces as they open for a fifth enrollment season in November." However, "one clue came late last week when Tom Price's Health and Human Services Department announced it would slash funds that encourage people to enroll in the marketplaces." Winfield says this move "comes as insurers in federal-run marketplaces are scheduled today to finalize their 2018 rates, and they're supposed to sign final contracts for next year on Sept. 27."

SAVE US FROM THE HEALTH CARE REFORMERS: THEY'RE THE PROBLEM, NOT THE SOLUTION
Forbes (9/5, John C. Goodman)

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Contributor John C. Goodman writes in a Forbes piece that for more than a century, almost "every serious health reform in the United States was due to the efforts of organized medicine. The American Medical Association, along with state and county medical societies, had a single, focused objective: replace a relatively free market for medical care with a cartel, fully protected by government regulation in every market that affected the economic wellbeing of doctors." Goodman says that in the last five decades, "a new group of reformers has come on the scene, with the alleged goal of improving the wellbeing of society as a whole." Their efforts have produced policies such as the Affordable Care Act. Goodman adds, "Between unadulterated self-interest and muddleheaded altruism, it's hard to say which group of reformers was worse."

EMPLOYER HEALTH CARE COSTS ARE RISING…AND WE NEED CONGRESS TO HELP

The Hill (9/5, John Zern)

John Zern writes in The Hill "Congress Blog" that Congress will probably focus on tax reform when it reconvenes, however, "no discussion on tax reform can proceed without considering the tax-related aspects of health care policy; in particular, the positive impacts to the health care marketplace of eliminating the excise tax on health benefits, preserving the current tax treatment of employer-sponsored health benefits, eliminating the health insurance tax and expanding the use of health spending accounts." Zern adds that consumers "deserve an efficient, effective and equitable health care system that nurtures a healthier, more prosperous nation."

THIS IS WHAT OBAMACARE SABOTAGE LOOKS LIKE

Vox (9/5, Sarah Kliff)

Sarah Kliff writes in a Vox piece that "quite brazenly," the Trump Administration has "moved into Obamacare sabotage mode – hurting the most vulnerable participants as it puts the law itself at risk." She adds that last week, HHS said it would slash funding for ACA outreach and enrollment efforts. Kliff argues that because the ACA's "success hinges on a large number of healthy people enrolling in marketplace coverage," such "policy changes only make sense as ones that would undermine that goal."

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU CUT OBAMACARE ADVERTISING? LET'S ASK KENTUCKY.

Vox (9/5, Dylan Scott)

Dylan Scott writes in a Vox piece that the Trump Administration intends "to cut money for Obamacare advertising by 90 percent. It certainly sounds like that move is likely to hurt next year's enrollment." He argues that Kentucky provides an excellent example of what happens when ACA funding for enrollment and outreach is cut. Scott says a study of data from Kentucky shows "enrollment fell from 106,300 in 2015 (under Beshear) to 93,700 in 2016 (when Bevin took over partway through enrollment) to 81,200 in 2017 (the first full enrollment period under Bevin)."

TRUMP CAN END CONGRESS' ILLEGAL OBAMACARE EXEMPTION WITH THE STROKE OF A PEN

Washington Examiner (9/5, John Malcolm and Michael Cannon)

John Malcolm and Michael Cannon write in a Washington Examiner op-ed that congressional Republicans' "failure to repeal Obamacare means ordinary citizens will continue to suffer that law's rising penalties, wage cuts, reduced choice, rising premiums, eroding coverage, administrative burdens, and collapsing markets." In the meantime, "members of Congress will continue to enjoy special exemptions and illegal subsidies that spare them from the burdens of that law." Malcolm and Cannon argue that the President "can right this wrong by immediately ending Congress' special exemptions and illegal subsidies, and investigating whether the government officials who implemented them violated criminal laws."

MEDICARE FOR ALL? LET'S COPY WHAT WORKS WITH HEALTH CARE IN OTHER NATIONS INSTEAD

San Diego Union-Tribune (9/5)

The San Diego Union-Tribune says in an editorial, "It's now clear that creating a single-payer health care system is the top priority of the Democratic Party and millions of Americans." The paper argues that "Democrats who want universal health care should look for inspiration from the rest of the world, not embrace 'Medicare for all.'" This also applies to "Republicans who don't like how much U.S. health care costs and who think Obamacare is a clunky mess. Americans' national pride shouldn't include reverence for a flawed, costly and eminently improvable health care system."

GOV. HENRY MCMASTER WAS RIGHT TO DEFUND PLANNED PARENTHOOD

The Hill (9/5, Jeanne Mancini)

Contributor Jeanne Mancini writes for The Hill "Pundits Blog" that South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster (R) did "what is best for women's health" by prohibiting state agencies from funding Planned Parenthood. Mancini says that Planned Parenthood has a $1.276 billion annual budget, "including making 77.5 million in profit," and receives $257.9 million yearly from numerous private donors and corporations. Mancini concludes, "Clearly, there is no need for the 61 percent of Americans who oppose taxpayer funding of abortion to be forced to financially support Planned Parenthood, our nation's largest abortion provider."

BIPARTISAN AGREEMENT TO PROTECT OUR CHILDREN'S HEALTH IS NEEDED QUICKLY

The Hill (9/5, Frederick Isasi)

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Frederick Isasi, executive director of Families USA, writes in The Hill that the federal Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is a "wildly popular, bipartisan program" that is "incredibly successful" and its funding needs to be renewed quickly on behalf of the nearly 9 million children covered by the program. Before CHIP, "an astounding 25 percent of low-income children were uninsured" and now "more than 95 percent of children in the United States have health insurance." In 2015, "virtually all governors of both parties" supported a "clean renewal," but today's "toxic discussions" have "drowned-out reasonable voices calling for a bipartisan agreement to fund this program which enjoys wide support." The article concludes, "Investing in a popular, successful, and bipartisan children's program should be an easy win for this Congress and the nation."

National Front Page News:

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Automation Kills Jobs In Retail—And Replaces Them With Better Ones
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New York Times:
Trump Moves To End DACA And Calls On Congress To Act
After 16 Futile Years, Congress Will Try Again To Legalize "Dreamers"
Worried And Frustrated, "Dreamers" Say They Won't Give Up
North Korea's Nuclear Arsenal Threatens China's Path To Power
Crisis Is Over At Texas Plant, But Chemical Safety Flaws Remain
Red Sox Used Apple Watches To Help Steal Signs Against Yankees

Washington Post:
Trump Orders DACA's End, Challenges Congress
"This Is Our Country," Program's Beneficiaries Say, Promising A Fight
Syrians Break An ISIS Siege In A Victory For Assad
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HHS NEWS BRIEFING

This document and searchable archives are available at hhs.bulletinintelligence.com.

TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2017 7:30 AM EDT

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+ Anthem Looking At Individual Markets In Each State To Determine ACA Participation.
+ Ryan Calls On Health Insurers To "Stick It Out" In ACA Markets For 2018.
+ Medical Professionals Say AHCA Could Cut Ohio Healthcare Jobs, Services.
+ Legislation Would Allow Oklahoma To Seek ACA Waiver.
+ AARP Campaign Will Target Republicans Who Oppose AHCA.
+ Some House Democrats Call For "Medicare For All" System.
+ House Democrats Demand Trump Fund Affordable Care Act CSR Payments.
+ Healthcare Start-Ups Shifting Strategies With ACA Uncertainty.
+ Candidate Rob Quist Targets Healthcare In His Montana House Bid.
+ Committee Says House Healthcare Bill Would Lead To $668 Billion Tax Cut.
+ Republican Healthcare Bill Cuts Coverage For Poor, Gives Back To Wealthy.
+ Kaine Proposes Spending More To Keep Insurers In Exchanges.
+ Pence Urges Hearers In Louisiana To Call Senators To Support AHCA.
+ Commentary Considers Health Reform.

HEALTHCARE FRAUD:
+ Michigan Real Estate Developer Pays $250,000 Fine For Medicaid Fraud.

HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:
+ St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center Pays $387,200 To Settle Charges Related To HIPAA Violations.

HUMAN SERVICES NEWS:
+ Illinois Department Of Children And Family Services Facing Criticism For Quickly Closing Child Abuse Investigations.
+ Colorado's Foster Care Shift Away From Clinical Residential Centers Toward Relatives Sparks Debate.

FOOD & IMPORT SAFETY:
+ Basil Seeds Recalled After Salmonella Detected In Packets.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS:
+ Countries Unprepared For Infectious Disease Outbreaks, Report Says.

MEDICARE:
+ Opinion: CMS Needs To Be More Transparent When Making Policy Changes, Using Advisory Committees.
+ Reps. Griffith, Welch: PBMs Should Not Be Able To Retroactively Decrease Reimbursements.
+ Riedl: Current Budget Cuts Caused By Decades Of Tackling Entitlement Spending.

MEDICAID & CHIP:
+ Wisconsin Governor Pushes For Drug Screening Among Medicaid Applicants.
+ CMS Approves Nebraska's Request For Medicaid Waivers.
+ Oregon Medicaid Audit Finds It Is Accurate In Determining Eligibility, Enrolling People, And Making Payments.
+ Amount Of Medicaid Cuts In Trump Budget Proposal Unclear.
+ Impact Of Potential Medicaid Cuts Unthinkable For Rhode Island Recipients.
+ Chandler: Medicaid Expansion Helping Kentuckians.
+ CMS Accepts Kansas' Plan To Bring Privatized Medicaid Program Into Compliance.
+ Rhode Island Had Highest Enrollment Percentage Of New England States In 2016.
+ Indiana Gov. Seeks Federal Medicaid Waiver Requiring Some Recipients To Work.
+ Therapists, Parents Ask State Officials To Not Cut Medicaid Benefits For Disabled Children.
+ Opinion: Medicaid Block Grants Improved Senior Healthcare In Rhode Island.

HEALTH & MEDICAL NEWS:
+ Chocolate Consumption May Be Linked To Lower Risk For Atrial Fibrillation, Study Suggests.
+ FDA Advisory Panel Recommends Neratinib As Treatment For Breast Cancer.
+ Cannabidiol May Help Reduce Seizures In Children With Dravet Syndrome, Clinical Trial Indicates.
+ California Considers Bill To Regulate Dialysis Centers.
+ Mouse Study Finds Sperm Sustained Somewhat More DNA Damage On Space Station.
+ Professor Says US Drug Prices Are Not "Out Of Control."
+ Ohio Ballot Initiative New Round In Fight Over Drug Prices.
+ Health Activists Seek Tampon Ingredients.

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+ Louisiana Right To Try Act Could Expand To Provide Robotic Devices.
+ High-Fiber Diet May Be Tied To Lower Risk For Knee Arthritis, Study Suggests.
+ Zika Virus That Spread Through South Florida Last Year Likely Originated In Caribbean, Study Suggests.
+ Decrease In New Zika Cases May Hamper Research.
+ Eli Lilly Sues Dairy Company Over False Advertising Regarding Hormone Supplement.
+ Study Highlights Expenses Of Rare Drug Approvals.
+ J&J Agrees To $33 Million "Phantom Recalls" Settlement.
+ Hallucinogenic Mushrooms Are The Safest Recreational Drug, Survey Suggests.
+ Vermont Governor To Veto Marijuana Measure.
+ Most Wrist-Worn Fitness Trackers Not Good At Estimating Energy Expenditure, Study Suggests.
+ Short Sleep Duration May Be Linked To Higher Risk Of Mortality Among Individuals With Metabolic Syndrome, Research Suggests.
+ Two Rare Genetic Mutations May Reduce Levels Of Triglycerides.
+ People With Lung Cancer May Have Higher Risk Of Suicide Than Patients With Other Cancers, Study Suggests.
+ Fewer Elderly Patients Who Receive Assistance With Daily Regimens Experience Post-Operative Delirium, Study Suggests.
+ Some Experts Worried By Rapid Pace Of Adoption Of Cardboard Baby Box Programs.
+ Child Gun Access Prevention Laws Stalled In Many States.
+ ACLU Sues YMCA, Claiming Association Violated Yoga Teacher's Right To Breast-Feed Her Daughter In Public.
+ Appointment Of McCance-Katz To Fill Position Of Federal Mental Health "Czar" Considered Controversial.
+ At Least Nine States Now Ban Conversion Therapy For Minors.
+ Exercise May Bolster Brain Function, Thinking Skills Of People With Dementia, Small Study Suggests.

GLOBAL HEALTH:
+ Study Finds Canadians Requesting Lethal Injection Feared Loss Of Autonomy.
+ UNICEF Report Highlights Plight Of More Than 24 Million In Conflict Zones In Africa, Middle East.
+ New WHO Director-General Hopes US Congress Will Support Funding For Global Health Programs.
+ Public Health Officials Worry About Climate Change's Effects On Disease Outbreaks In Brazil.

NATIONAL NEWS:
+ White House, DOJ Miss Senate Judiciary Committee Deadline On Comey Requests.
+ Senate GOP Heads Off Filibuster Of Trump Judicial Nominee.
+ Ryan: GOP Hard At Work To Pass Agenda.
+ Poll: Just 24% Of Americans Say Trump Making Progress On Vow To "Drain The Swamp."
+ House GOP To Drop Debit Card Fee Rule From Dodd-Frank Repeal.
+ House Approves Bill To Repeal EPA Pesticide Rule.
+ Media Analyses: DeVos Won't Say Whether Feds Should Fund Schools That "Discriminate."
+ Carson: Poverty "A State Of Mind," Government Can Offer "Ladder Of Opportunity."
+ Most Fed Officials See Monetary Tightening "Soon," Favor Gradual Approach.
+ Gianforte Charged With Misdemeanor Assault After Allegedly Body-Slamming Reporter.
+ GOP-Aligned Super PAC Hiring 45 More Staff For GOTV Effort In Price Special.
+ Politico: Democrats Divided On Whether To Focus On Healthcare Or Russia In 2018.
+ Inside Elections Upgrades Democrats' Chances In 19 House Races.
+ Cruz: Franken Trying To Sell Books To Liberals By "Being Obnoxious And Insulting To Me."
+ Congressional Democratic Leaders Joining Sanders To Unveil $15 Minimum Wage Proposal.
+ Biden Urges Harvard Graduates To Take Up "Dirty Business Of Politics."
+ Since Trump's Election, Press Freedom Group Has Seen A Spike In Donations.
+ American Psychiatric Association Poll: 51% Of Americans Anxious Over Politics.
+ Addressing Harvard Graduates, Yates Discusses Her Decision To Defy Trump.
+ New York Democrats: Special Election Win In Local Race Bodes Well For Party In 2018.
+ Politico Mag Analysis: Democrats Must Abandon "Big Tent" Mentality On Gun Control.
+ Vermont Governor Vetoes Marijuana Legalization.
+ Editor Of Observer Leaving For Clinton-linked PR Shop.
+ Puzder: Under Trump, Economy Beginning To Gain Momentum.
+ WPost Praises Supreme Court's Voiding Of North Carolina Congressional Districts.
+ WSJournal Backs Labor Secretary's Decision On Fiduciary Rule.
+ NYTimes Says Mississippi Should Remove Confederate Emblem From State Flag.
+ WPost Criticizes Judge's Ruling On Purple Line.

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+ Washington Post.
+ Wall Street Journal.

THE BIG PICTURE:
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+ Late Night Political Humor.

Leading the News:

CBO SAYS 23 MILLION MORE AMERICANS WOULD BE UNINSURED UNDER REVISED AHCA. This morning, there is extensive television, print and online coverage of the Congressional Budget Office's analysis of the American Health Care Act, which seeks to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. Several news outlets say the findings could be a problem for the GOP as Senate Republicans begin crafting their version of an ACA repeal bill.

On its front page, the New York Times (5/24, A1, Pear, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that on Wednesday, the Congressional Budget Office unveiled the results of its analysis of the American Health Care Act which "narrowly passed the House" earlier this month. According to the CBO, the bill would increase the number of uninsured Americans by 14 million in 2018, and by 23 million in 2026. In addition, it would lower "the federal deficit by $119 billion over a decade, less than the $150 billion in savings projected in late March for an earlier version of the bill." The CBO also predicted that for "states that seek waivers from rules mandating essential health coverage, the new law could make insurance economically out of reach for some sick consumers."

The Washington Post (5/24, A1, Eilperin, Snell, 11.43M) reports on its front page that these findings are certain "to draw fire from Democrats, patient advocates and many health industry officials," and they "could complicate Republicans' push to pass a companion bill in the Senate." The article explains that the new score "reflects a series of last-minute revisions Republicans made to win over several conservative lawmakers and a handful of moderates."

USA Today (5/24, Collins, 5.28M) reports the CBO also predicted that the AHCA would "increase insurance premiums by 20% in 2018 and 5% in 2019." Premiums would start to drop by 2020, but the declines would vary "by state depending on how the states choose to implement the law."

On its front page, the Wall Street Journal (5/24, A1, Armour, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports that although one million fewer Americans would lose healthcare coverage under the revised AHCA compared to the original proposal, that figure remains much higher than the number of uninsured under the Affordable Care Act. Like the Washington Post, the Journal says the CBO's findings will most likely complicate Senate GOP lawmakers' attempts to garner support for their own ACA repeal measure.

Similarly, the Los Angeles Times (5/24, Levey, 4.52M) reports that the CBO's "much-anticipated" findings "cast a new shadow over the controversial legislation and likely will complicate Republican efforts to get the bill through the Senate, where it already faces difficult prospects." The Times adds that the results further undermine "claims by President Trump and House Republicans that their campaign to repeal and replace the current healthcare law, often called Obamacare – will protect all Americans' access to healthcare."

The AP (5/24, Fram, Alonso-Zaldivar) reports that the CBO's conclusions were "a blow to Republicans," because the group also criticized "11th-hour provisions that GOP leaders had added to pick up votes and assure the bill's passage." Allowing states to obtain "federal waivers so insurers could charge higher premiums for people with pre-existing medical conditions would mean those consumers would 'ultimately be unable to purchase' comprehensive coverage at prices comparable to today's costs, 'if they could purchase at all,'" the CBO warned. The AP says both parties claimed the findings support their positions, with Democrats pointing to the 23 million who would lose coverage as evidence that the AHCA jeopardizes access to coverage, while Republicans touted the results as proof that the AHCA will lower premiums.

Bloomberg News (5/24, Edney, Tracer, 2.41M) reports that according to the CBO, coverage under the AHCA "will be less comprehensive than" current plans offered through ACA exchanges. In certain "cases, people would use tax credits under the law to buy plans that don't cover major medical risks." The CBO also warned that eventually, premiums could "be so high in some areas that the plans would have no enrollment."

The Washington Times (5/24, Howell, 272K) reports that top GOP House lawmakers had not sent the AHCA to the Senate in case the House needed to vote on the measure again. The article explains that the AHCA "must save at least $2 billion over the 10-year budget window to satisfy budget reconciliation rules being used to carve out Democrats, though

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the Senate parliamentarian still might axe parts of the House plan for being extraneous to the budget." The piece adds that House Speaker Paul D. Ryan (R-WI) believes that the CBO's figures provide "validation" for the AHCA. He stated, "This CBO report again confirms that the American Health Care Act achieves our mission: lowering premiums and lowering the deficit. It is another positive step toward keeping our promise to repeal and replace Obamacare."

Meanwhile, on its website, CNN Money (5/24, Luhby, Lee, 3.59M) reports that the CBO said approximately "one-sixth of the population live in states that would opt to make major changes to their insurance regulation, lowering premiums for the young and healthy, but likely leaving many of the sick unable to afford coverage because their rates would continue to escalate."

On its website, CBS News (5/24, Shabad, 4.4M) reports that HHS Secretary Tom Price criticized the score, saying it was "wrong." He stated, "The CBO was wrong when they analyzed Obamacare's effect on cost and coverage, and they are wrong again. ... In reality, Americans are paying more for fewer healthcare choices because of Obamacare, and that's why the Trump Administration is committed to reforming healthcare."

The Hill (5/24, Hellmann, 1.25M) reports that Price "slammed the CBO score of the GOP healthcare bill as 'wrong again' minutes after its release on Wednesday, immediately dismissing the conclusion that it would substantially raise premiums for sick people."

Mary Bruce said on ABC World News Tonight (5/24, story 6, 2:35, Muir, 14.63M) that according to the CBO, some consumers will see their premiums "skyrocket," and warned that over time, "it would 'become more difficult' for people with [pre-existing] conditions to purchase insurance because their premiums would 'continue to increase rapidly.'" A brief report on the CBS Evening News (5/24, story 5, 0:30, Pelley, 11.17M) said Senate Republicans "are...writing their own version" of the AHCA.

Also covering the story are NBC Nightly News (5/24, story 4, 1:15, 16.61M), Reuters (5/24, Abutaleb), McClatchy (5/24, Pugh, Clark, 74K), Fox News (5/24, 11.07M), Politico (5/24, Cancryn, 2.46M), The Hill (5/24, Sullivan, 1.25M), ABC News (5/24, Siegel, Kelsey, 3.09M), NBC News (5/24, Caldwell, Rafferty, 2.67M), TIME (5/24, Frizell, 6.98M), CNBC (5/24, Mangan, 2.17M), The Hill (5/24, Roubein, Hellman, 1.25M), the Cleveland Plain Dealer (5/24, Eaton, 976K), the Columbus (OH) Dispatch (5/24, Wehrman, 529K), Forbes (5/24, Japsen, 15.17M), the Huffington Post (5/24, Cohn, 237K), Newsday (NY) (5/24, Ngo, 1.3M), the New York Daily News (5/24, Joseph, 4.45M), NPR (5/24, Kurtzleben, 1.92M), the New York Post (5/24, Morrongiello, 3.82M), The Hill (5/24, Sullivan, 1.25M), Roll Call (5/24, Young, 63K), U.S. News & World Report (5/24, Levy, 1.02M), Vox (5/24, Scott, 1.15M), The Atlantic (5/16, Berman, 21.27M), the Washington Examiner (5/24, Leonard, 400K), the Boston Globe (5/25, McGrane, 1.08M), the Washington Examiner (5/24, Russell, 400K), Modern Healthcare (5/24, Lee, Subscription Publication, 241K), and Kaiser Health News (5/24, Rovner, 2K).

Republican Senators Criticize AHCA In The Wake Of The CBO's Score. The Hill (5/24, Carney, 1.25M) reports in its "Floor Action" blog that on Wednesday, GOP "senators quickly distanced themselves from a House-passed ObamaCare repeal and replacement bill after" the CBO released its findings. Sen. Dean Heller (R-NV) said he is "opposed to the American Health Care Act in its current form." Meanwhile, Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) stated that "Congress's focus must be to lower premiums with coverage which passes the Jimmy Kimmel Test. The ACHA does not. I am working with Senate colleagues to do so."

Collins Slams AHCA Following Release Of CBO Score. The Hill (5/24, Bolton, 1.25M) reports that on Wednesday, Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) criticized the AHCA, "saying a new report by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) shows that the legislation will hit older, low-income Americans especially hard." She stated, "Unfortunately, the CBO estimates that 23 million Americans would lose insurance coverage over the next decade, and the impact would disproportionately affect older, low-income Americans."

Schumer "Denounces" AHCA. The Hill (5/24, Bolton, 1.25M) reports that Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer (D-NY) "denounced the House-passed healthcare reform bill after an analysis by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) showed it would cause millions of Americans to lose health coverage." He said, "Republicans in Washington and the president should read this report cover to cover, throw their bill in the trash can and begin working with Democrats on a real plan to lower costs for the American people." Schumer added, "Unless you're a healthy millionaire, TrumpCare is a nightmare. ... This report ought to be the final nail in the coffin of the Republican effort to sabotage our healthcare system."

The Washington Examiner (5/24, Ferrechio, 400K) also covers the story.

Sanders Calls AHCA "A Disgrace." The Hill (5/24, Kamisar, 1.25M) reports that on Wednesday, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-

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VT) tweeted, “What a disgrace” after the CBO released findings showing the ranks of the uninsured would increase by 23 million if the AHCA became law.

Lawmakers Defend, Decry AHCA Following CBO Analysis. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (5/24, Hart, 1.41M) reports Georgia State University estimated that approximately 720,000 Georgia residents could lose health insurance based on the CBO’s analysis. While Sen. David Perdue (R-GA) said, “Regardless of any CBO score, it’s no secret Obamacare is collapsing under its own weight,” state Rep. Scott Holcomb (D-Atlanta) placed the blame on Republicans, saying they “did not take the time to prepare a thoughtful plan – after crying for years.”

The Chicago Tribune (5/24, Skiba, 2.54M) reports that while Illinois House Democrats called the AHCA a “disaster” and an “irresponsible affront to hard-working Americans,” state Rep. Darin LaHood (R-Peoria) said the proposal, “while not perfect, is the first step in a process that will roll back the Obamacare regulations that are burdening our health care system.” The Tribune says a “bright spot for Republicans” following the CBO’s report is “that the House bill would reduce federal deficits by $119 billion over the coming decade.”

The Denver Post (5/24, Matthews, 778K) reports Colorado lawmakers “feuded” on Wednesday following the release of the CBO’s analysis of the AHCA, exacerbating the “long-running fight over healthcare” that has permeated state legislatures. State Democrats “used the report to blast the GOP plan, particularly over the loss of insurance,” while Republicans “largely avoided that aspect of the report while focusing on other pieces of their proposal to undo” the ACA.

The Houston Chronicle (5/24, Deam, 1.91M) reports legislators from both parties in Texas “were swift Wednesday afternoon to claim that these new CBO findings verified their positions,” with Republicans asserting the bill “will further lower premiums, deliver more immediate tax relief for individuals and families, and decrease the deficit,” while Democrats blamed the AHCA – dubbed by Rep. Lloyd Dogget (D-Austin) as “a real loser” – for reducing Americans’ access to healthcare services.

More Commentary. Philip Bump writes in the Washington Post (5/24, 11.43M) that according to the CBO’s analysis of the AHCA, “people making $68,200 a year who are in the two younger ages (21 and 40) will pay less in premiums annually because they will get a tax credit not available to people at their income level under Obamacare.” However, “for older and poorer Americans, the effect will mostly be worse.”

Amber Phillips writes in the Washington Post (5/24, 11.43M) “The Fix” that now that the CBO has unveiled its analysis of the revised AHCA, “Senate Republicans will have to decide whether to tweak the House’s version or throw it in the trash. And this estimate is only a fraction less politically damaging than the first one was.” Phillips adds that the CBO’s findings are “not good” for the AHCA’s chances, because the high number of uninsured “is a big reason the first bill never came up for a vote in the House: Moderate Republicans couldn’t vote for a bill that meant more people would lose their insurance than gained it under Obamacare (about 20 million).”

White House Questions CBO’s Reliability. The Washington Times (5/24, Boyer, 272K) says the White House “hit back” against the CBO’s report, saying that “the CBO is unreliable in evaluating health-care legislation.” The Times quotes a “White House official” as saying, “History has proven the CBO to be totally incapable of accurately predicting how healthcare legislation will impact health insurance coverage.” The official went on to cite the HHS report highlighted in the President’s tweet as “more alarming.”

CBO Report Confirms ACA Repeal Efforts Are In Jeopardy. Politico (5/24, Demko, Haberkorn, 2.46M) says the recently-released Congressional Budget Office report “reinforced” the “reality” that efforts to repeal the ACA are “in trouble in the Senate.” Politico adds that “within minutes of the release of the report,” two Senate Republicans “blasted the estimate and the House bill, underscoring just how much the legislation will have to change to get through the upper chamber.” Sen. Dean Heller, who is “expected to face a tough re-election contest next year, said the House bill ‘does not do enough to address Nevada’s Medicaid population or protect Nevadans with pre-existing conditions,’” while Sen. Bill Cassidy “criticized the House bill for failing to adequately protect Americans with pre-existing medical conditions.” According to Politico, Senate Republicans “clearly see the peril of passing a bill that’s projected to lead to 23 million fewer Americans having coverage.”

CBO Shows AHCA Would Raise Premiums For Elderly, Cut Federal Deficit. The Washington Post (5/24, Soffen, Uhrmacher, 11.43M) reports the CBO report found that the American Health Care Act would leave 51 million Americans “uninsured within a decade” and premiums for elderly citizens would see “700 to 800 percent” increases among those with an annual income of about $26,500, while premiums could drop for younger people “because some sicker people would not be able to get insurance at all.” The AHCA will also permit states to determine changes to the “essential health benefits” marketplace insurance plans can offer, resulting in a decline in insurance value. The bill’s “upside” shows it would “meaningfully” reduce the deficit by “$119 billion over 10 years,” although “it is unlikely that the House’s bill will be

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enacted."

The Secretary in the News:

PRICE, HOUSE GOP LAWMAKERS PUSHING SENATE REPUBLICANS TO PASS ACA REPEAL BILL BEFORE SUMMER RECESS. The Hill (5/24, Carney, 1.25M) reports there is growing pressure on Senate GOP lawmakers "to pass an ObamaCare repeal-and-replace bill before the congressional recess in August." Although Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) "is wary of committing to a specific deadline after the House struggled to pass a bill, the White House wants the upper chamber to hit the gas." The article adds that HHS Secretary Tom Price "and House GOP lawmakers are publicly nudging the Senate to vote before lawmakers leave town at the end of July."

Opioid News:

MCCONNELL: NEW RESOURCES WILL HELP COMBAT OPIOID ADDICTION. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) writes in the Richmond (KY) Register (5/24, McConnell, 13K) about what can be done to "fight the epidemic" of opioid addiction and overdoses. He writes, "I made securing crucial new resources to help combat heroin and prescription opioid abuse a top priority in the government funding bill that was recently signed into law." He points to the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) as having "helped to bolster treatment, prevention, recovery, and law enforcement tools" and the 21st Century Cures Act, which "authorized $1 billion over two years to help states combat the prescription opioid epidemic."

OHIO OFFICIALS SEE PROGRESS IN COMBATING OPIOID ADDICTION. The Youngstown (OH) Vindicator (5/25, Grzelewski, 170K) reports on a Wednesday meeting of the editorial board with "members of Gov. John Kasich's cabinet, Ohio State Highway Patrol representatives, and Mahoning County officials" to discuss the opioid and heroin problems, at which Tracy Plouck, director of Ohio Mental Health & Addiction Services, said, "We do not anticipate that the numbers will be decreasing." Still, they also said there has been "progress on several fronts." First, the American Medical Association "found that Ohio has the most-used prescription drug monitoring program in the country." Ohio has also "implemented stricter guidelines for prescribing controlled substances."

HHS in the News:

CMS OFFICIAL AND INVESTORS ACCUSED OF INSIDER TRADING WITH HEALTHCARE STOCKS. The New York Times (5/24, Stevenson, Goldstein, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports federal officials have accused five people of insider trading for allegedly "using confidential information" to trade healthcare stocks. Federal prosecutors have filed criminal charges and the Securities and Exchange Commission has filed a civil lawsuit over the alleged scheme.

Reuters (5/24, Pierson) reports Christopher Worrall, an employee of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, allegedly shared confidential information about CMS decisions with political consultant David Blaszczak. Blaszczak then allegedly shared that information with three employees of the healthcare hedge fund Deerfield Management: Rob Olan, Ted Huber, and Jordan Fogel. Fogel has pleaded guilty. The Hill (5/24, Lane, 1.25M) reports "Worrall allegedly told Blaszczak three different times about pending CMS reimbursement decisions that could affect stock prices."

The Wall Street Journal (5/24, A1, Mullins, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports Blaszczak, Huber, Olan, and Worrall "participated in a scheme to obtain and convert to their own use confidential and material non-public information from CMS insiders concerning, among other things, CMS's internal deliberations regarding coverage and reimbursement decisions," according to the indictment.

Bloomberg News (5/24, Berthelsen, Robinson, 2.41M) reports the criminal charges and civil lawsuit take "aim at the burgeoning political intelligence industry in Washington, in which consultants – often former government employees themselves – nurture ex-colleagues for information about potentially market-moving decisions, and relay that to hedge fund traders and others in exchange for lucrative consulting fees." The article suggests that Blaszczak, a former CMS employee who now owns a consulting firm, is part of a broader trend of government employees becoming private consultants.

Newsday (NY) (5/24, Riley, 1.3M) reports "Worrall worked as a senior technical adviser in the director's office of the center and had 'broad access' to confidential information about reimbursement decisions that could affect the stock values of health device and service companies." The New York Post (5/24, 3.82M) also covers the story.

WPOST ANALYSIS INVESTIGATES YOEST'S POSITION ON ABORTION-BREAST CANCER LINK. In an analysis piece on its "Fact Checker" blog, the Washington Post (5/25, Lee, 11.43M) examines a 2012 New York Times feature

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story in which Charmaine Yoest, President Trump's appointee for assistant secretary of Health and Human Services, appeared to support "the discredited theory that abortion increases a woman's risk for breast cancer." Asked by readers to determine whether Yoest still holds that position, the Post reports, "We couldn't readily find instances after 2012 where Yoest publicly repeated this claim. We reached out to her, but she would not answer whether she still believes in this alleged link." Instead, Yoest provided a written explanation, which said, "As far as my comments on this, I hope that you will note that the wild accusations that I have said 'abortion *causes* breast cancer' are false. I have not said that and would not say that." The Post concludes, "it's an old quote, and as far as we can tell, she hasn't repeated it since. So we will not rate this claim."

TRUMP'S BUDGET PROPOSAL CALLS FOR DEEP CUTS TO HEALTHCARE. The AP (5/24, Alonso-Zaldivar) reports President Trump's budget proposal calls for cuts not only to Medicaid, but also to a "much smaller Children's Health Insurance Program, or CHIP." The AP says that cuts to both of these safety-net programs, which are collaborations between the states and federal government, "would leave states with hard choices: spend more of their own money; restrict enrollment; cut benefits, or reduce payments to hospitals and doctors." At the same time, the proposal makes no mention of the possibility of "negotiating prescription drug prices, a frequent Trump talking point." The proposed double-digit percentage cuts to the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are "considered nonstarters even by Republican lawmakers," the piece says.

Former CDC Director Tom Frieden "fired off a series of uncharacteristically charged tweets last night warning that the Trump administration's budget 'risks Americans' health and safety,'" Vox (5/24, Belluz, 1.15M) reports. Under the budget proposal, the CDC would lose $1.2 billion in funding, which the piece says comes at a time when the agency is already being gutted by Congressional Republicans. According to the article, a repeal of the ACA would result in the elimination of the Prevention and Public Health Fund, "which accounts for 12 percent of CDC's current budget."

OP-ED SLAMS TRUMP OVER PROPOSED NIH, CHIP CUTS. In a New York Times (5/25, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) op-ed, Gail Collins criticizes President Trump's budget, saying his proposed "spending cuts were so ridiculous that nobody was taking them very seriously. (Good luck with squashing the National Institutes of Health.)" She adds that budget director Mick Mulvaney "claimed the new budget was all about 'compassion.'" However, she argues, "It's not everybody whose heart bleeds so much for wealthy taxpayers that he's prepared to feed them the Children's Health Insurance Program."

HHS REPORT SAYS HEALTH PREMIUMS UNDER ACA HAVE BEEN RISING SINCE 2013. Modern Healthcare (5/24, Livingston, Subscription Publication, 241K) says that an HHS report released on Tuesday shows that health insurance premiums under the ACA have been going up, "gr[owing] 105% on average between 2013 – before the ACA exchange went into effect – and 2017." The report is the first for HHS' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation under the Trump Administration, and it cites health policy experts as saying that "consumers are also getting more bang for their buck."

NIH DIRECTOR COLLINS OPENS CONFERENCE WITH TALK ON "ALL OF US" PROJECT. The Durham (NC) Herald Sun (5/24, Gronberg, 60K) reports National Institutes of Health Director Francis Collins on Wednesday began a "precision medicine" conference at Duke University with an explanation of the "All of Us" project, a "long-term effort to gather health data from 1 million or more people." He said the program would begin testing "data-gathering systems...next week." He added that there should be data available for researchers next year, and "one million volunteer participants enrolled by the end of 2022." Collins said that the NIH is expecting Congress to cover the costs because of the "spending promises" in the "21st Century Cares Act."

MEDICAL RESEARCH GROUP BUYS ADS URGING CONGRESS TO BOOST NIH FUNDING. The Worcester (MA) Business Journal (5/24, 117K) reports on the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, an association of "more than 200 medical schools, associations, colleges and others" that "took out full-page newspaper advertisements in Tuesday's Wall Street Journal and Politico" urging Congress "to increase funding by $2 billion to the National Institutes of Health in the upcoming 2018 budget."

FORMER CONGRESSMAN, NIH DIRECTOR OPPOSE CUTTING NIH BUDGET. Former Rep. Rush Holt (D-NJ) and Former NIH Director Elias Zerhouni write in The Hill (5/24, Holt, Zerhouni, 1.25M) "Pundits" blog against the proposed Trump budget and in favor of those "members of Congress from both sides of the aisle [who] have championed federal funding for research and development." They specifically cite a proposal "to cut the National Institutes of Health's budget by $7.4 billion, or 21.5 percent." They argue, "not only would research grants and labs be affected, but hospitals and pharmaceutical companies' ability to discover medicines and techniques that improve public health, fight disease, and save lives will be hindered."

SAN DIEGO EXPERTS SAY TRUMP'S BUDGET WOULD BE BAD FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH. The San Diego Union-

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Tribune (5/24, Fikes, 496K) cites "experts in San Diego and California's biomedical economy" saying that President Trump's proposed budget "would cripple life science research and industry." One called it "horrendous" and "completely unacceptable." Sara Radcliffe, president and CEO of California Life Sciences Association, issued a statement saying the group is "deeply concerned" about the budget proposal for "the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) and the National Institutes of Health." Joe Panetta, president and CEO of Biocom, said the proposal would be "devastating."

SENATOR MCCONNELL SAYS HE EXPECTS BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR BILL REAUTHORIZING FDA USER FEES. Reuters (5/24) reports Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell told Reuters yesterday "he expects bipartisan support for approval of a bill" that would authorize taxpayer and industry funding for the FDA, effectively allowing the FDA "to collect hundreds of millions of dollars from drugmakers and medical device companies to partially cover the cost of reviewing new products, with US taxpayers funding the remainder." McConnell said in an interview, "It's an extremely important bill that I think we'll be able to move on a bipartisan basis."

HOUSE REPUBLICANS MAKING LAST-MINUTE PUSH TO INCLUDE "OFF-LABEL" MARKETING LANGUAGE IN FDA FUNDING BILL. Congressional Quarterly (5/25, Subscription Publication, 967) reports House Republicans are attempting a last-minute push to include language in a funding bill that would allow drug and device makers to promote off-label, or unapproved, uses of products. FDA commissioner Scott Gottlieb has indicated he was open to changes, writing in response to questions from Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA): "FDA has long recognized that there is public health benefit of allowing certain non-promotional communication about truthful, non-misleading, clinical information that is not previously incorporated into FDA-approved product labeling."

MICHIGAN GROCERY CHAIN STARTS ADDING CALORIE LABELING ON PREPARED FOODS AHEAD OF FDA'S DELAYED RULE. MLive (MI) (5/24, 878K) reports Michigan-based grocer SpartanNash has added calorie labeling on prepared foods despite the fact the FDA recently put a rule requiring such labeling on hold. The piece notes the agency has been slow to implement the rule, which was part of the Affordable Care Act. The most recent delay was lauded by HHS Secretary Tom Price, "who said he wanted to change the Obamacare rule to be 'more flexible and less burdensome.'"

LIKELIHOOD OF FDA BAN ON FILTERED CIGARETTES DISCUSSED. CNN (5/24, Scutti, 29.79M) examines the risks of filtered, "light" cigarettes following news of a study linking them to increased risk for adenocarcinoma, and the chance of an FDA ban on the filters. The article highlights the fact that researchers took the unusual step in their study recommending that the FDA do more research to determine whether a ban on such filters is appropriate. However, the piece cites comments by Dr. Alan Blum, director of the Center for the Study of Tobacco and Society and a professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Alabama School of Medicine, who said that although he has opposed the filters for many decades, "he thinks that calling for more regulations and more studies won't help anyone," since, "as he sees it, many organizations...have benefited in some way or another from 'tobacco industry largesse.'" The study was published Monday in Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

OPINION: FDA SHOULD CONSIDER PETITION CALLING FOR DELAY IN TOBACCO PRODUCT APPLICATION DEADLINES. The Washington Examiner (5/24, 400K) features a contribution by Paul Blair, Strategic Initiatives Director at Americans for Tax Reform, discussing an FDA Citizen Petition urging the agency to implement "a reasonable delay in upcoming product application deadlines" and to provide "clear guidance on how to actually get products which are already on the market re-approved for future use." The petition was filed May 12 by the Vapor Technology Association, Smoke-free Alternatives Trade Association, NJOY LLC, and several other businesses. Blair writes, "The new head of the FDA, Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, should swiftly consider this Citizen Petition request and immediately issue a two-year delay of a rule that stands to kill tens of thousands of new jobs and unquestionably will harm public health."

PUBLIC HEALTH EXPERTS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT PRESIDENT TRUMP'S PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS TO HEALTH AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS. TIME (5/24, Sifferlin, 6.98M) reports public health experts are concerned about President Trump's proposed budget, "which would substantially cut funding to key government health agencies and programs." The article points out that the proposal would cut funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, and the National Institutes of Health.

Vox (5/24, Frostenson, 1.15M) reports that even if President Trump's budget proposal is rejected by Congress, the Trump Administration is "already" contracting the federal workforce "with consequences for health and the environment." The article reports that "Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney has been urging agency heads to offer buyouts and early retirement packages, do layoffs, and eliminate jobs," and the Department of Health and Human Services, the CDC, and the NIH "are acquiescing."

Opinion: President Trump's Proposed Budget Would Harm Work Of FDA And NIH. Ellen V. Sigal, PhD, the founder of Friends of Cancer Research, writes in STAT (5/24) "First Opinion" that President Trump's proposed budget "represents

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a major impediment to bipartisan opportunities to build on the momentum and execute the programs created through [the 21st Century] Cures Act and the current reauthorization of the Prescription Drug User Fee Act." Sigal argues that Trump chose well picking the leaders to head the Food and Drug Administration, Scott Gottlieb, and the National Institutes of Health, Francis Collins, but that his proposed budget "would hamstring Collins and Gottlieb in their efforts to protect and improve the lives of Americans." Sigal specifically criticizes the proposal to increase the FDA's fees for pharmaceutical companies as well as the proposal to reduce funding for NIH grants that support medical research.

COLLEGES DEBATE THE IMPACT OF EXPANDING ALCOHOL SALES AT SPORTING EVENTS. The Baton Rouge (LA) Business Report (5/24, Jacobs, 625) reports some colleges are debating whether to allow or expand alcohol sales inside their sports stadiums. Some are concerned that such changes lead to people drinking more, while others argue that people already drink before sporting events or sneak alcoholic drinks into stadiums, so the level of drinking or intoxication may not change much. Aaron White, senior scientific adviser to the director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, says that unless a school bans tailgating, such changes would lead to "more drunkenness."

NIH DIRECTOR INTERVIEWED ABOUT PRECISION MEDICINE. On its website, WUNC-FM Chapel Hill, NC (5/24, Brookland, Stasio, 10K) features an embedded link with an audio recording of an interview of NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins and others participating in the Precision Medicine 2017 World Conference. The conference "explores how precision medicine is changing healthcare."

EXPERTS OFFER ADVICE ON HOW TO WIN NIH GRANTS. In an over 3,100-word article, Nature News (5/25, Powell, 153K) provides advice to researchers on how to win NIH grants. The article quotes many researchers, as well as NIH officials, on the grant application process, and also points to figures on NIH grants and how many applicants receive them. For examples, the article quotes Jon Lorsch, the director of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, who said, "The system has many biases in it – unintended, by and large. But certainly the more experience someone has, the more these biases work in their favour."

OPINION: THE FOGARTY INTERNATIONAL CENTER BENEFITS AMERICANS AND PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD. Drs. Paul K. Drain, Ramnath Subbaraman, and Douglas C. Heimburger write in an opinion piece in the New England Journal of Medicine (5/24, 598K) that the US should preserve the Fogarty International Center because it benefits people in the US and around the world. The authors argue that the Fogarty "represents a valuable and effective scientific and diplomatic investment, and the small reduction in the federal budget that would result from its elimination would be far outweighed by what would be lost." The authors mention that NIH Director Francis Collins is considering whether the Fogarty can continue if the NIH's budget is cut in the future.

OFFICIALS TESTIFY ABOUT US READINESS FOR ANOTHER ZIKA OUTBREAK. Modern Healthcare (5/24, Johnson, Subscription Publication, 241K) reports Timothy Persons, the chief scientist of the Government Accountability Office, testified at a Congressional hearing that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and state health agencies lacked the information and resources to monitor the Zika outbreak last year, and that remains the case today. Persons also said that there is still no reliable test for Zika even though the Food and Drug Administration has approved 16 diagnostic tests for the virus. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, also testified at the hearing and said that researchers were making progress on creating a Zika vaccine, but that it could still be several years before one is ready.

CBO BUDGET REPORT SHOWS SIGNIFICANT CUTS TO CDC'S PREVENTION FUND. Nature News (5/24, Maxmen, 153K) reports the Congressional Budget Office released an analysis of the American Health Care Act, saying that while it would save the federal government $119 billion between 2017 and 2026, the AHCA would remove funding for health initiatives known for reducing deaths and chronic illnesses such as the Prevention and Public Health Fund, an arm of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. According to Tom Frieden, the former director of the CDC, "These cuts will result in more people dying and higher health-care costs."

Health Reform:

BLUECROSS TO EXIT ACA EXCHANGES IN MISSOURI, KANSAS. The Wall Street Journal (5/24, Mathews, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City intends to exit Affordable Care Act exchanges in 2018, which means some consumers in northwestern Missouri may not have access to any ACA plans next year. Fox Business (5/24, 269K) also carries the article.

Business Insider (5/24, Bryan, 3.42M) reports the insurer announced on Wednesday that it is exiting the Affordable Care Act exchanges in Missouri and Kansas, citing sustained losses and uncertainty over the future of healthcare policy. The decision could leave parts of Missouri with no options for ACA coverage. The article adds that when Arizona and Tennessee faced a similar problem, "a Blue Cross Blue Shield plan intervened to bolster the market, which does not

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appear to be possible in the Missouri case." Yahoo! News (5/24, Bryan, 8.62M) also carries the article.

In a statement, Blue KC President and CEO Danette Wilson said "the company had lost more than $100 million on the exchanges through 2016," which she called "unsustainable," the AP (5/24) reports.

The insurer's departure from ACA marketplaces would impact about 67,000 consumers in the 32 counties that it serves, Fox Business (5/24, De Lea, 269K) reports.

In Kansas alone, Blue Cross Blue Shield's exit could leave about 19,000 ACA enrollees with no options in 2018, Vox (5/24, Kliff, Frostenson, 1.15M) reports. The article adds that "another health plan could sign up to sell coverage in the area," which is what happened in Tennessee when BlueCross said it would cover the "16 counties surrounding Knoxville" affected by Humana's announcement to exit the exchanges.

The Kansas City (MO) Star (5/24, Marso, 581K) reports that consumers in Kansas "may have another option in Medica," a Minnesota-based company, which has "filed initial paperwork with the Kansas Insurance Department to sell ACA plans again in 2018, but has not decided whether it will continue to cap enrollment at 10,000 statewide, as it does now." In Missouri, "the situation is murkier" since "initial filing deadlines aren't until July."

The Hill (5/24, Roubein, 1.25M) reports that "there hasn't yet been a scenario where an area didn't have any carrier offering a health care plan." The article adds that BlueCross announced earlier this month "it would enter Knoxville's exchanges, averting a potential crisis after Humana – the only insurer on the exchanges at the time – said it was exiting."

The Washington Examiner (5/24, King, 400K) and the Kansas City (MO) Business Journal (5/24, Subscription Publication, 33K) provide similar coverage.

MCCONNELL UNCERTAIN ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR ACA REPEAL LEGISLATION IN THE SENATE. Reuters (5/24, Cornwell, Abutaleb) reports that on Wednesday, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) "said he has yet to hit upon a formula for repealing Obamacare and replacing it with a new healthcare program, but he expressed some optimism on another top priority, overhauling the tax code." During an interview with Reuters, McConnell said about the ACA repeal measure, "I don't know how we get to 50 (votes) at the moment. But that's the goal."

Politico (5/24, Nelson, 2.46M) reports McConnell also said "he does not intend to reach out to any Democrats in order to pass the Senate's version of the healthcare bill because the gulf between the two parties on the issue is too great to overcome."

Also covering the story are The Hill (5/24, Sullivan, 1.25M), the Washington Examiner (5/24, Leonard, 400K), and the Daily Caller (5/24, Donachie, 898K).

MAJORITY OF VOTERS CONSIDERS AHCA "A STEP BACKWARD." The Hill (5/24, Easley, 1.25M) reports that according to a new Harvard-Harris survey, most "voters see the GOP healthcare bill as a step backward and want to see the Senate make significant changes to it." Data indicate 55 percent of voters "view the House-passed bill as a step backward, compared to 45 percent who described it as a step forward." About 77 percent of Republicans view it "as a step forward, while 77 percent of Democrats and 61 percent of independents view it as a step back."

RYAN SAYS ACA REPEAL WAS "CATHARTIC" FOR HOUSE LAWMAKERS. The Washington Examiner (5/24, Leonard, 400K) reports that on Wednesday, House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) said "he wouldn't want to repeat the experience of passing the American Health Care Act, but that it was good for Republicans in the lower chamber." Ryan is quoted as saying, "I'm glad we went through it. ... I think it was cathartic."

SEN. ALEXANDER ATTEMPTING TO SAVE ACA IN THE SHORT TERM. Roll Call (5/24, Williams, 63K) reports that this year, Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) has found himself in the strange position of attempting "to save the shaky insurance markets created by the 2010 health care law before attending to a major overhaul of the law." The article says although "Alexander has been a near constant critic of former President Barack Obama's signature domestic achievement, he is now one of the leading voices in the chamber for saving it, at least for 2018 and 2019." Alexander said, "We might have to do some things and authorize some things in those two years that we wouldn't do long-term. ... And then in 2020, we would hope to have our long-term solution for the people that don't have the insurance."

SCALISE SAYS GOP LAWMAKERS NEVER CONSIDERED ENDING PROTECTIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS. The Washington Examiner (5/24, Jashinsky, 400K) reports that according to House Majority Whip Steve Scalise (R-LA), ending "protections for people with pre-existing conditions was never on the table during negotiations over the American Health Care Act." He stated, "For all the banging from the Left that, you know, 'they don't

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care about people with pre-existing conditions' – There was never a day where our conference was willing to leave people out in the cold."

GOP SENATORS FACING SIMILAR CHALLENGES AS THEIR COLLEAGUES IN THE HOUSE AS THEY WORK ON ACA REPEAL LEGISLATION. Vox (5/24, Scott, 1.15M) reports that even though Senate Republicans attempted to avoid the challenges that House GOP lawmakers experienced as they attempted to pass the AHCA, "three weeks into their negotiations, senators still sound stuck on many of the same issues that fractured Republicans in the lower chamber." The piece adds that despite "a procedural shortcut" known as reconciliation," Senate Republican leaders can afford to lose only two of their 52 members." To make matters worse, "at least a dozen GOP senators have already expressed concerns about the House plan."

ANTHEM LOOKING AT INDIVIDUAL MARKETS IN EACH STATE TO DETERMINE ACA PARTICIPATION. Reuters (5/24, Humer) reports Anthem Inc. CEO Joseph Swedish said on Wednesday the company is assessing each state "to determine what its participation in the Obamacare individual market will be next year given the political and regulatory uncertainty." Speaking at the UBS Global Healthcare Conference, Swedish said, "We would prefer not to extract ourselves if we can get the math to work."

The Hill (5/24, Hellmann, 1.25M) reports the company currently operates in 14 states and may have to withdraw in some markets, according to Swedish. The piece says that at issue is the question of whether the Trump Administration will continue with cost-sharing reduction subsidies under the ACA.

RYAN CALLS ON HEALTH INSURERS TO "STICK IT OUT" IN ACA MARKETS FOR 2018. Reuters (5/24, Heavey) reports US House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) urged health insurers on Wednesday "to 'stick it out' in the Obamacare marketplace despite concerns over its stability, saying Republicans are continuing their push to replace current law." During an interview with Axios, Ryan indicated "he could not address ongoing litigation over the fate of the Obamacare cost-sharing subsidies," yet he still "encouraged" insurers to continue to participate in 2018.

MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS SAY AHCA COULD CUT OHIO HEALTHCARE JOBS, SERVICES. The Cleveland Plain Dealer (5/24, Christ, 976K) cites medical professionals as saying the American Health Care Act (AHCA), if enacted, could "put at risk Ohio's ever-growing healthcare industry and the jobs it creates," leading to "81,000 fewer healthcare jobs in the next five years than if it stayed the course with the ACA, according to the Economic Policy Institute." The article says the Congressional Budget Office estimates that AHCA "would reduce Medicaid spending by roughly $839 billion over 10 years," which professionals say would lead "medical providers to make tough choices like cutting services and personnel in order to make up for the funding shortfall."

LEGISLATION WOULD ALLOW OKLAHOMA TO SEEK ACA WAIVER. The Oklahoman (5/24, Denwalt, 380K) reports the Oklahoma state Legislature has been working on a bill to "subsidize its own health insurance program to replace the Affordable Care Act marketplace," which would be "submitted to the federal government as a waiver." Under federal law, states can "develop an 'innovation waiver' to provide residents with health insurance." If adopted in Oklahoma, "the government could waive Oklahoma's participation in parts of the ACA." The bill, HB 2406, is the "next step" in this process and is pending approval by the Senate Joint Committee on Appropriations and Budget.

AARP CAMPAIGN WILL TARGET REPUBLICANS WHO OPPOSE AHCA. The Hill (5/24, Roubein, 1.25M) reports on AARP's "TV ad buy" to pressure Republican senators Jeff Flake (AZ), Cory Gardner (CO), Dean Heller (NV), Lisa Murkowski (AK) and Dan Sullivan (AK). The piece says the 38-million-member group "has been vocal in its opposition to the House GOP healthcare bill" that "would make coverage more expensive and unaffordable for older people" via "age tax" provisions and which has the potential to "weaken protections for those with pre-existing conditions and Medicare." AARP executive vice president Nancy LeaMond said in a statement that "older Americans are very worried about the cost of their health insurance."

The campaign will cost the organization "at least six figures on the ads in each of the four states," which the Huffington Post (5/24, Marans, 237K) says will target senators who are "either moderate, or...up for re-election in 2018." The ad highlights the "House bill's most controversial features," as portrayed in the Washington Post, and urges viewers to "call one of the five senators and tell them to vote 'no on the health care bill.'" In what the Post calls "early signs that AARP could get its wish that the Senate start from scratch," several Republican senators "declared their intention to craft an entirely different law" after the Congressional Budget Office said the AHCA would increase the ranks of the uninsured by 23 million.

SOME HOUSE DEMOCRATS CALL FOR "MEDICARE FOR ALL" SYSTEM. The Hill (5/24, Sullivan, 1.25M) reports that roughly a dozen House Democrats led by Rep. John Conyers (D-MI) on Wednesday "called for a single-payer, 'Medicare for All' healthcare insurance system amid Republicans' ObamaCare repeal push." The lawmakers also

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criticized the Republican drive to repeal the ACA, but made the argument that it is time for the country "to go further than the current health law." Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN) said, "We can fight fiercely to protect the Affordable Care Act and also look a little bit farther in terms of establishing Medicare for All."

The call from these lawmakers, the Huffington Post (5/24, Marans, 237K) says, demonstrates "a growing liberal consensus behind single-payer health insurance" and which Democrats have said has "unprecedented majority support." Speaking at a press conference, Conyers pointed to private insurance as the root of the healthcare problem in the US, saying "we will never get universal care built on a foundation of private, for-profit insurers. ... The only way we will get there is the way every other advanced country on the planet has, through a universal system like expanded Medicare."

HOUSE DEMOCRATS DEMAND TRUMP FUND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT CSR PAYMENTS. The Hill (5/24, Weixel, 1.25M) reports that almost 200 House Democrats have demanded the Trump Administration fund cost sharing reduction (CSR) payments to insurers as mandated by the ACA. In a letter to President Trump, Democratic lawmakers wrote, "The law requires, and it is your obligation under the law" to make the payments "and to stop other acts of sabotage that undermine Americans' access to affordable, quality health insurance." In addition, they warned that if these payments are discontinued, the exits of insurers from ACA exchanges could result in premium hikes.

HEALTHCARE START-UPS SHIFTING STRATEGIES WITH ACA UNCERTAINTY. The Wall Street Journal (5/24, Simon, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports that healthcare start ups have begun to revamp sales pitches and products in light of the uncertainty surrounding the Affordable Care Act. The Journal says younger start-ups or those that are more closely tied to the insurance market face the greatest challenges.

CANDIDATE ROB QUIST TARGETS HEALTHCARE IN HIS MONTANA HOUSE BID. TIME (5/24, Beckwith, 6.98M) reports that Democratic candidate Rob Quist, who is vying for an open House seat in Montana, is talking to voters "about how the Republican bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act would affect" them, including "running ads that talk about protecting people with pre-existing conditions and discussing financial problems he faced after gall-bladder surgery." Time says that the Republican healthcare bill has been "an easier target in Montana," compared to President Trump. Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee national press secretary Tyler Law said, "There's nothing more personal than health care to people's lives, and it's certainly what's driving the widespread backlash to Republicans and to Republican candidates that that we're seeing across the country."

COMMITTEE SAYS HOUSE HEALTHCARE BILL WOULD LEAD TO $668 BILLION TAX CUT. The Wall Street Journal (5/24, Rubin, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation on Wednesday estimated that the healthcare bill passed by House Republicans would result in a tax cut of $668 billion over 10 years. This estimate, however, does not include tax changes affecting health insurance coverage, which is part of the Congressional Budget Office's estimate. The healthcare bill includes a tax cut on high-income households and the healthcare industry.

REPUBLICAN HEALTHCARE BILL CUTS COVERAGE FOR POOR, GIVES BACK TO WEALTHY. Politico Magazine (5/24, Grunwald) reports that the bottom line of the Congressional Budget Office's review of the Republican healthcare bill "is brutally straightforward." Politico says that "the GOP bill would spend about $1 trillion less on healthcare, so about 23 million fewer Americans would have coverage." Most of that money, the piece says, "would be returned to wealthy Americans in the form of tax cuts." The article adds that "the basic thrust of the Republican effort to repeal and replace Obamacare has not changed much," and that Republicans are seeking "to take money that the government has been spending on the poor and working class ... and give it back to high earners."

KAINE PROPOSES SPENDING MORE TO KEEP INSURERS IN EXCHANGES. The Hampton Roads (VA) Virginian-Pilot (5/24, Bartel, 302K) reports in light of announced decisions by Aetna and UnitedHealth Group no longer to sell insurance policies through Virginia's exchanges, Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA) has proposed "spending additional federal dollars" to keep insurers in the exchanges. He would do that through what he calls an Individual Market Protection Fund to "help pay the cost of expensive health care when a patient's expenses reached certain catastrophic thresholds."

PENCE URGES HEARERS IN LOUISIANA TO CALL SENATORS TO SUPPORT AHCA. The Baton Rouge (LA) Advocate (5/24, Crisp, 75K) reports on Vice President Pence's visit to Louisiana "to build support for the administration's embattled health care and budget plans." Pence spoke to "supportive crowds" and "held a round-table discussion with more than a dozen local business leaders." Pence told them, "The Obamacare nightmare is about to end." He also "urged the crowd to reach out to Republican U.S. Sens. John N. Kennedy and Bill Cassidy to urge them to support" the Republican proposal, the American Health Care Act.

COMMENTARY CONSIDERS HEALTH REFORM. Several outlets offer opinions on health reform.

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David Leonhardt calls the CBO report a “devastating indictment,” in his New York Times (5/24, Leonhardt, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) column. He says, however, that the reaction to the report “shows why you should be worried that the Senate will nonetheless decide to pass a version of the House bill.” This reaction, he argues, “has missed the point,” which is that politicians are ultimately “trying to take away health insurance from people.” Because they “can’t sell their proposals on the merits,” they instead want to “change the subject.”

Jennifer Rubin of the Washington Post (5/24, 11.43M) writes that the Congressional Budget Office’s release of its scoring of the American Health Care Act appeared “anti-climactic, if not irrelevant,” since the Senate will not be taking up the bill at all. The score, she says though, “does remind us how counterproductive is the GOP House bill, which every member will have to defend in 2018.”

In an editorial, USA Today (5/24, 5.28M) says it is clear why House Republicans “were so quick to ram through an [ACA] repeal-and-replace bill last month.” The paper emphasizes that “if the House GOP health care bill were to become law, about 7% of the U.S. population would be added to the ranks of the uninsured.” This is in part because the bill “savages Medicaid,” USA Today contends.

In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (5/24, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) says while the country was waiting for the CBO report to be released, two other reports of more consequence were published. One of these was from HHS, whose report showed rising average health insurance premiums, which have gone up 105 percent since 2013. The other was from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City, which cited unsustainable losses of some $1,100 million as its reason for withdrawing from the ACA markets in Kansas and Missouri.

Michael Hiltzik writes in his Los Angeles Times (5/24, 4.52M) column that the CBO’s report highlights how AHCA “could destroy the individual insurance markets in states where one-sixth of the population resides.” He argues that it would be “terrible” for anyone but the most healthy in many states. Hiltzik maintains the CBO report “sharpens the conundrum over healthcare for the Senate’s Republican majority.”

Washington Post (5/24, 11.43M) Digital Opinions Editor James Downie says moderate Republicans were disturbed by the CBO’s report showing that “24 million fewer Americans would have health insurance under the GOP plan.” He adds that the CBO’s scoring of AHCA also “finds that a few cosmetic tweaks don’t change the fact that the AHCA remains a breathtakingly cruel bill.” He maintains the bill “inflicts all this pain while simultaneously giving billions of dollars in tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans.”

Former Acting CMS Administrator and USA Today (5/24, 5.28M) Board of Contributors member Andy Slavitt says the results of the CBO’s analysis were “stunning,” and that not only would 23 million people lose their insurance but that “coverage would be unavailable or prohibitively expensive in large parts of the country for services such as mental health, substance abuse, maternity and pediatric dental care.” He says that a “question that is boiling just below the surface” is “whether Americans have a basic right to health care, or whether that right is reserved for those who can afford it.”

Political commentator Chris Weigant says in the Huffington Post (5/24, 237K) that the report showing 23 million would lose their coverage compared to the earlier estimate of 24 million is “a lot of pain for not very much money saved.” He criticizes House Republicans for “congratulat[ing] themselves for throwing 23 million people off their health insurance” with their $800 billion cut to Medicaid, which will be handed over to the wealthy.

Policy and politics editor Jim Tankersley says in a Vox (5/24, 1.15M) piece that the CBO’s report also clearly states what would happen to those with pre-existing conditions. With rising community-rated premiums, less healthy people “would ultimately be unable to purchase comprehensive nongroup health insurance at premiums comparable to those under current law, if they could purchase it at all,” which he says runs counter to the repeated promises made by House Republicans before they voted on AHCA.

Abbe R. Gluck, a professor of law and the faculty director of the Solomon Center for Health Law and Policy at Yale Law School, writes in an op-ed for the New York Times (5/25, Gluck, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) that the Affordable Care Act “is not ‘collapsing under its own weight,’” but “was sabotaged from the day it was enacted” by Republicans. “And now,” Gluck contends, “the Republican Party should be held accountable not only for any potential replacement of the law, but also for having tried to starve it to death.” Gluck decries GOP efforts to discredit the ACA, as well as attempts to use the ACA as justification for “a much stingier law.” Gluck concludes that “as the Senate turns to its own bill, it still has time to preserve the parts of the Affordable Care Act that are working and, more importantly, strengthen those that could succeed with proper support.”

In a caustic column for USA Today (5/25, Strauss, 5.28M), Steven Strauss, a visiting professor at Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and a member of USA TODAY’s Board of Contributors, argues

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that “one major reason” US government is dysfunctional “is the Republican Party’s hypocritical grandstanding.” According to Strauss, the GOP’s claims “about wanting smaller government and running America like a business” are inaccurate or ineffective, because “the GOP, in fact, needs big federal government programs...to keep many of its most important supporters afloat.”

President and CEO of Trust for America’s Health John Auerbach writes in The Hill (5/24, 1.25M) “Pundits Blog” that the CBO’s report showing 23 million people would lose their insurance coverage under the Republican-backed American Health Care Act (AHCA) would “effectively send the nation back a decade.” Auerbach says that the ACA “expanded coverage of a range of effective, targeted preventive services to make them accessible to millions of Americans.” Under AHCA, people without insurance will be “far less likely to access the preventive treatments that would keep them from developing chronic, debilitating and costly conditions.” Auerbach argues that “just at the moment we’re beginning to see real results, the AHCA would decimate that progress and put our nation’s most vulnerable in a precarious position.”

The Washington Post (5/24, 11.43M) in an editorial says the Republicans “sold” the AHCA “with a number of untruths, chief among them that Obamacare is collapsing and the GOP effort is nothing short of a rescue plan.” The Post says the CBO shows the “bill is no such thing.”

The San Diego Union-Tribune (5/24, 496K) in an editorial says the passage of the AHCA without a CBO analysis “was laughable given how much Republicans had properly criticized congressional Democrats for rushing through their health care overhaul without having a full grasp on its effects.” The paper adds, “This is a cold-hearted budget cut masquerading as health reform.”

E.J. Dionne Jr. writes in his column in the Washington Post (5/24, 11.43M) that the President’s budget shows “the costs of accepting lies as a normal currency in politics,” and points to “the $1.85 trillion reduction over a decade from Medicaid and subsidies under the Affordable Care Act” despite his “promise not to cut Medicaid.”

Jonathan Bernstein writes at Bloomberg View (5/24, 125K) that the Republican Party is “a badly dysfunctional party” with an “appalling inability to formulate public policy.” He argues that the budget “simply doesn’t add up,” and argues that the American Health Care Act is further evidence.

Barbara Beckert, director of Disability Rights Wisconsin, Milwaukee office, writes in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (5/24, 513K) that the AHCA “poses a particularly dangerous threat to our state’s residents, in part because we have done so much right.”

Walter Zelman, chairman of the Department of Public Health at Cal State L.A., and Tom Epstein, vice president of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors, write in the Los Angeles Times (5/24, 4.52M) that the CBO report “exposes the sharp and bitter truth about the House Republican efforts to ‘repeal and replace’” the Affordable Care Act. The AHCA “represents a glaring transfer of wealth, security and opportunity from low-income to high-income individuals.”

Steven Weissman writes in the Daily Caller (5/24, 898K), that the CBO did not consider the AHCA’s possible effects on the overall costs of healthcare, arguing that healthcare is “a corrupt industry enabled by subservient politicians” and it “is bleeding the nation dry.” He further argues that “the actual problem...is that medical pricing is all smoke and mirrors and totally dishonest.”

Michael Hiltzik writes in his column in the Los Angeles Times (5/24, 4.52M) that the Department of Health and Human Services is “deliberately hiding the truth” with a new report that says premiums sold on the ACA exchanges have “doubled” since 2013. Hiltzik says that after the report was released, HHS spokeswoman Alleigh Marre said, “This report is a sobering reminder of why reforming our healthcare system remains a top priority of the Trump administration.” Hiltzik argues that the HHS claim relies on a “cherry-picked” time frame and ignores the effect of ACA subsidies on consumers’ out-of-pocket costs for insurance.

Chuck Alston, the director of health policy at Qorvis MSLGROUP, writes in an opinion piece in The Hill that the US has been deeply divided over whether healthcare is a right or a privilege since World War II. Alston outlines the history of healthcare politics in the US since World War II, and then argues that if healthcare remains the central issue between now and the 2018 midterm elections, then “Republicans will need to do a better job selling Trumpcare than Democrats did selling Obamacare.”

Charlie Katebi, a policy fellow at the Millennial Policy Center, writes in an opinion piece in the Washington Examiner (5/24, 400K) that President Trump’s budget proposal would reform Medicaid by allowing states to choose between a block grant or capping “Medicaid funding through a per-capita spending allotment.” Katebi argues that Medicaid is “costly for taxpayers” and “downright disastrous for patients,” but Trump’s proposal “would refocus Medicaid’s resources towards

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truly needy patients by capping federal reimbursements and offering states greater flexibility to streamline and modernize the program."

In the Washington Post (5/24, 11.43M) "Right Turn" blog, contributor Jennifer Rubin writes that "Congress has only itself to blame for what now appears to be a year in which the repeal and replacement of Obamacare goes nowhere and tax reform never happens." Rubin argues that Congressional Republicans may try to blame President Trump for the lack of legislation, but Congress has "the power to write laws, raise revenues, and spend and borrow money on behalf of the United States."

Margot Sanger-Katz in the New York Times (5/24, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) frames the CBO's report as an indicator of "who would win and lose" under the AHCA, writing that the "winners would include people who are young, healthy and earn higher incomes" while the losers "include poor Americans who use Medicaid." Sanger-Katz observes that the CBO report "was sharply critical of the idea that sicker patients could be protected in a system that allowed insurers to charge them higher premiums," quoting the report as saying "less healthy individuals...would be unable to purchase comprehensive coverage with premiums close to those under current law and might not be able to purchase coverage at all."

Healthcare Fraud:

MICHIGAN REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER PAYS $250,000 FINE FOR MEDICAID FRAUD. The Lansing (MI) State Journal (5/24, Haxel, 183K) reports a well-known developer from Troy, Michigan "was sentenced Tuesday for felony Medicaid fraud" and "agreed to pay the state $250,000" after pleading guilty in April. The article says the man "is in charge of billing for three medical clinics." The charge brought against him stated he "submitted bills for the same patient at multiple locations, according to the agreement. He also 'up-coded' bills, claiming they were from an urgent care center when they were not."

Health Information Technology:

ST. LUKE'S-ROOSEVELT HOSPITAL CENTER PAYS $387,200 TO SETTLE CHARGES RELATED TO HIPAA VIOLATIONS. Healthcare IT News (5/24, Jones, 3K) reports St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center paid the Department of Health and Human Service $387,200 "to settle potential HIPAA violations stemming from a complaint that alleged the organization had mishandled sensitive patient information." The complaint alleged a staff member at the center, which is now known as the Institute for Advanced Medicine, disclosed a patient's health information in a violation of HIPAA rules. The HHS Office for Civil Rights said, "OCR's subsequent investigation revealed that staff at the Spencer Cox Center impermissibly faxed the patient's PHI to his employer rather than sending it to the requested personal post office box."

Fierce Healthcare (5/24, Kuhrt, 147K) also provides coverage.

Human Services News:

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES FACING CRITICISM FOR QUICKLY CLOSING CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATIONS. The Chicago Tribune (5/24, Jackson, 2.54M) reports that according to experts and lawmakers speaking Tuesday at a joint Illinois House-Senate hearing, "Illinois Department of Children and Family Services investigators are overwhelmed by high caseloads and are being pressured to quickly close their abuse probes, even when they have not performed basic tasks like contacting police and doctors." State child welfare director George Sheldon, who has faced "intense criticism about...the agency's failure to protect vulnerable children and their families," defended the department, but did acknowledge "that investigations sometimes failed and children were harmed because his workers often were not communicating properly with each other or with outside agencies and private contractors."

COLORADO'S FOSTER CARE SHIFT AWAY FROM CLINICAL RESIDENTIAL CENTERS TOWARD RELATIVES SPARKS DEBATE. The Denver Post (5/24, Brown, 778K) reports that Colorado children removed from home are now more likely to be placed with relatives instead of in clinical residential centers, a transition away from previous practices that has facilitated the closure of over "20 residential treatment centers in Colorado." Child advocates and government officials say that homes of relatives are better environments for children, but the article points out that "children with more acute needs...now are going to foster parents and relatives who in some cases are overwhelmed." Moreover, "reimbursement rates to the agencies providing community programs to at-risk youths are 'critically low,'" according to Skip Barber, former director of Denver Children's Home and now head of the Colorado Association of Family and Children's Services.

Food & Import Safety:

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BASIL SEEDS RECALLED AFTER SALMONELLA DETECTED IN PACKETS. The Connecticut Post (5/24, Cuda, 268K) reports LA Lucky Import & Export announced it will recall 2.1-ounce packets of its basil seeds after the packets were found to contain salmonella. There have not yet been any reported illnesses related to the product, which was "distributed nationwide in retail stores between Oct. 1, 2015 to May 15, 2017." The company will offer a refund or will replace the product with a separate product of their choice, and recommends customers who purchased the packets discard the seeds.

Emergency Response and Pandemic Preparedness:

COUNTRIES UNPREPARED FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS, REPORT SAYS. CNBC (5/25, Chandran, 2.17M) online says a report by the International Working Group (IWG) on Financing Pandemic Preparedness shows that many countries have serially under-invested in their public health infrastructures, and are highly vulnerable to the spread of infectious diseases. According to IWG Chair Peter Sands, "Preparedness at a national level is the first line of defense against pandemic threats, and thus the foundation of universal health security. Yet we have under-invested in the capabilities essential for preparedness."

Reuters (5/25, Malo) reports the study showed that if governments contributed $1 per person each year, they could contain pandemics. The report examined "37 countries in Africa, Europe, Asia and North America," most of which "were graded with a red or yellow light, meaning progress remains to be made."

Medicare:

OPINION: CMS NEEDS TO BE MORE TRANSPARENT WHEN MAKING POLICY CHANGES, USING ADVISORY COMMITTEES. In an opinion piece in Forbes (5/24, Stilwell, 15.17M), the author says that "CMS should take steps to foster transparency and avoid harming patients and providers alike by offering them a meaningful opportunity to participate in the development of policies that could limit pain management. CMS also must do more to ensure that it adheres to statutes requiring complete openness whenever it solicits advice from advisory committees that include members who are not federal government employees." The author says, for example, CMS should provide sufficient time for responses to comment periods as a way of increasing transparency. The author also says the "Healthcare Fraud Prevention Partnership (HFPP), which addresses opioid-misuse issues, operates largely in the dark, potentially in violation of...the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) which...must operate in accordance with the law's procedural requirements."

REPS. GRIFFITH, WELCH: PBMS SHOULD NOT BE ABLE TO RETROACTIVELY DECREASE REIMBURSEMENTS. In the "Congress Blog" of The Hill (5/24, Reps. Morgan Griffith (r-Va.) And Rep Peter Welch (d-Vt.), Contributors, 1.25M), Reps. Morgan Griffith and Peter Welch discuss how community pharmacies are being negatively impacted by "after-the-fact payment clawbacks from pharmaceutical middlemen known as pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs)." The authors say they have "reintroduced the Improving Transparency and Accuracy in Medicare Part D Drug Spending Act," which "would prohibit Medicare Part D PBMs and plan sponsors from retroactively reducing payments on accurate reimbursement claims submitted by pharmacies. Doing so would help ensure community pharmacies are able to continue to serve Medicare beneficiaries and combat the growing financial uncertainties these small businesses are facing." The Act keeps intact "PBMs' ability to implement 'pay-for-performance' programs for pharmacies."

RIEDL: CURRENT BUDGET CUTS CAUSED BY DECADES OF TACKLING ENTITLEMENT SPENDING. In the "Pundit's Blog" of The Hill (5/24, Riedl, Contributor, 1.25M), senior Manhattan Institute fellow Brian Riedl says that the "hysterical reaction" to President Trump's budget proposal is the "predictable result of a nation that stubbornly refuses to confront escalating Social Security and Medicare costs." The piece discusses how Social Security and Medicare costs have increased by two percentage points of GDP since 2000 and may possibly increase by another four in the next 20 years. The author concludes, "Medicaid's flawed design encourages states to overspend (and even defraud Washington) in order to receive higher federal reimbursements. Washington's welfare system is too centralized, wasteful, and inflexible to the unique needs of low-income families."

Medicaid & CHIP:

WISCONSIN GOVERNOR PUSHES FOR DRUG SCREENING AMONG MEDICAID APPLICANTS. The AP (5/25, Bauer) reports Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker is working "to make Wisconsin the first state in the country to require childless adults applying for Medicaid to undergo drug screening" following Federal approval. The state Legislature's Joint Finance Committee was scheduled to review the proposal – to which Walker has referred as a "trampoline, not a hammock" for helping people return to work – on Thursday.

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CMS APPROVES NEBRASKA'S REQUEST FOR MEDICAID WAIVERS. The Omaha (NE) World-Herald (5/24, Stoddard, 544K) reports the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has approved both of Nebraska's Medicaid waiver requests. Courtney Miller, director of the state developmental disabilities division, on Wednesday said that means "federal Medicaid dollars will continue flowing to Nebraska to help pay for community-based services for developmentally disabled people." The state's program pays "for community-based services for people who might otherwise need to be in an institution." Miller said the state is still working with CMS on a review of "some $32 million worth of previously paid claims."

OREGON MEDICAID AUDIT FINDS IT IS ACCURATE IN DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY, ENROLLING PEOPLE, AND MAKING PAYMENTS. The Bend (OR) Bulletin (5/24, Bannow, 96K) reports the Oregon Secretary of State's office in auditing the Oregon Medicaid program found that it "accurately determines Medicaid eligibility, enrolls people into the program and makes payments on their behalf." It also found that "the eligibility changes, or overrides, caseworkers make aren't sufficiently monitored."

AMOUNT OF MEDICAID CUTS IN TRUMP BUDGET PROPOSAL UNCLEAR. CNN Money (5/24, Luhby, 3.59M) reports it "has spent the past two days trying to figure out exactly how much President Trump wants to carve out of Medicaid, which covers more than 70 million low-income children, adults, senior citizens and disabled Americans." Depending on how the numbers are viewed, the cuts can be anywhere between $610 billion and $1.4 trillion over the next 10 years. The article clarifies, "The president's budget assumes that the House bill becomes law." The Concord Coalition, a watchdog group, says, if the proposal does become law, the cuts would be cumulative of Medicaid spending cuts of $610 billion and the House bill's reductions of $839 billion equaling about $1.4 trillion over the course of 10 years. The article reports, "The conservative Heritage Foundation and the liberal Center on Budget and Policy Priorities agreed [with Concord Coalition] Tuesday that the spending reductions appeared to be additive."

IMPACT OF POTENTIAL MEDICAID CUTS UNTHINKABLE FOR RHODE ISLAND RECIPIENTS. The Providence (RI) Journal (5/24, Lynnarditi, 386K) reports that although it is too early to quanitfy President Trump's proposal to slash Medicaid by over $600 billion on Rhode Island recipients, hospital officials are in agreement that it would be "almost unfathomable" as "the number of uninsured increases, the access to care decreases and the quality of care suffers" due to the cuts. The article says hospital officials are worried there will be a sharp increase in uninsured patients. The percentage of uninsured Rhode Island residents has decreased from 12 percent to four percent due to Medicaid expansion through ACA and the ability to purchase insurance coverage through the state exchange.

CHANDLER: MEDICAID EXPANSION HELPING KENTUCKIANS. In an opinion piece for the Bowling Green (KY) Daily News (5/24, Chandler, 59K), Ben Chandler, CEO of the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky says, "Expanding the Medicaid program in Kentucky to cover more low-income, and predominantly working, people is truly making a difference in our population's health and we ought to stick to it. I'm pleased that Gov. Matt Bevin is planning to keep expanded Medicaid in the commonwealth while also trying to make the program more cost efficient, and hope federal law will continue to allow newly insured Kentuckians to retain their Medicaid coverage." Chandler says that the uninsured rate has dropped from 13.6 percent to 6.1 percent since Medicaid expansion in 2014. The author also says that health screenings have significantly increased and that younger adults have "benefited the most" as they now "manage chronic disease, disability and other negative health outcomes."

CMS ACCEPTS KANSAS' PLAN TO BRING PRIVATIZED MEDICAID PROGRAM INTO COMPLIANCE. The Wichita (KS) Eagle (5/24, Lowry, 265K) reports on Monday that CMS told Kansas state officials that it has accepted the corrective plan for the state's privatized Medicaid program after it "had rejected the state's request to extend its KanCare program through 2018 in January" for being "'substantively out of compliance' with federal regulations." In particular, CMS officials found in January the state did not have proper oversight of the private insurance companies and lacked clear communication with progam beneficiaries. The state is still awaiting approval for the extension of the program.

RHODE ISLAND HAD HIGHEST ENROLLMENT PERCENTAGE OF NEW ENGLAND STATES IN 2016. WPRI-TV Providence, RI (5/24, Nesi) reports, "About 325,000 Rhode Island residents were enrolled in Medicaid at some point during the last budget year, giving the state the highest enrollment in New England." The underlying report was done by the state's Executive Office of Health and Human Services and showed that "31% of the total Rhode Island population was on Medicaid at some point in the year ended June 30, including 30% of its under-65 population, compared with 29% in Massachusetts, 25% in Connecticut, 15% in New Hampshire and 27% nationwide." The article notes the state's total Medicaid spending has increased from $1.85 billion in 2013 to $2.4 billion in 2016, nearly of which half went to hospitals and nursing homes according to the article.

INDIANA GOV. SEEKS FEDERAL MEDICAID WAIVER REQUIRING SOME RECIPIENTS TO WORK. The Indianapolis Star (5/24, 550K) reports Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb announced on Wednesday he "is seeking permission from the

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federal government to require some Medicaid recipients to work or do work-related activities." According to the state, about 30 percent of current recipients would be required to comply.

The AP (5/24) reports that many will be exempted from the work requirement including "pregnant women, students, single-parents, anyone over 60, people in drug treatment or on disability, and those who have recently been imprisoned."

THERAPISTS, PARENTS ASK STATE OFFICIALS TO NOT CUT MEDICAID BENEFITS FOR DISABLED CHILDREN. The Austin (TX) American Statesman (5/24, Price, Subscription Publication, 407K) reports parents and therapists "pleaded on Wednesday with state official" to not move forward with planned Medicaid cuts for disabled children that were approved in 2015 by the state legislature. The article says, "Opponents of the cuts have argued that the reduced rates would cut revenue for providers by 18 to 28 percent and force physical, occupational and speech therapists to close their doors, interrupting vital services to an estimated 60,000 disabled Texas children." The legislature based its cuts "on data that showed that Texas reimbursed therapists at higher rates than other states and commercial insurance programs." The article says that some state Senate Republicans are standing by the cuts, while House Republicans have stated they will revisit the issue.

OPINION: MEDICAID BLOCK GRANTS IMPROVED SENIOR HEALTHCARE IN RHODE ISLAND. Charlie Katebi, a policy fellow at the Millennial Policy Center, writes in an opinion piece in the Washington Examiner (5/24, 400K) that President Trump's budget proposal would reform Medicaid by allowing states to choose between a block grant or capping "Medicaid funding through a per-capita spending allotment." Katebi argues that Medicaid is "costly for taxpayers" and "downright disastrous for patients," but Trump's proposal "would refocus Medicaid's resources towards truly needy patients by capping federal reimbursements and offering states greater flexibility to streamline and modernize the program." Katebi highlights Rode Island's 2009 "Consumer Choice Compact Waiver" block grant that "enrolled beneficiaries in private, managed care plans to improve primary care access and reduce emergency room visits" and "shifted elderly enrollees out of traditional nursing homes and into more affordable home-and-community-based facilities." Two years later, a Lewin Group report found that the block grant was "highly effective in controlling costs and improving patients' access to appropriate physician services," which led to AARP Rhode Island State Director Kathleen Connell to acknowledge that "seniors [on Medicaid] have absolutely benefited from being moved out of nursing homes into home and community-based care. The program is moving in the right direction for seniors."

Health & Medical News:

CHOCOLATE CONSUMPTION MAY BE LINKED TO LOWER RISK FOR ATRIAL FIBRILLATION, STUDY SUGGESTS. The New York Times (5/23, Bakalar, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) "Well" blog reported that investigators "have found an association between chocolate consumption and a lowered risk for atrial fibrillation." The findings were published in the journal Heart.

On its website, CBS News (5/24, Marcus, 4.4M) reports that investigators "analyzed a large Danish database of 55,502 men and women, combing through information on their dietary habits and health conditions recorded at the start of the Danish diet and cancer study." The researchers "analyzed later health diagnoses, too, gleaned from a national patient database."

Reuters (5/24, Seaman) reports, "Based on their diets at the beginning of the study period," study participants "who ate one serving, about 1 ounce (28.35 grams), of chocolate per week were 17 percent less likely to be diagnosed with atrial fibrillation by the end of the study than people who reported eating chocolate less than once a month." Meanwhile, participants "who ate 2 to 6 ounces per week were 20 percent less likely to be diagnosed with atrial fibrillation while those who ate more than an ounce of chocolate a day were 16 percent less likely to have the condition."

Newsweek (5/24, Williams, 862K) reports, "For women, eating just one serving of chocolate a week resulted in their having the least likelihood of an AFib diagnosis, while the biggest risk reduction for men came with consuming two to six servings of chocolate per week."

Also covering the story are the Los Angeles Times (5/24, Kaplan, 4.52M) "Science Now" blog, Forbes (5/24, Glatter, 15.17M), the Boston Globe (5/25, Grant, 1.08M), the Telegraph (UK) (5/23, Donnelly, 1.04M), and Fox News (5/23, 11.07M).

FDA ADVISORY PANEL RECOMMENDS NERATINIB AS TREATMENT FOR BREAST CANCER. Reuters (5/24, Clarke) reports that a Food and Drug Administration advisory committee recommended the approval of Puma Biotechnology's neratinib, an experimental breast cancer drug. The panel "voted 12 to 4 in favor of the drug,...saying its benefits outweighed the risks, though panelists noted that the magnitude of the benefit was modest."

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Forbes (5/24, 15.17M) contributor Matthew Herper writes that in a clinical trial, neratinib "reduced the rate of breast cancer recurrence within two years by a third – but means that it reduced the absolute number of cases by only about 2 per 100 women."

CANNABIDIOL MAY HELP REDUCE SEIZURES IN CHILDREN WITH DRAVET SYNDROME, CLINICAL TRIAL INDICATES. NBC Nightly News (5/24, story 7, 2:00, Holt, 16.61M) reported on a "potential game-changer concerning medical marijuana and children. Until now, there has only been anecdotal evidence about the treatment benefits of medical marijuana on certain disorders." A new study reveals "it could have a dramatic effect on children suffering from seizures."

In "To Your Health," the Washington Post (5/24, Bernstein, 11.43M) reports, "Cannabidiol cut the median number of monthly convulsive seizures from 12.4 to 5.9 in 52 children with Dravet syndrome who took the medication over a 14-week test period," findings published in the New England Journal of Medicine reveal.

The AP (5/24, Marchione) reports the study "tested a liquid form of cannabidiol, one of marijuana's more than 100 ingredients, called Epidiolex." That form "doesn't contain THC, the hallucinogenic ingredient, and is not sold anywhere yet, although its maker, GW Pharmaceuticals of London, is seeking US Food and Drug Administration approval." Notably, GW Pharmaceuticals "paid for, designed and helped run the study, and another doctor involved in the study has related patents." Also covering the story are Reuters (5/24, Hirschler), the Washington Times (5/24, Kelly, 272K), CNN (5/24, Scutti, 29.79M), Newsweek (5/24, Osborne, 862K), STAT (5/24, Joseph), and the NBC News (5/25, Fox, 2.67M) website. Foreign sources covering the study include the Telegraph (UK) (5/24, 1.04M) and The Guardian (UK) (5/24, Boseley, 4.07M).

CALIFORNIA CONSIDERS BILL TO REGULATE DIALYSIS CENTERS. The San Diego Union-Tribune (5/24, Sisson, 496K) reports on California Senate Bill 349 that would set "staffing ratios for each of the state's 562 dialysis centers, require them to be inspected every year and establish a 45-minute 'transition time' between patients for each dialysis station." The bill is supported by the Service Employees Union International and other labor groups who argue that "staffing levels are the only way to address...significant problems" in the dialysis centers which serve over 60,000 Californians, while the California Hospital Association and the California Nurses Association argue setting staffing levels will raise costs without improving care. Mandatory staffing levels have been set by law in Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, and Utah.

The Huffington Post (5/24, Brenoff, 237K) reports the bill is being supported by "dialysis center workers and patients" while being opposed by "a coalition of doctors, patients, and dialysis centers." The Post adds that "the leading cause of death among dialysis patients has been infection."

MOUSE STUDY FINDS SPERM SUSTAINED SOMEWHAT MORE DNA DAMAGE ON SPACE STATION. AFP (5/24, Sheridan) reports on a study in which freeze-dried mouse sperm was sent to the International Space Station for nine months and then returned to Earth where researchers found that it had "slightly increased DNA damage," probably due to "an average daily radiation dose about 100 times stronger than on Earth." The sperm was used to produce "healthy offspring, and grew into normal adults." There is evidence that mice in conditions similar to space "sustained severe damage to their ovaries." The possibility of "early ovarian failure and ovarian cancer" in women astronauts is of concern particularly for those seeking to "colonize" Mars as the possibility of peopling it would depend on the health of the reproductive systems and the ability of embryos to survive "galactic cosmic radiation." Growing in the absence of gravity also poses challenges, as one specialist said, "Maybe the one-sixth gravity of the Moon, or the one-third gravity of Mars is sufficient for normal bone and muscle development."

PROFESSOR SAYS US DRUG PRICES ARE NOT "OUT OF CONTROL." Robert A. Freeman, professor of pharmacy administration at the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, writes at The Hill (5/24, Freeman, Contributor, 1.25M) "Pundits" blog that though there is a political "consensus" that "drug prices are spiraling out of control," that is "factually incorrect." He argues that the relative price of drugs has been much the same for "decades" and says attempts to reduce those prices by "regulatory fiat would jeopardize current and future drug research." He argues that "hospitals and doctor's offices" are a larger portion of medical expenses that are medications, which amount to "just 12 percent of total U.S. health spending, compared to 20 percent in Japan and Korea and 17 percent in Canada."

OHIO BALLOT INITIATIVE NEW ROUND IN FIGHT OVER DRUG PRICES. STAT (5/24, Silverman) reports in Ohio, "consumer groups and the pharmaceutical industry this week launched dueling ad campaigns" about a ballot initiative on the November ballot "promoted to lower costs." The initiative, the Ohio Drug Price Relief Act, "would require state agencies to pay no more for medicines than the US Department of Veterans Affairs."

HEALTH ACTIVISTS SEEK TAMPON INGREDIENTS. The New York Times (5/24, Rabin, Subscription Publication,

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13.9M) reports health activists "are calling for new rules to force companies to disclose the chemicals and materials used to manufacture feminine care products." Currently, "tampons and menstrual pads are not required to carry a list of ingredients." Often, tampon makers will provide a list of possible ingredients. New York Rep. Grace Meng has introduced legislation requiring menstrual hygiene products to list ingredients used in the manufacturing of the product on the package. The article adds, "Representative Carolyn B. Maloney, another Democrat from New York, also has reintroduced a bill [for a 10th time] directing the National Institutes of Health to do research to determine whether chemicals used in feminine hygiene products pose health risks."

LOUISIANA RIGHT TO TRY ACT COULD EXPAND TO PROVIDE ROBOTIC DEVICES. The AP (5/24) reports that Louisiana's current Right to Try Act "may soon be expanded to include robotic devices that help people unable to talk or write." The Act provides access for terminally-ill patients to treatments that have not been approved by the US FDA. The article says that under the proposal, "Insurers don't have to cover the costs."

HIGH-FIBER DIET MAY BE TIED TO LOWER RISK FOR KNEE ARTHRITIS, STUDY SUGGESTS. In "Well," the New York Times (5/24, Bakalar, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports a higher-fiber diet may be tied to a lower risk for knee arthritis, according to a study published in the Annals of Rheumatic Diseases. Researchers used data from two long-term studies and found that "as fiber intake increased, the prevalence of arthritis decreased."

Medical Daily (5/24, Matthews, 145K) reports the study "found that people who ate more fiber were less likely to develop knee osteoarthritis."

HealthDay (5/24, Gordon, 21K) reports, however, that the researchers found that those "who ate the most fiber reported reduced osteoarthritis knee pain by up to 60 percent," but "X-rays did not show any difference in their knees compared to those who consumed less fiber." The article quotes one expert suggesting that a higher-fiber diet may just reduce pain, rather than lowering the risk of developing the actual condition. The article also mentions that in a separate study published in the Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases, researchers found that taking chondroitin supplements daily "was linked to less knee pain and improved function."

ZIKA VIRUS THAT SPREAD THROUGH SOUTH FLORIDA LAST YEAR LIKELY ORIGINATED IN CARIBBEAN, STUDY SUGGESTS. The Miami Herald (5/24, Staletovich, 856K) reports the Zika virus that spread through South Florida last year likely originated in the Caribbean and was introduced to the region by at least four and up to 42 people, according to a study published in Nature. The study also suggests that the outbreak may have "started two months before it was confirmed."

The AP (5/24, Stobbe) reports mosquitoes in the area "started picking up the virus from infected travelers as early as March last year," according to the study. Researchers "examined genetic information from samples from about 30 people with Zika as well as from mosquitoes." In an accompanying editorial, Michael Worobey of the University of Arizona suggested that better screening could reduce the lag between the arrival and detection of the virus.

HealthDay (5/24, Preidt, 21K) reports the researchers predicted that Zika may spread in Florida again this year following a similar pattern.

DECREASE IN NEW ZIKA CASES MAY HAMPER RESEARCH. Nature News (5/25, Butler, 153K) reports a decrease in the number of new Zika cases "is making the disease harder to study, and threatens to hamper trials of experimental vaccines that might protect pregnant women in future outbreaks." Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said that the decrease in new Zika cases is posing difficulties for the National Institutes of Health's Zika in Infants and Pregnancy (ZIP) study, but added that fewer cases is "good for the population."

ELI LILLY SUES DAIRY COMPANY OVER FALSE ADVERTISING REGARDING HORMONE SUPPLEMENT. Ed Silverman writes in STAT's (5/24) "Pharmalot" blog that Eli Lilly is suing international dairy company Arla because it is "telling consumers that its cheese are preferable because they do not use milk from cows that are given rBST, a hormone supplement made by a Lilly subsidiary." The lawsuit Lilly filed last week claims, "Arla's assault on rBST's safety is anything but subtle," and refers to a 30-second cartoon television commercial that depicts rBST "as an enormous, six-eyed monster with razor-sharp horns and electrified fur." Lilly insists that Arla is spreading "false advertising" that is "causing irreparable harm to Elanco," its subsidiary that sells the supplement, known as Posilac. Lilly also points out that Posilac "is the only rBST supplement that was approved by the FDA for sale in the US."

STUDY HIGHLIGHTS EXPENSES OF RARE DRUG APPROVALS. STAT (5/24, Keshavan) reports that a study from life sciences consultancy Trinity Partners examines novel drugs approved between 2014 and 2016 to determine what the cost of a drug says about society's values. The study found that of the 103 drugs approved in the time period, 10 were "top tier," costing over $200,000 per patient per year. Additionally, 46 percent of approvals went to rare disease indicators, and

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"91 percent of them, or 31 drugs, cost more than $100,000." The report said the first target therapy for a disease "is very likely to be able to command top-dollar."

J&J AGREES TO $33 MILLION "PHANTOM RECALLS" SETTLEMENT. Ed Silverman writes in STAT's (5/24) "Pharmalot" blog that Johnson & Johnson "agreed to pay $33 million to 42 states to settle allegations that its over-the-counter subsidiary falsely claimed have to followed federal manufacturing practices that led to the recall of millions of bottles of Tylenol, Motrin, Benadryl, and Sudafed." The settlement comes eight years after a J&J plant in Puerto Rico declined to recall a shipment of defective Motrin, instead hiring a contractor to get "secret shoppers" to buy the affected bottles, thus acting as a "phantom recall." The plan backfired, generating embarrassing headlines for J&J, and ultimately led to the states charging J&J's McNeil Consumer Health unit for violating consumer protection laws.

HALLUCINOGENIC MUSHROOMS ARE THE SAFEST RECREATIONAL DRUG, SURVEY SUGGESTS. USA Today (5/24, Bowerman, 5.28M) reports that psilocybin hallucinogenic mushrooms are the safest recreational drug, according to the annual Global Drug Survey. According to USA Today, "only .2% of almost 10,000 people who reported taking psilocybin hallucinogenic mushrooms in 2016 reported that they needed emergency medical treatment." Rates of emergency medical treatment "for MDMA, LSD, alcohol and cocaine were almost five times higher."

According to CNBC (5/24, Graham, 2.17M), the report explains that the mushrooms may be safer "because of intrinsic safety of magic mushrooms (the greatest risk is picking the wrong type), the smaller dosing using units (a single mushroom versus an LSD tab) and a greater understanding of how many mushrooms may constitute a typical dose for a desired effect." The New York Post (5/24, Perez, 3.82M) also covers the story.

VERMONT GOVERNOR TO VETO MARIJUANA MEASURE. The AP (5/24) reports that Vermont Gov. Phil Scott (R) "said Wednesday that he planned to veto a bill making Vermont the ninth state to legalize recreational marijuana but indicated that he was willing to work with the legislature on a compromise." Scott "has concerns about public safety, children's health and impaired drivers."

MOST WRIST-WORN FITNESS TRACKERS NOT GOOD AT ESTIMATING ENERGY EXPENDITURE, STUDY SUGGESTS. USA Today (5/24, Rossman, 5.28M) reports that in a study, researchers "tested seven popular wearable fitness trackers and found most failed to accurately track how much energy people were burning during workouts." Investigators found that the "wearables weren't even close compared to medical-grade measurements." The findings were published in the Journal of Personalized Medicine.

On its website, NBC News (5/24, Cassetty, 2.67M) reports that while "six of the seven devices tested produced accurate heart rate readings (within 5 percent), even the most accurate tracker was off by an average of 27 percent when it came to measuring energy expenditure." One tracker "was off by 93 percent."

CNBC (5/24, Farr, 2.17M) reports the study also indicated "the devices were better at measuring data collected during cycling than walking." Meanwhile, the researchers found that "errors...tended to be more common in men versus women, those with a greater body mass index, and with a darker skin tone."

SHORT SLEEP DURATION MAY BE LINKED TO HIGHER RISK OF MORTALITY AMONG INDIVIDUALS WITH METABOLIC SYNDROME, RESEARCH SUGGESTS. ABC World News Tonight (5/24, story 11, 0:20, Muir, 14.63M) reported, "Researchers at Stanford studying Americans with heart disease" found that people "sleeping less than six hours a night" appear to be "twice as likely to die from heart disease or stroke than those sleeping more than six hours."

MedPage Today (5/24, Bachert, 97K) reports that researchers found "short sleep duration was associated with increased risk of mortality among people with...metabolic syndrome." The findings were published online in the Journal of the American Heart Association.

HealthDay (5/24, Reinberg, 21K) reports approximately 1,300 people were asked to spend a night in a sleep lab. Over "an average follow-up of nearly 17 years, 22 percent of the participants died." The researchers found that over the follow-up period, individuals "with metabolic syndrome who didn't get at least six hours of sleep were about two times more likely to die from heart disease or stroke than people without metabolic syndrome who got less than six hours of sleep." The study indicated that "among those with metabolic syndrome who slept more than six hours, the risk of dying from heart disease or stroke was increased about 1.5 times."

TWO RARE GENETIC MUTATIONS MAY REDUCE LEVELS OF TRIGLYCERIDES. Under the headline "Rare Gene Mutations Inspire New Heart Drugs," the New York Times (5/24, Kolata, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that "in a series of studies," researchers "have described two rare genetic mutations that reduce levels of triglycerides." Individuals "carrying these genes seem invulnerable to heart disease, even if they have other risk factors." Medications "that mimic

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the effects of these mutations are already on the way, and many experts believe that one day they will become the next blockbuster heart treatments." One of the studies was published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology.

PEOPLE WITH LUNG CANCER MAY HAVE HIGHER RISK OF SUICIDE THAN PATIENTS WITH OTHER CANCERS, STUDY SUGGESTS. CBS News (5/24, Marcus, 4.4M) reports that research "suggests people suffering from lung cancer are at a higher risk" of suicide "than those who struggle with other forms of the disease." The findings were presented at the American Thoracic Society 2017 International Conference.

FEWER ELDERLY PATIENTS WHO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE WITH DAILY REGIMENS EXPERIENCE POST-OPERATIVE DELIRIUM, STUDY SUGGESTS. Reuters (5/24, Emery) reports a study examining the effects of daily, 30-minute regimens to assist elderly patients showed that half experienced reductions in post-operation delirium, according to a test of 377 volunteers in Taipei. Among participants, 15.1 percent who received "conventional treatment experienced delirium," while those assisted by hospital workers in performing activities such as brushing their teeth and performing facial exercises reduced the delirium rate to 6.6. percent. The study was published in JAMA Surgery.

SOME EXPERTS WORRIED BY RAPID PACE OF ADOPTION OF CARDBOARD BABY BOX PROGRAMS. The New York Times (5/24, Peachman, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that the "rapid pace" at which cardboard baby box "programs have been adopted by states and hospitals worries some experts, who say the boxes have not yet been proven to be a safe infant sleep environment or an effective tool in reducing infant mortality." Dr. Rachel Moon, who chairs the American Academy of Pediatrics' task force on Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, said, "I've been very surprised at how much enthusiasm there's been for this and how people are just jumping on this bandwagon." For one thing, "the cardboard boxes aren't regulated by the Consumer Product Safety Commission and haven't been tested to meet the mandatory safety standards required of all other infant sleep products on the market." Dr. Moon "noted that far more study is needed before parents can be certain the boxes are safe. 'If it were my child, I would get something that meets CPSC standards,' she said."

CHILD GUN ACCESS PREVENTION LAWS STALLED IN MANY STATES. The AP (5/24, Foley, Penzenstadler) reports that in many states, "proposals that would create or toughen laws intended to keep kids from getting a hold of unsecured guns have stalled – caught up in a debate over whether they are effective prevention measures or just government overreach." Some public health experts contend that child access prevention laws "could significantly reduce unintentional shootings that kill and injure hundreds of children every year, particularly if they allow for felonies against violators and are paired with educational campaigns to raise awareness." But, "legislative efforts in dozens of states have run into opposition from lawmakers aligned with the National Rifle Association" who claim such laws "trample on the rights of gun owners."

ACLU SUES YMCA, CLAIMING ASSOCIATION VIOLATED YOGA TEACHER'S RIGHT TO BREAST-FEED HER DAUGHTER IN PUBLIC. The Washington Post (5/24, Chandler, 11.43M) reports, "The American Civil Liberties Union of Rhode Island is suing" the Ocean Community YMCA of Westerly, RI, "on behalf of a former yoga teacher, saying the association violated her right to breast-feed her daughter in public by asking her to move away from the child-care center so that 'young boys' would not see her." YMCA of the USA spokesperson Brad McDermott "said incidents often occur as a result of young or part-time staffers who are not aware of their state's policies or 'simply not exposed to breast-feeding on a regular basis.'" McDermott stated, "Breast-feeding is something we actively encourage of mothers and families who are members of the YMCA, and something we support in accordance with the recommendation of the American Academy of Pediatrics."

APPOINTMENT OF MCCANCE-KATZ TO FILL POSITION OF FEDERAL MENTAL HEALTH "CZAR" CONSIDERED CONTROVERSIAL. The New York Times (5/24, Carey, Fink, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that psychiatrist Elinore F. McCance-Katz, MD, PhD, the White House's "choice for the first person" to fill the position of "federal mental health 'czar' to help overhaul the system and bridge more than 100 federal agencies concerned with mental health," has exposed "longstanding rifts within the field" of psychiatry. Dr. McCance-Katz "has the support of several prominent groups, including the American Psychiatric Association...but others, including the Foundation for Excellence in Mental Health Care, are skeptical." Tensions center over the "medical model of psychiatry, which emphasizes drug and hospital treatment and which Dr. McCance-Katz has promoted, and the so-called psychosocial, which puts more emphasis on community care and support from family and peers." Others, including Rep. Tim Murphy (R-PA), "a practicing psychologist," finds fault with Dr. McCance-Katz's public defense of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration as "efficient and effective during her two-year tenure as the leading physician" there.

AT LEAST NINE STATES NOW BAN CONVERSION THERAPY FOR MINORS. The New York Times (5/24, Hauser, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that currently, "at least nine states now ban 'conversion therapy' for minors, a discredited method meant to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity, after Nevada and Connecticut this month joined others in prohibiting the practice." As state lawmakers around the country "have debated the bans, many

have noted during the legislative process that conversion therapy has been discredited by experts, including the American Medical Association."

EXERCISE MAY BOLSTER BRAIN FUNCTION, THINKING SKILLS OF PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA, SMALL STUDY SUGGESTS. In "Well," the New York Times (5/24, Reynolds, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports, "Exercise may bolster the brain function and thinking skills of people with dementia," researchers found in a 38-patient study involving brain scans. Participants who walked who walked three times a week for an hour per session "had more efficient brains and better thinking skills...than the control group" who did not do so, the study revealed. The findings were published in the April issue of the British Journal of Sports Medicine.

Global Health:

STUDY FINDS CANADIANS REQUESTING LETHAL INJECTION FEARED LOSS OF AUTONOMY. The Washington Post (5/24, Cha, 11.43M) reports on a study published in the New England Journal of Medicine which found that of the "74 people who inquired about assistance in dying from March 2016 to March 2017" at the University Health Network in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, it was not pain, but what professor Madeline Li of the University of Toronto described as "existential distress," that led them to request death. She said, "Their quality of life is not what they want. They are mostly educated and affluent — people who are used to being successful and in control of their lives, and it's how they want their death to be."

UNICEF REPORT HIGHLIGHTS PLIGHT OF MORE THAN 24 MILLION IN CONFLICT ZONES IN AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST. The AP (5/24) reports UNICEF released a report Wednesday found that conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa are threatening the lives of more than 24 million children, "most of them in Yemen, Iraq, and Syria." UNICEF reports the violence in each of these country's conflicts is resulting in a myriad of health issues for their children, including disease outbreaks stemming from lack of access to clean water and saniotations and food shortages. According to Geert Cappelaere, UNICEF's director for the Middle East and North Africa, "Violence is crippling health systems in conflict-affected countries and threatens children's very survival. ... Beyond the bombs, bullets and explosions, countless children are dying in silence from diseases that could easily be prevented and treated."

NEW WHO DIRECTOR-GENERAL HOPES US CONGRESS WILL SUPPORT FUNDING FOR GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS. Reuters (5/24, Nebehay) reports the World Health Organization's new director-general, former Ethiopian health and foreign minister Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, expressed hope that Republicans and Democrats in the US Congress would come together to oppose President Trump's proposed cuts in funding to global health initiatives. Tedros told reporters, "I will continue to engage and use that bipartisan position that I have already experienced while working as minister of health in my own country, but also when I was chairing the Global Fund (to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria)" to push for continued funding from the US. He also stated, "We need to expand the donor base ... If we have as many countries as possible who can contribute, it could be any amount, I think that will help. ... By expanding the donor base, we help the health financing to have a kind of shock absorber."

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS WORRY ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE'S EFFECTS ON DISEASE OUTBREAKS IN BRAZIL. In a nearly 5,000-word article, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (5/24, Johnson, Patterson, 513K) reports on recent outbreaks of different infectious diseases in Brazil, including the zika virus outbreak and an ongoing yellow fever outbreak, and how climate change may be increasing the frequency and severity of disease outbreaks such as these. Márcia Chame, a researcher with the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation in Rio de Janeiro, told the Journal Sentinel that climate change is likely a factor in these disease "flare-ups," but that other issues are contributing as well, including "the clearing of forests for farms and plantations, an activity that brings humans into areas thick with mosquitoes; the grinding rural poverty that makes insect repellent a luxury for many villagers, and the reluctance of many Brazilians to receive the yellow fever vaccine." The primary transmission vector for yellow fever is mosquitoes, which are reproducing at greater rates thanks to the effects of deforestation and climate change; health experts worry that the outbreak of yellow fever could spread to urban centers, and possibly the United States, though US public health officials say such an outbreak is unlikely.

National News:

WHITE HOUSE, DOJ MISS SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE DEADLINE ON COMEY REQUESTS. USA Today (5/24, Johnson, 5.28M) reports that the White House and the Justice Department have missed the Senate Judiciary Committee's Wednesday deadline "to turn over any records detailing conversations between President Trump and James Comey before the FBI director's abrupt firing earlier this month, instead requesting more time to respond to lawmakers' demands." In a statement, the committee said, "We are still awaiting official responses from both the Justice Department and White House. The committee is seeking a broad set of material, some of which may be related to the special

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counsel's investigation, but some of it certainly is not."

Elise Labott reported on CNN's Situation Room (5/24, 554K) that House Oversight Chairman Jason Chaffetz said earlier that Comey "owes him paperwork by the end of the day, including memos about his meetings with President Trump." Chaffetz told CNN's Situation Room (5/24, 554K) that the FBI yesterday sent an "email, just two lines...telling us that they would not provide those documents given the fact there was a special counsel in place." Chaffetz said he also spoke Tuesday with Comey, who "said he wanted to speak to [special counsel Robert] Mueller before committing to any sort of public testimony."

Sen. Ben Sasse told Fox News Special Report (5/24, 1.53M), "We need to have Director Comey testify. This Russia thing, there are a number of things we failed to get right." Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) told CNN's Situation Room (5/24, 554K) that he'd like to see congressional investigators have access to the memos. He said, "The American people deserve the bottom-line answer. Whatever happened, we deserve to know, and that's how you restore faith in the democracy in the long run."

Russians Bragged About Being Able To Use Flynn And Manafort To Influence Trump. Pierre Thomas reported on ABC World News Tonight (5/24, story 5, 1:30, Muir, 14.63M), "The New York Times is reporting that US intelligence officials allegedly obtained evidence [of] Russians bragging about the fact that they can use [President Trump's] advisers...as a way to influence Donald Trump's views on Russia. According to the Times, that intelligence apparently played a role in the decision to launch an FBI investigation into whether there was collusion between Trump campaign officials and Russia." The New York Times (5/24, Rosenberg, Goldman, Apuzzo, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that the conversations focused on Gen. Michael Flynn and then-Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort. Both men "had indirect ties to Russian officials, who appeared confident that each could be used to help shape Mr. Trump's opinions on Russia."

Schiff Says House Intelligence Committee Will Subpoena Flynn. The New York Times (5/24, Huetteman, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that House Intelligence Committee ranking member Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) said Monday that the panel will issue subpoenas to Flynn. Schiff said at a Christian Science Monitor breakfast, "Those subpoenas will be designed to maximize our chance of getting the information that we need. And I think we need to use whatever compulsory methods are necessary to get the information that he possesses." McClatchy (5/24, Cockerham, 74K) reports that the subpoenas "would be the first by the House panel targeting Flynn." Politico (5/24, Wright, 2.46M) reports that Flynn's attorney declined to comment. USA Today (5/24, Kelly, 5.28M) reports that Schiff also said the committee "will take the time it needs to do a thorough investigation."

Senate Minority Whip Durbin was asked on CNN's The Lead (5/24, 320K) if Flynn should be held in contempt of Congress. Durbin said, "I'm told that the Fifth Amendment does not apply to documents that already exist, and so he couldn't use the Fifth Amendment as his excuse for not complying with the subpoena that's been issued by the committee. If he wants to plead the Fifth Amendment in terms of his personal testimony, that's his right to do, but when it comes to documents, those already in existence, that would not apply."

Page Says He Will Appear Before House Intelligence Committee. USA Today (5/24, Kelly, Johnson, 5.28M) reports that ex-Trump campaign adviser Carter Page said Wednesday that he "plans to testify publicly before the House Intelligence Committee in June." He told USA Today, "I am an open book. Compared to the incomplete lies that defined me in the secret criminal justice system and the rest of the [intelligence community] last year, any actual facts and truths I can illuminate will be a giant leap in the right direction." Politico (5/24, Wright, Cheney, 2.46M) reports that while Page initially said he would appear on June 6," he later "backtracked," saying that "the hearing date was not yet finalized."

DOJ Says Sessions Did Not Disclose Meetings With Russian Officials. Manu Raju reported on CNN's Situation Room (5/24, 554K) that Justice Department officials have said Attorney General Sessions "did not disclose meetings he had last year with Russian officials when he applied for security clearance." CNN said, "This is the latest example of Sessions not listing contacts he had with Russian officials earlier this year." CNN's Collin Perez "was told initially Sessions had security clearance and he and an employee who filled out the form were told he did not have to list what happened." But, CNN said "a legal expert, an attorney here in Washington, regularly assisting officials and filling out forms...said Senators quote would still have to reveal the appropriate foreign government contacts assuming they were not at a foreign conference."

Sen. Richard Blumenthal told CNN's Situation Room (5/24, 554K) that he is "deeply troubled by his failure to testify, apparently truthfully, before the Committee hearings and possibly in other ways to fail to be completely truthful in connection with his confirmation and I think that it bears intense and immediate investigation."

Jeffrey Toobin said on CNN's Anderson Cooper 360 (5/24, 686K), "It is something. I don't know how big a deal it is. He

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says he got some guidance from the FBI that the form does not mean what the form says. The form could not be clearer. First of all, it would be interesting to know if he got the guidance. The more interesting part of the story is, it's yet another example of Sessions and a Trump campaign official not disclosing all of their contacts with the Russian government. That is suspicious. It's important. There needs to be an explanation why."

House Democrats Ask Deutsche Bank If Trump Accounts Have Any Links To Russia. Reuters (5/24) reports Democrats on the House Financial Services Committee on Wednesday announced that they had written to Deutsche Bank Chief Executive Officer John Cryan requesting information as to "whether any accounts connected to...Trump have ties to Russia." They wrote, "Congress remains in the dark on whether loans Deutsche Bank made to President Trump were guaranteed by the Russian government, or were in any way connected to Russia." The bank has not yet replied and a spokeswoman did not comment.

Fox News Poll: More Voters Now Believe Russia Aided Trump In Election. The Washington Examiner (5/24, Giaritelli, 400K) reports that a Fox News poll found that "an increasing number of registered voters believe Russian hackers helped President Trump win last year's election." The survey "found 44 percent of people think Russia attempted to influence the presidential election to help Trump. ... Last December, fewer than one-third of respondents said the Russians tipped the scales in Trump's favor. Forty-nine percent said Russia had no effect on the race, down 10 percentage points from 59 percent in December." Fox News Special Report (5/24, 1.53M) reported on the poll.

McCaskill: Evidence Of Russian Collusion Does Not Yet Exist. Townhall (5/24, Vespa, 402K) reports that Sen. Claire McCaskill said on MSNBC's Morning Joe on Wednesday that "the reporting on the conversations Trump had with the FBI and the intelligence community is nothing more than poor judgment at this point," and "that as of now, there's really no evidence of Russian collusion."

Most Republicans Questioned By WPost Decline To Say If They Trust Trump's Judgment. The Washington Post (5/24, Sullivan, 11.43M) looks at how Republicans are responding to questions about whether they "trust President Trump's judgment on major decisions?" Sen. Jeff Flake said, "I'm not answering questions like that. That's ah..." The Post says Flake "trailed off as he walked toward an elevator." The "easygoing Arizonan" is a frequent Trump critic, but other Republicans also "weren't eager to address the subject head-on." When asked, "they diverted and demurred," and "some grew visibly uncomfortable." Of the "dozen Republicans from across the ideological spectrum" questioned by the Post, only Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK) "offered an unqualified yes regarding Trump himself."

Kasowitz "A Fiercely Loyal Defender" Of Trump. Bloomberg Politics (5/24, Van Voris, Hurtado, 201K) profiles Marc Kasowitz, President Trump's "go-to lawyer," who will now be defending Trump "in an investigation that could make or break the presidency." Kasowitz is "not a criminal defense lawyer" and is "not attuned to the ways of Washington." But he "is a bare-knuckled litigator [and] a fiercely loyal defender" of the President.

Senate Minority Whip Durbin said on CNN's The Lead (5/24, 320K) that Trump is "finally going lawyer up and take it seriously. ... I don't think he's taken this whole obstruction of justice issue seriously. The conversations he's had with Mr. Comey as well as the leaders in our intelligence agencies about stopping their investigation of Russian interference in our election are truly troubling."

William Cohen: Republicans Must Act On Russia As GOP Did On Watergate. The Washington Post (5/24, Kane, 11.43M) speaks with ex-Defense Secretary William Cohen, then a Republican congressman from Maine, about "the challenge of bucking his own party's president" during the Watergate scandal in 1973. Cohen, who "was a 33-year-old freshman on the House Judiciary Committee" at the time, "says that today's members of Congress must dedicate themselves in similar fashion to the task of learning what happened in the 2016 election – and whether any crimes, or high crimes, were committed."

Woodward: Media "Smug" About Trump. Breitbart (5/24, Key, 2.02M) reports that during an interview with Axios on Wednesday, Bob Woodward "said the press has a 'kind of smugness'" about President Trump. Woodward said, "On television particularly, you will see a White House correspondent deliver a report and then say, 'The Trump White House said…' and then there's a kind of smug smile, which is the correspondent undermining what the White House says. And there may be grounds for that, but it should be reported. It should be straight." Woodward also said of Trump, "Odds are he is probably going to be president for a full term, four years and maybe even more."

FBI Investigation Of Clinton Emails Possibly Influenced By Fake Russian Document. The CBS Evening News (5/24, story 6, 2:10, Pelley, 11.17M) reported, "The FBI investigation of Hillary Clinton's emails may have been influenced by a document that turned out to be a fake, possibly from the Russians." CBS' Julianna Goldman reported, "Sources say the FBI obtained the potentially game-changing document in the spring of 2016. It cited a purported email saying that then Attorney General Loretta Lynch assured Hillary Clinton's campaign that she wouldn't let the investigation into her private

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email server get too far." But the Washington Post now reports "that the document was unreliable, possibly a fake product of Russian intelligence." The Washington Post (5/24, Demirjian, Barrett, 11.43M) reports, "According to the FBI's own assessment, the document was bad intelligence – and according to people familiar with its contents, possibly even a fake sent to confuse the bureau." Americans mentioned in the document "insist they do not know each other, do not speak to each other and never had any conversations remotely like the ones described in the document."

Clinton Special Counsel Offers Advice To "Defuse" Russia Crisis. In the Washington Post (5/24, 11.43M), Jane Sherburne, special counsel to President Clinton in his first term, offers "Seven Steps To Help Trump Defuse The Russia Crisis," including designating a special White House counsel as the scandal manager, installing a process "to ensure consistent and accurate communication about the facts," developing "the capacity to respond to subpoenas and requests for information generated by prosecutors and congressional investigators," taking the initiative on disclosing bad facts, avoiding "stonewalling subpoenas and other requests for information," establishing "a protocol for communicating with the personal counsel of White House officials caught up in the probe," and, "Finally, tell the truth."

Kerry Advises Harvard Graduates To "Learn Russian." The Washington Times (5/24, Chasmar, 272K) reports, "Former Secretary of State John Kerry blasted the Trump administration during a commencement speech Wednesday at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, advising graduates to learn to speak Russian in light of collusion allegations." Kerry said, "I'm often asked what the secret is...to having a real impact on government. ... I used to say, 'Either run for office or get a degree from Harvard Kennedy School.' With this White House, I'd say, 'Buy Rosetta Stone and learn Russian.'"

Tea Party Patriots Co-Founder Seeks Inquiry Into Leaks, Unmasking. The Washington Free Beacon (5/24, Crabtree, 115K) reports that Tea Party Patriots co-founder Jenny Beth Martin has sent a letter to the heads of the House and Senate intelligence committees urging them "to investigate illegal Trump administration leaks and the Obama administration's unmasking of US officials and other citizens during the presidential campaign and transition."

Fox News Reportedly Did Not Pressure Hannity On Seth Rich Story. The CBS Evening News (5/24, story 7, 2:05, Pelley, 11.17M) reported, "Yesterday, the Fox News Channel retracted a story that said a Democratic National Committee staffer may have leaked sensitive emails before he was murdered last year. Well, there's no evidence of this, but...several conservative commentators are still peddling this sensational conspiracy theory." CBS' Chip Reid: "Most of official Washington believes that Russia was behind the hacking of Democratic National Committee emails. But some supporters of President Trump have been pushing an alternate theory that Seth Rich, a DNC employee, stole the emails and gave them to WikiLeaks, and for doing so, became the victim of an unsolved murder. Fox host Sean Hannity, a fervent Trump supporter, has become a driving force behind the story." NBC Nightly News (5/24, story 6, 2:10, Holt, 16.61M) reported, "Fox News has now disavowed its role in spreading those theories, but still they are feeling the fallout. Some companies have began pulling ads" off Hannity's show.

Politico (5/24, Gold, 2.46M) reports that while Fox News retracted its own article on the Rich theory, the network did not pressure Hannity to do the same, according to "a person with direct knowledge of the situation." Hannity "is considered an opinion host at the channel, separate from the news division, and therefore not subject to the same editorial standards, the network has said in the past." Jim Rutenberg of the New York Times (5/24, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) writes that while on Tuesday, Hannity said he had "retracted nothing," something – "like a reminder that he is under lucrative contract – must have changed in the hours that followed because Mr. Hannity said on his prime-time show on Fox that he would not be 'discussing the matter at this time' out of 'respect for the family's wishes.' Astute listeners picked up on two other words in his statement: 'For now.'" The Los Angeles Times (5/24, Shalby, 4.52M) details how Rich's death during "a botched robbery" became fodder for the conspiracy theory.

NYTimes Criticizes Administration For Challenging OGE. The New York Times (5/25, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) editorializes, "It takes a serious commitment to incompetence and deception to spawn as many ethical and legal concerns as the Trump administration has in just four months. The misbehavior by White House officials in the past few days has been impressive even by Trumpian standards." For the first time, a White House is working against the Office of Government Ethics, and the Times asks if the President will "fire another independent official for excess loyalty to the law."

SENATE GOP HEADS OFF FILIBUSTER OF TRUMP JUDICIAL NOMINEE. The Washington Times (5/24, Swoyer, 272K) reports "Senate Republicans cleared the way Wednesday for approval of the first of President Trump's slate of circuit court nominees, heading off Democrats' attempted filibuster of Judge Amul Thapar." The 52-48 "vote to defeat the filibuster sets up a likely final confirmation vote Thursday."

Feinstein Calls On GOP To Preserve "Blue Slip" Tradition. The Washington Times (5/24, Swoyer, 272K) reports Sen. Dianne Feinstein, top Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, "demanded Wednesday that Republicans follow a

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long-standing courtesy that allows senators to block judicial nominees from their states — and which could create an opening for Democrats to block some of...Trump's judicial picks." Feinstein "said Democrats respected the 'blue slip' courtesy during then-President Barack Obama's tenure, even when it sank some of his appeals court nominees." Republicans "have signaled they would respect the process when it came to district court nominees, but said they may not adhere as tightly for circuit court picks."

RYAN: GOP HARD AT WORK TO PASS AGENDA. The Washington Times (5/24, Persons, 272K) reports House Speaker Ryan said yesterday that "Republicans are pushing through a domestic policy agenda despite the appearance of chaos inside Washington." Ryan told an Axios event, "We're working on the problems that effect people in their daily lives, and I think it's very important that people realize that because when they turn on the TV, open up the newspaper — read their phone, they think that everything is just in chaos. ... It really actually isn't. We're determined and focused to get our work done." Ryan added, "I would say come January, if we've taken 14 regulations off the books that were costing jobs, producing uncertainty, we've begun our process of rebuilding our military, we've cut people's taxes and cleaned up the tax system, and we've fixed health care from a collapse, that's pretty good year."

POLL: JUST 24% OF AMERICANS SAY TRUMP MAKING PROGRESS ON VOW TO "DRAIN THE SWAMP." Politico (5/24, Nelson, 2.46M) reported that in a Monmouth University poll of 1,002 US "adults," taken May 13-17, 24% said President Trump "is making progress on his promise to 'drain the swamp' of Washington corruption," 32% said the President "is actually making the 'swamp' worse," and 35% said Trump "has done nothing to change Washington's culture." USA Today (5/24, Estepa, 5.28M) quoted Monmouth's Patrick Murray as saying of the poll results, "If draining the swamp is a measurable campaign promise, it doesn't look like President Trump has been able to keep it."

HOUSE GOP TO DROP DEBIT CARD FEE RULE FROM DODD-FRANK REPEAL. Politico (5/24, Bade, Warmbrodt, 2.46M) reports House GOP leaders plan to remove the so-called Durbin amendment from the Financial CHOICE act because it threatens support for the rest of the bill, according to "multiple senior Republican sources familiar with the matter." Dropping the provision that would have eliminated a cap on debit card fees banks can charge retailers represents "a defeat" for House Financial Services Chairman Jeb Hensarling, who sponsored the bill.

HOUSE APPROVES BILL TO REPEAL EPA PESTICIDE RULE. The AP (5/24, Biesecker) reports the House "voted largely along party lines" yesterday to pass a GOP-backed measure reversing an EPA Clean Water Act requirement that makes those spraying pesticides on or near rivers and lakes file for a permit. The bill's sponsors say the rule is burdensome and duplicative as the agency already regulates pesticides via different legislation. The AP says most Democrats "derided" the bill "as a political favor to the industry."

MEDIA ANALYSES: DEVOS WON'T SAY WHETHER FEDS SHOULD FUND SCHOOLS THAT "DISCRIMINATE." With President Trump's budget proposal including "deep" education cuts but elevated school-choice funds, the Los Angeles Times (5/24, Resmovits, 4.52M) reports Education Secretary DeVos yesterday "declined to say if, when or how the federal government would step in to make sure that private schools receiving public dollars would not discriminate against students." When asked about federal accountability standards applying to private schools by Rep. Mark Pocan, DeVos said they would be up to states' Every Student Succeeds Act plans. The Times counters, "That's not true. ESSA's regulations state that the law's accountability rules do not apply to private schools."

The New York Times (5/24, Green, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) says that without saying "how, specifically," DeVos insisted that the ED's Office for Civil Rights would vigorously investigate any discrimination claims. The Times characterizes DeVos' first testimony to Congress since her "bruising" confirmation hearing as a "fierce" defense of Trump's school choice-minded budget proposal. In an analysis piece, the Los Angeles Times (5/24, Resmovits, 4.52M) highlights "a few moments that stood out." The Times notes that Trump's budget would cut funding to the OCR, adding that it is "unclear" whether the Administration will continue the Obama-era "approach of actively seeking out wrongdoing and naming the colleges under investigation." Other questions the Times has regarding OCR are whether DeVos thinks the racial disparity in school discipline rates is problematic and whether ADHD ought to be classified as a federally protected disability.

According to the Washington Post (5/24, Brown, 11.43M), DeVos "refused to say Wednesday whether she would block private schools that discriminate against LGBT students from receiving federal dollars." After Rep. Barbara Lee said that taking the federal government's responsibility out of defending children against discrimination is "just appalling and sad," DeVos "pushed back," saying, "I am not in any way suggesting that students should not be protected." However, DeVos emphasized, "We have to do something different than continuing a top-down, one-size-fits-all approach." According to the Detroit Free Press (5/24, Higgins, 1.01M), DeVos "kept going back to parents and their right to choose their children's education," underlining that "the bottom line is, we believe the parents are the best equipped to make choices for their children's schooling and education decisions." The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (5/24, Richards, 513K) reports DeVos "demurred" on Pocan's question of whether she'd send her own children to one of Milwaukee's lowest-performing voucher

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schools. The Journal Sentinel says that in their "sprightly exchange" Pocan and DeVos "managed to do something remarkable: Explain the entire history and controversy over school vouchers in Wisconsin in under six minutes."

CARSON: POVERTY "A STATE OF MIND," GOVERNMENT CAN OFFER "LADDER OF OPPORTUNITY." The Washington Post (5/24, Delreal, 11.43M) reports HUD Secretary Carson said during an interview on SiriusXM Radio with Armstrong Williams, "I think poverty to a large extent is also a state of mind." Carson said that "the wrong mindset" can come from negative parenting habits and exposure, adding, "There's also a poverty of spirit." Carson said that while the government can provide a "helping hand" for people seeking to escape poverty, programs "sustaining them in a position of poverty" are "not helpful." He claimed that the government can be "very helpful" to "the majority of people [who] don't have that defeatist attitude" by providing a "ladder of opportunity" to "demonstrate to them what can be done."

Carson Wants Agency Name Changed To "Housing And Community Development." The AP (5/24) reports Carson also said in the interview that he has "a plan for eventually changing [his department's] name from Housing and Urban Development to Housing and Community Development." Carson said the change would better reflect the department's broad mission, which is "creating communities, communities of opportunity, wherever they exist."

MOST FED OFFICIALS SEE MONETARY TIGHTENING "SOON," FAVOR GRADUAL APPROACH. Bloomberg News (5/24, Smialek, Condon, 2.41M) reports minutes released yesterday from the Federal Open Market Committee's May 2-3 meeting said most Federal Reserve officials thought "it would soon be appropriate" to tighten monetary policy once more, and that they supported a plan to gradually shrink the central bank's $4.5 trillion balance sheet. However, the minutes contained the caveat that "it would be prudent" to wait for evidence that a recent slowdown in economic activity had been transitory. The New York Times (5/24, Appelbaum, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) interprets the minutes as signaling that "the decision to raise interest rates in June still hangs in the balance." However, the Times reports, "Fed officials remained optimistic about the economic outlook, and in particular that they expected a rebound in consumer spending." According to the Washington Post (5/24, Swanson, 11.43M), the account shows that Fed officials are "divided on whether to raise rates as early as June, something that markets have generally been anticipating." The Post reports that prior to the minutes' release, traders gave an 83 percent chance that the Fed would raise rates in June, but some questioned the central bank's commitment to the plan due to weaker readings on the economy from government statistical bureaus.

Stocks Extend Gains For Fifth-Straight Day. After news that the Federal Reserve plans to begin reducing its $4.5 trillion bond portfolio yesterday afternoon, the AP (5/24) reports stocks rose for the fifth consecutive day, with the S&P 500 closing at a record high of 2,404.39. Tech companies – such as TurboTax maker Intuit and industrial gas company Praxair – saw some of the largest gains.

GIANFORTE CHARGED WITH MISDEMEANOR ASSAULT AFTER ALLEGEDLY BODY-SLAMMING REPORTER. The AP (5/25, Calvan) reports that Montana Republican congressional candidate Greg Gianforte was charged with misdemeanor assault on the night before the special election after witnesses told police that he grabbed reporter Ben Jacobs of The Guardian "by the neck and slammed him to the ground." Gianforte could face a maximum $500 fine or six months in jail if convicted. A statement by the Gallatin County Sheriff said that Jacobs' injuries "did not meet the legal definition of felony assault."

The Billings (MT) Gazette (5/24, 208K) reports, "This is not the first time Gianforte has displayed a short temper with members of the media or voiced a distrust of journalists." During a 2016 campaign, Gianforte "raised his voice, threw his phone down and repeatedly pounded the table" during a meeting with the editorial board of The Missoulian. The Bozeman (MT) Daily Chronicle (5/24, 52K) reports that Gianforte "must appear in Gallatin County Justice Court between now and June 7."

The Billings (MT) Gazette (5/25, 208K) writes in an editorial, "We're at a loss for words. ... The Billings Gazette editorial board is also doing something without precedent: We're rescinding our editorial endorsement of Greg Gianforte. ... While we clearly made a poor choice in our original endorsement, an even bigger mistake would have been to stand by it, or say nothing even though this editorial appears on Election Day and may open us to criticism of trying to unduly influence the outcome." The Missoulian (MT) (5/25, 114K) also withdraws its endorsement, writing, "We took him at his word that he would set aside his personal beliefs, listen to Montanans and be their voice in the House. ... Gianforte violated that pledge when he attacked a reporter for doing his job."

The Guardian (UK) (5/24, Wong, Levin, 4.07M) reports that Jacobs was asking Gianforte "about the Republican healthcare plan when the candidate allegedly 'body-slammed' the reporter. 'He took me to the ground,' Jacobs said by phone from the back of an ambulance." In a statement, Gianforte campaign spokesman Shane Scanlon said "that [Jacobs] 'entered the office without permission, aggressively shoved a recorder in Greg's face, and began asking badgering questions.'" Scanlon added, "After asking Jacobs to lower the recorder, Jacobs declined. Greg then attempted to grab the phone that was pushed in his face. Jacobs grabbed Greg's wrist, and spun away from Greg, pushing them

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both to the ground."

The Bozeman (MT) Daily Chronicle (5/24, 52K) reports, "According to an audio clip, Jacobs asks Gianforte a question about health care. Gianforte tells Jacobs to speak with his campaign spokesman. Then, a loud crashing is heard, after which Gianforte is heard to say, 'I'm sick and tired of you guys. The last guy that came in here, you did the same thing. Get the hell out of here! ... The last guy did the same thing. You with the Guardian?' 'Yes,' Jacobs replies. 'You just broke my glasses.' 'The last guy did the same damn thing,' Gianforte says. 'You just body slammed me and broke my glasses,' Jacobs says."

Writing on the website of Fox News (5/24, Acuna, 11.07M), Alicia Acuna, who "joined Fox News Channel (FNC) in 1997 and currently serves as a general assignment reporter," wrote that she "joined field producer Faith Mangan and photographer Keith Railey in Bozeman for our scheduled interview with Gianforte." Acuna said all three witnessed the incident. Acuna wrote that "Gianforte grabbed Jacobs by the neck with both hands and slammed him into the ground behind him. Faith, Keith and I watched in disbelief as Gianforte then began punching the man, as he moved on top the reporter and began yelling something to the effect of 'I'm sick and tired of this!'" Acuna added that "at no point did any of us who witnessed this assault see Jacobs show any form of physical aggression toward Gianforte."

The New York Times (5/24, Martin, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that Gianforte "was accused of assaulting" Jacobs "at what was to be a final rally in Bozeman on the eve of the vote. The incident brought police officers to the event and sent the reporter to the hospital for X-rays." The Times adds, "In a telephone interview from a Bozeman hospital where he was getting an X-ray on his elbow, Mr. Jacobs said Mr. Gianforte was the sole aggressor. 'I landed on my elbow on a concrete floor,' he said. ... Before getting off the phone, Mr. Jacobs had a request for a reporter about the altercation: 'Wait till my piece goes up, don't scoop me on this.'"

Politico (5/24, Gold, 2.46M) reported, "Other reporters on the scene confirmed via Twitter that they witnessed some sort of altercation between the two and that police were called to the scene." The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee "called on Gianforte to drop out of the race, 'after his alleged violent assault of an innocent journalist,' spokesman Tyler Law said." The Great Falls (MT) Tribune (5/25, Larson, 85K) reports, "The Guardian in the last month has written stories covering Montana's special election, such as 'GOP candidate has financial ties to US-sanctioned Russian companies.'"

The Washington Times (5/24, McLaughlin, 272K) reports that "Alexis Levinson, a reporter for Buzzfeed, appeared to vouch for Mr. Jacobs' account, saying she waited to Tweet the news because 'I'm not sure I've seen anything like this before.' 'Ben Walked into a room where a local TV crew was set up for an interview with Gianforte,' she said. 'All of a sudden I heard a giant crash and saw Ben's feet fly in the air as he hit the floor.'" The Washington Post (5/24, Weigel, 11.43M) reports, "In Montana, where more than 200,000 of the 700,000 eligible voters have already cast early absentee ballots, it was unclear how Gianforte's blow-up would affect the race. Jacobs, who had been covering the race for weeks, spent Wednesday evening telling and re-telling the story from a hospital, for media outlets and for the police."

The Los Angeles Times (5/24, Pearce, 4.52M) reports that Gianforte "has a reputation in Montana political circles for being prickly, and has been known to be especially testy with reporters. In one widely circulated radio interview on Montana Public Radio he repeatedly sparred verbally with the reporter. While the bizarre development quickly dominated the news, in Montana and around the country, its political impact remained to be seen."

Under the headline "GOP Candidate's Attack On Reporter Shows Peril Of Asking Questions In Trump's America," the Huffington Post (5/24, Calderone, 237K) reported that Wednesday's incident "was hardly an isolated occurrence. In the past three weeks, political reporters have described being arrested, pinned against a wall, slapped, and now body slammed – all this in a nation where freedom of the press is enshrined in the Constitution." HuffPost added, "A Gianforte win on Thursday would potentially signal that both assaulting a member of the press and disputing a recording and credible eyewitnesses is palatable with voters (with the caveat that nearly two-thirds of Montanans have already cast ballots). But similar behavior was displayed by...Trump during his campaign, and a large swath of the public seemed not to mind. Some people even cheered him."

In an online analysis for CNN (5/24, Cillizza, 29.79M), Chris Cillizza called the incident "an incredibly odd and potentially damaging last-minute swerve in a race that has, of late, attracted considerable national attention and money." Cillizza added that "because so many of the details are unclear at the moment, it's not at all certain how the story even turns out over the next 24 hours. But I will say that the audio released by the Guardian seems damning for Gianforte. And it doesn't jibe, at all, with the statement released by the campaign."

In a blog post on the website of the Washington Post (5/24, Bump, 11.43M), Phillip Bump said, "In any context, the apparent assault would be a stunning development. But happening so close to the election, it turns an already weird

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contest into one of the most unusual moments in modern American political history." Bump added, "If Gianforte pulls out the victory, there will almost certainly be a number of other questions that await him before he heads to Washington to take his new position."

The Washington Examiner (5/24, Mayfield, 400K) reports, "Local police are investigating the incident, but already among the throng of Democrats piling on Gianforte are the" DCCC, ex-DNC chief Donna Brazile, Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT), and Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA) – all of whom "made bid for Gianforte to drop out the special election."

Democrat Rob Quist briefly commented in a video posted to Twitter by Dave Weigel of the Washington Post.

Media Analyses: Trump Looms Over Today's Zinke Special. In an online report headline "Trump Casts Shadow Over Tightening Montana Special Election," NPR (5/24, Gonyea, Taylor, 1.92M) said, "In the closely-watched" contest, "Trump is the shadow hanging over the race that neither candidate can fully escape – even though they're trying." For Republicans, the race "has become uncomfortably close in a state the president carried by 20 points. And while both" candidates "hew closely to local and state issues on the campaign trail – like public lands, gun rights and agricultural concerns – the charged national environment and the Republican health care bill, in particular, are playing critical roles in motivating their differing bases in the closing days."

McClatchy (5/24, Glueck, Roarty, 74K) reports that the contest "offers an early and important test for the Democratic Party: Can it win over districts and states that loved...Trump just last year? Republicans watching" the race "are nervous the answer is already a resounding 'yes.'" McClatchy adds that the contest "has become yet another referendum on" Trump "and his low approval numbers. Both parties consider it highly competitive, with the folk-singer Quist making a late charge that has Republicans worried that, at minimum, he's made the race too close for comfort." The Wall Street Journal (5/24, Hook, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports that Republicans are worried about polls showing the contest to be tighter than anticipated. The Journal says a poll out late last month by Democratic Garin-Hart-Yang Research Group – a Democrat-aligned organization – shows Gianforte leading 49%-43%.

Politico (5/24, Schneider, Debenedetti, 2.46M) reported that "Gianforte's closing motivational speech to voters ahead of" today's vote "is the same thing GOP strategists are whispering in private: 'This race is closer than it should be.' It's a recurring nightmare of a pattern for Republicans around the country, as traditional GOP strongholds prove more difficult and expensive for the party to hold than it ever anticipated when...Trump plucked House members like...Zinke...for his Cabinet. Gianforte is still favored to keep the seat red, but a state Trump carried by 20 percentage points last year became a battleground in the past few months."

The New York Daily News (5/24, Joseph, 4.45M) reports that "some Republicans are quietly nervous that the race" is "too close for comfort ahead of Thursday's vote in a contest that has taken on national overtones. The anti-Trump resistance is fueling the campaign of" the "flawed...Quist, helping him raise a whopping $5 million." The Daily News adds, "Strategists in both parties say Trump's dismal national standing isn't the driving factor in the race – he remains fairly popular in the state – and argue Montana's quirky nature and the major flaws of both candidates have shaped the contest. But a surprisingly close race won't ease Republicans' growing nerves about the 2018 midterms – and if Democrats pull off a huge upset that could set off alarm bells in the GOP."

AFP (5/24) reports, "The lead once enjoyed by...Gianforte 'has diminished in polling so much that it's minuscule,' Jeremy Johnson, an associate professor of political science at Carroll College in the state capital Helena, told AFP. 'It's close to a toss-up.' It is the latest example of a congressional race in a traditional Republican stronghold that is far closer than expected, and will be key to determining whether rural voters, who helped send Trump to the White House, are sticking with him."

On its website, TIME (5/24, Beckwith, 6.98M) reported that Quist "has spent the closing days of the campaign talking about how the Republican bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act would affect voters, running ads that talk about protecting people with pre-existing conditions and discussing financial problems he faced after gall-bladder surgery." The Democrat-aligned House Majority PAC "chipped in more than $150,000 for last-minute ads that also centered on the Republican health care proposal." While "grassroots Democrats around the country remain upset by...Trump's actions, the health care bill is an easier target in Montana, a deeply red state."

Roll Call (5/24, Pathé, 63K) reported, "While Donald Trump Jr. and Vice President Mike Pence have campaigned for Gianforte, the race has been less about Trump, given that he won the state easily. Instead, Quist has kept up the pressure on health care, using it to try to reinforce the image of Gianforte as a self-serving rich guy."

Trump Records Robocall On Behalf Of Gianforte. On its website, CNN (5/24, Diaz, 29.79M) reported that Trump has recorded a "robocall" in support of Gianforte. In the message, Trump says, "I know what the people of Montana really

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want and really care about," adding, "If you don't vote tomorrow, the liberal Democrats running for Congress will decimate and dismantle all that we've done. ... So get to the polls and vote for Greg. That's Greg Gianforte, you'll be very proud of him for years to come." CNN added that the RNC "paid for the ad and is using live callers to comply with state law."

The Hill (5/24, Savransky, 1.25M) further quoted Trump as saying in the call, "We can't afford another Nancy Pelosi and the liberal Democrats and taking over Congress and really hurting our country." The Hill added that Vice President Pence "also recorded a robocall that went out Tuesday in support of Gianforte."

National Archives Finds No Records Indicating Quist Registered For Selective Service. The Washington Free Beacon (5/24, Scher, 115K) reported, "The National Archives 'conducted an extensive search' and was unable to locate any record of...Quist registering with the Selective Service System, the United States government's list of individuals eligible for conscription to the military. Quist, born on January 5, 1948, would have been required by law to register with the Selective Service System after his 18th birthday in 1966. The National Archives and Records Administration, which has the sole responsibility for maintaining records for men born before 1960, has no record that Quist ever registered."

GOP-ALIGNED SUPER PAC HIRING 45 MORE STAFF FOR GOTV EFFORT IN PRICE SPECIAL. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (5/24, Bluestein, 1.41M) reports that the special election to succeed now-HHS Secretary Tom Price "is already the most expensive US House contest in history. Now outside groups are pledging even more help" in the June 20 runoff between ex-Georgia Secretary of State Karen Handel (R) and ex-congressional aide Jon Ossoff (D). The Congressional Leadership Fund, a super PAC allied with House GOP leadership, on Wednesday announced that "it will hire another 45 door-knockers to reach an additional 100,000 households. The group also stuck to its latest theme – linking Ossoff to San Francisco – with a new radio spot." A day earlier, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee "said it will pour in another $2 million to back Ossoff."

The Washington Times (5/24, McLaughlin, 272K) reports that in the new CLF radio ad, a woman says, "Dear, dear Georgia. On behalf of San Francisco, I just want to say, thank you." She adds, "We can't tell you how much we appreciate the opportunity to have your seat in Congress – Jon Ossoff and [House Minority Leader] Nancy Pelosi will be such a great team. I just knew you Southerners would come around to our San Francisco values eventually."

"Nonpartisan Group" Offering GA6 Voters Free Transportation To The Polls. Under the headline "Nonpartisan Group Offering Free Rides To Polls," the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (5/24, Torres, 1.41M) reports that GA6 voters "who need a ride to the polls can get one for free thanks to a super PAC raising thousands of dollars to make sure locals get a chance to vote. The push from My Ride to Vote to get 6th District voters to the polls for free is coming after a similar national effort last year for the presidential election." The organization "is also working with several voter advocacy groups to get the word out to voters about the service, including Voto Latino, the New Georgia Project and the left-leaning Georgia Engaged, which is a coalition of progressive organizations in the state." Said Ben Leiner, My Ride to Vote's executive director, "We've partnered with progressive organizations in the district simply because they are in contact with the voters who most need rides."

Will: Ossoff Win Would Boost Democrats' Hopes Of Retaking House In 2018. In his Washington Post (5/24, Will, 11.43M) column, George Will writes of the GA6 contest, "Democrats' shoulders should slump if they cannot win at this propitious moment and in this congenial place. Republicans are tethered to the serial pratfalls of a president who preens as Zarathustra but emulates Buster Keaton." Will adds that if Ossoff is victorious, "Democrats probably will benefit in fundraising and candidate recruitment, giving them high hopes for big gains in 2018."

POLITICO: DEMOCRATS DIVIDED ON WHETHER TO FOCUS ON HEALTHCARE OR RUSSIA IN 2018. Politico (5/24, Robillard, Schor, 2.46M) reported that Democrats are in the midst of "a debate over where they should focus their efforts to win back political power: health care or Russia." Democratic "campaign committees and many of Democrats' leading super PACs have spent virtually all their energy this year on shaming Republicans for their push to repeal Obamacare." However, "American Bridge – the party's outside-group research arm...is among those convinced the investigation into possible collusion between President Donald Trump's campaign and Russian officials is one Democrats would be foolish to downplay or wait to take advantage of." Politico added, "Strategists on both sides of the Democratic divide downplay the extent of the split."

INSIDE ELECTIONS UPGRADES DEMOCRATS' CHANCES IN 19 HOUSE RACES. Writing for Roll Call (5/24, Gonzales, 63K), Nathan Gonzales on Inside Elections said, "The president's party has lost House seats in 18 of the last 20 midterm elections, and it's lost an average of 33 seats in those 18 elections." Meanwhile, President Trump's "job approval rating is slumping at 40 percent, according to the latest RealClearPolitics average," which is bad "news for GOP candidates, considering that midterms are often a referendum on the president's performance." Consequently, Gonzales added, "We've changed our ratings in 19 races, including adding nine GOP-held seats to the list of competitive races. ... Republicans are now defending 39 seats on the list of competitive races compared to just 14 currently held by

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Democrats."

CRUZ: FRANKEN TRYING TO SELL BOOKS TO LIBERALS BY "BEING OBNOXIOUS AND INSULTING TO ME." Politico (5/24, Everett, 2.46M) reported that Sen. Ted Cruz is calling Sen. Al Franken "'obnoxious and insulting' for devoting an entire chapter to the Texas GOP senator in Franken's new book titled 'Giant of the Senate.' Franken, who told USA Today that he hates Cruz in an interview promoting the book, has deemed Cruz 'singularly dishonest and smarmy.'" Speaking with Politico, Cruz said, "Al is trying to sell books and apparently he's decided that being obnoxious and insulting me is good for causing liberals to buy his books. I wish him all the best."

Franken Says He Won't Run For President In 2020. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (5/24, Rao, 1.27M) reports that "Franken is definitely not running for president in 2020. 'I got way, way, way too much to do right now to even think about that, other than to say, 'No, I'm not going to do that,'' Franken told People Magazine in a story published Wednesday."

CONGRESSIONAL DEMOCRATIC LEADERS JOINING SANDERS TO UNVEIL $15 MINIMUM WAGE PROPOSAL. Politico (5/24, Schor, 2.46M) reported, "Congressional Democratic leaders will unveil a proposal to hike the minimum wage to $15 an hour on Thursday alongside Sen. Bernie Sanders, who made the issue a centerpiece of his 2016 presidential campaign. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), and other senior Democrats will join Sanders and Rep. Keith Ellison (D-Minn.), vice chair of the Democratic National Committee, in releasing the legislation."

BIDEN URGES HARVARD GRADUATES TO TAKE UP "DIRTY BUSINESS OF POLITICS." The AP (5/24, Binkley) reports that former Vice President Joe Biden on Wednesday "told Harvard University's seniors that it's their turn to take up the 'dirty business of politics' and tackle the world's problems. In a speech at Harvard's Class Day," Biden "told hundreds of students that they're graduating at a time of great change and anxiety, and that their prestigious degrees come with an obligation to become politically engaged in the nation's affairs." Biden also "appeared to offer veiled criticism of President Donald Trump," warning "that politicians who 'play on fears and appeal to baser instincts' can still achieve power, and he criticized those who blame Muslims and minorities for their problems."

SINCE TRUMP'S ELECTION, PRESS FREEDOM GROUP HAS SEEN A SPIKE IN DONATIONS. The New York Post (5/24, Keil, 3.82M) reports, "Before Donald Trump was elected president, the Reporters Committee for the Freedom of the Press would get about two donations a week. Since Trump's election, that's up to 250 donations a week – including a $50,000 donation from Oscar winning actress Meryl Streep, and a $1 million donation from Washington Post owner and Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos." The Post adds, "While the Obama administration was no friend of journalists – in 2013, Obama's Justice Department secretly obtained the phone records of Associated Press journalists – this month, a veteran journalist, Daniel Ralph Heyman, was arrested for asking a Trump cabinet member, US Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price, a question. And Trump has suggested that journalists should be jailed, like they are in non-democratic dictatorships."

AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION POLL: 51% OF AMERICANS ANXIOUS OVER POLITICS. Writing for the Washington Times (5/24, Harper, 272K), Jennifer Harper says that during last year's race for the White House, "there was much talk in the press about 'pre-election stress disorder,' 'post-election stress disorder,' 'collective stress,' 'election anxiety,' 'Trump trauma' and other conditions found among Americans who were dithering over the election itself, and the unexpected victory of President Trump." Now, the American Psychiatric Association "has polled the nation on the subject of toxic politics." In its report on the poll of 1,000 US "adults," taken April 24-27, the APA said, "Americans are split on whether they are anxious about the impact of politics on their lives (51 percent are, 49 percent are not)," adding, "However, relatively few, 16 percent, say they are extremely anxious and that number is fairly consistent among all age groups, income levels, and among Caucasians, blacks and Hispanics."

ADDRESSING HARVARD GRADUATES, YATES DISCUSSES HER DECISION TO DEFY TRUMP. The New York Times (5/24, Hartocollis, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports, "In a fierce, sometimes personal speech," former acting US Attorney General Sally Yates, who was "fired by President Trump for refusing to defend his travel ban, told the graduating class at Harvard Law School on Wednesday that her decision was a surprising but crucial moment when 'law and conscience intersected.'" The Times adds, "The Justice Department normally defends presidential action by default, and the department's Office of Legal Counsel declared the ban legal. But Ms. Yates said that narrow analysis did not consider the president's own words, which described the ban explicitly in terms of religion. She told Congress this month that she saw no honest argument to make in defense of the ban."

NEW YORK DEMOCRATS: SPECIAL ELECTION WIN IN LOCAL RACE BODES WELL FOR PARTY IN 2018. The New York Times (5/24, Foderaro, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports, "There were two special legislative elections in New York on Tuesday, both won by Democrats," including one contest that was "an utter surprise – especially given the convincing margin of victory by the Democrat, Christine Pellegrino" – who "defeated her Republican opponent, Tom

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Gargiulo, in the Ninth Assembly District on Long Island, 58 percent to 42 percent, even though the district is heavily Republican and President Trump won it with 60 percent of the vote." The Times says that New York Democrats see the outcome as boding well for the party in next year's elections.

POLITICO MAG ANALYSIS: DEMOCRATS MUST ABANDON "BIG TENT" MENTALITY ON GUN CONTROL. According to Politico Magazine (5/24, Scher), "the 'big tent' mentality among progressives today only seems to apply to guns." Recent examples of left-wing activists accepting Democratic candidates who don't favor gun control include Montana House candidate Rob Quist, Kansas House candidate James Thompson, and Georgia House candidate Jon Ossoff, but Politico Mag says this is not a new phenomenon for the issue. Former President Obama even held off on pursuing gun control laws in his first term or stumping on the issue in 2012, but after the 2012 Sandy Hook massacre, Politico Mag says that "looking away became untenable." Politico Mag says that "Democratic operatives eager to expand the political map, and economic populists hungry to build a broad coalition, are tempted to jettison gun control all over again," but after another public mass shooting, the party "won't be able to sweep the gun issue under the rug."

VERMONT GOVERNOR VETOES MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION. The Washington Times (5/24, Blake, 272K) reports Vermont Gov. Phil Scott vetoed a bill yesterday that would have legalized recreational marijuana, saying that it lacked sufficient safety measures. Vermont Public Radio's Peter Hirschfeld said on Twitter that the governor could reverse course and legalize the drug if the state Legislature makes certain changes by June 21. National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws Political Director Justin Strekal said he found the veto "disappointing," as it shows Scott's willingness to "defy the will" of lawmakers and Vermont voters. Meanwhile, anti-marijuana group Smart Approaches to Marijuana praised Scott's decision and promised to fight further legalization legislation.

Study: Marijuana Ingredient Could Help Reduce Seizure Frequency. NBC Nightly News (5/24, story 7, 2:00, Holt, 16.61M) reported that in a "potential game-changer concerning medical marijuana and children," a study out yesterday found the drug "could have a dramatic effect on children suffering from seizures." NBC's Dahlgren reported that a study of marijuana derivative cannabidiol – which doesn't contain marijuana's psychedelic ingredient, THC – found that participants taking CBD "saw an almost 40 percent drop in seizure frequency. Three patients stopped seizures completely." Dahlgren continued, "While doctors call it ground breaking with the potential of dozens of other applications, they say it is still hard to research because marijuana in any form is considered a schedule one drug by the DEA."

EDITOR OF OBSERVER LEAVING FOR CLINTON-LINKED PR SHOP. The New York Times (5/24, Grynbaum, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports Ken Kurson, "a close friend of" Jared Kushner and editor of the Observer, owned by Kushner, is leaving to take a post as "senior managing director at Teneo Strategies." The move is "rich with political intrigue" as Teneo is "a public-relations and corporate communications firm founded by former aides to President Bill Clinton" that has recently "expanded to include allies of their political adversaries" such as Jason Miller, "a top communications aide to President Trump's campaign." Kurson has been at the Observer since 2013.

PUZDER: UNDER TRUMP, ECONOMY BEGINNING TO GAIN MOMENTUM. In a Wall Street Journal (5/24, Puzder, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) op-ed, former CKE Restaurants CEO Andrew Puzder, who in February withdrew as President Trump's Labor secretary nominee, says that under Trump, the US economy has shown strong improvement and more people are now employed. Puzder credits Trump's use of executive orders and the President's rolling back of regulations for the economic gains, but says that for the economy to continue to build momentum, Senate Republicans need to pass tax and healthcare reforms.

WPOST PRAISES SUPREME COURT'S VOIDING OF NORTH CAROLINA CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS. The Washington Post (5/24, 11.43M) in an editorial on the Supreme Court's ruling striking down North Carolina's 2010 congressional redistricting, approves the court's ruling, because it limits the legislatures' "shuffling minority voters in or out of political boundaries," and because it offered "those challenging district maps...several ways of substantiating their claims." The Post says that North Carolina is now "the poster child for voter-suppression laws and absurd gerrymandering."

WSJOURNAL BACKS LABOR SECRETARY'S DECISION ON FIDUCIARY RULE. The Wall Street Journal (5/24, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) in an editorial approves the recent decision by Labor Secretary Acosta to allow the fiduciary rule approved under the Obama Administration to take effect on June 9, while the department holds a public review. It supports Acosta's finding that the Administrative Procedure Act sets forth procedures to be followed and that he is acting as it requires.

NYTIMES SAYS MISSISSIPPI SHOULD REMOVE CONFEDERATE EMBLEM FROM STATE FLAG. The New York Times (5/25, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) says in an editorial that the "bloody sacrifice to white supremacy" of lynchings and other violence against blacks in Mississippi "sprang immediately to mind over the weekend" when state Rep. Karl Oliver "railed in a Facebook post that elected officials in New Orleans deserved to be 'lynched' for arranging to

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have four Confederate memorials removed from the city." While he "finally apologized" Monday, "citizens and elected officials were still appalled that such a comment would come from a lawmaker in Mississippi – the epicenter of racial terror during the lynching period." The Times says Mississippi should "finally dispatch the Confederate emblem from the state flag."

WPOST CRITICIZES JUDGE'S RULING ON PURPLE LINE. The Washington Post (5/24, 11.43M) in an editorial on the Purple Line light-rail project faults US District Judge Richard J. Leon's recent ruling as "specious" for saying that "federal and state transit officials" failed to take the effort to, as the Post writes, "divine Metro's ridership levels a decade or two from now." The Post says Judge Leon "swallowed spurious arguments" from the line's detractors, and in so doing "has ensured a delay, meaning spiraling costs, and further jeopardized nearly $1 billion in federal funding," regarded as essential to the project.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"The White House's Aversion To Ethical Scrutiny."*** The New York Times (5/25, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) editorializes, "It takes a serious commitment to incompetence and deception to spawn as many ethical and legal concerns as the Trump administration has in just four months. The misbehavior by White House officials in the past few days has been impressive even by Trumpian standards." For the first time, a White House is working against the Office of Government Ethics, and the Times asks if the President will "fire another independent official for excess loyalty to the law."

"Will President Trump Help Save Yemen?" The New York Times (5/25, Board, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) editorializes, "President Trump could have used his trip to Saudi Arabia this week to spotlight the humanitarian catastrophe in Yemen and push for a political solution to the conflict." He instead "basked in the adulation of King Salman and his court, uncritically embraced the country's foreign and domestic policies, and then sold the Saudis $110 billion in arms." The Times says that Trump's "failure to apply pressure, combined with the giant arms sale, is raising fears that he may give the Saudis a green light to escalate the fighting, as well as find other ways to beef up America's own support for Riyadh."

"As Statues Fall, The Specter Of The Noose Rises." The New York Times (5/25, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) says in an editorial that the "bloody sacrifice to white supremacy" of lynchings and other violence against blacks in Mississippi "sprang immediately to mind over the weekend" when state Rep. Karl Oliver "railed in a Facebook post that elected officials in New Orleans deserved to be 'lynched' for arranging to have four Confederate memorials removed from the city." While he "finally apologized" Monday, "citizens and elected officials were still appalled that such a comment would come from a lawmaker in Mississippi – the epicenter of racial terror during the lynching period." The Times says Mississippi should "finally dispatch the Confederate emblem from the state flag."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"The CBO Report Proves The GOP Healthcare Bill Is No Rescue Plan."*** A Washington Post (5/24, 11.43M) says Republicans sold their healthcare bill "with a number of untruths, chief among them that Obamacare is collapsing and the GOP effort is nothing short of a rescue plan," and the CBO "found Wednesday that the Republicans' bill is no such thing."

"The Supreme Court Issues A Welcome Ruling For Voting Rights." The Washington Post (5/24, 11.43M) in an editorial on the Supreme Court's ruling striking down North Carolina's 2010 congressional redistricting, approves of the court's ruling, because it limits the legislatures' "shuffling minority voters in or out of political boundaries," and because it offered "those challenging district maps...several ways of substantiating their claims." The Post says that North Carolina is now "the poster child for voter-suppression laws and absurd gerrymandering."

"This Purple Line Ruling Would Be Laughable – If The Consequences Weren't So Dire." The Washington Post (5/24, 11.43M) in an editorial on the Purple Line light-rail project faults US District Judge Richard J. Leon's recent ruling as "specious" for saying that "federal and state transit officials" failed to take the effort to, as the Post writes, "divine Metro's ridership levels a decade or two from now." The Post says Judge Leon "swallowed spurious arguments" from the line's detractors, and in so doing "has ensured a delay, meaning spiraling costs, and further jeopardized nearly $1 billion in federal funding," regarded as essential to the project.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. ***"How To Read An ObamaCare Prediction."*** A Wall Street Journal (5/24, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) editorial downplays as speculation the CBO report showing that under the House- passed healthcare plan, insurance premiums more than doubled on average since 2013, says an HHS report highlighted by President Trump in a tweet Wednesday morning, and the decision by Blue CrossBlue Shield of Kansas City to withdraw its ObamaCare plans for 2018 in Kansas and Missouri are more significant.

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"Acosta's Fiduciary Duty." The Wall Street Journal (5/24, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) in an editorial approves the recent decision by Labor Secretary Acosta to allow the fiduciary rule approved under the Obama Administration to take effect on June 9, while the department holds a public review. It supports Acosta's finding that the Administrative Procedure Act sets forth procedures to be followed and that he is acting as it requires.

"North Korea's Missile Advances." A Wall Street Journal (5/24, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) editorial warns that advances in North Korea's missile program are increasingly putting the US mainland at risk. The Journal warns that if the US and its allies fail to stop North Korea, it may soon have a nuclear weapon.

The Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:
GOP Bill Has 23 Million Uninsured, Fewer Than Earlier Plan, But Won't Cut Deficit As Much, CBO Says
UK Police Probe 'Network,' Libyan Militia Cites Islamic State Role
J.Crew's Mickey Drexler Confesses: I Underestimated How Tech Would Upend Retail
US Charges Four With Trading Insider Tips

New York Times:
Top Russian Officials Discussed How To Influence Trump Aides Last Summer
Hunt For Manchester Bombing Accomplices Extends To Libya
Fighting Trump On Climate, California Becomes A Global Force
When Colleges Dangle Money To Lure Students Who Ignored Them
GOP Health Bill Would Leave 23 Million More Uninsured In A Decade, CBO Says
China's Addiction To Debt Now Threatens Its Growth
Graphic: Found At The Scene In Manchester: Shrapnel, A Backpack And A Battery
Manchester Bombing Victims Include At Least 7 Parents
European Leaders Hope To Win Trump's Favor

Washington Post:
Manchester Bomb Probe Expands To 2nd Continent Manchester Bomb Probe Expands To 2 Continents
Health Bill's New Score: 23 Million More Uninsured
Pregnant Teen Exiled To Sidelines For Graduation
Dubious Finding Shaped FBI Path In Clinton Case
Seeking Refuge, Somalis Find Death

Financial Times:
EU Leaders Seek To Charm Trump Over Climate Deal
Police Believe Manchester Bomber Part Of 'Network'
IBM Fights To Keep Up With Rivals In The Cloud
Fed Close To Pulling The Trigger On June Rate Rise

Washington Times:
Manchester Bomber Recently Visited Libya, A Terrorist Hotbed For Jihadi Training
Republican Health Care Plan Would Slash Premiums But Leave 23 Million Americans Uninsured
Media Leak Of Manchester Bomber's ID Further Undermines American Credibility Around World
Virginia Governor Pardons Illegal Immigrant Liliana Mendez In Hopes Of Thwarting Deportation
Planned Parenthood Closes Clinics But Continues To Collect $500 Million A Year In Taxpayer Funding
G-7 Leaders Prepare To Go Face To Face With Trump Over Paris Climate Accord

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Manchester Bombing; Manchester Bombing-Suspect; Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Russia Meddling Investigation; Healthcare Reform Cost; Trump-Foreign Visit; TSA Screening Changes; Fitness Expert-Wanted; New York-Worker Buried; Sleep-Heart Disease; Lottery Winner; Disabled Student College Graduation.
CBS: Manchester Bombing-Suspect; Manchester Bombing-Security; Manchester Bombing-Witnesses; TSA Screening Changes; Healthcare Reform Cost; Clinton Email Investigation; Fox News Conspiracy Theory; Severe Weather; Mt Everest Climbing Deaths; Trump-Foreign Visit; Manchester Bombing-Victim.
NBC: Manchester Bombing-Suspect; Manchester Bombing-Victims; TSA Screening Changes; Healthcare Reform Cost; Trump-Foreign Visit; Fox News Conspiracy Theory; Marijuana-Seizures; California Coastline Landslide; High School Yearbook; Disabled Student College Graduation.

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Network TV At A Glance:
Manchester Bombing – 17 minutes, 45 seconds
Trump-Foreign Visit – 6 minutes
TSA Screening Changes – 4 minutes, 45 seconds
Healthcare Reform Cost – 4 minutes, 20 seconds
Fox News Conspiracy Theory – 4 minutes, 15 seconds
Weather – 2 minutes, 15 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Healthcare Reform Cost; Manchester Bombing; California-Prison Fight; Heart Pump Recall; Wall Street News.
CBS: Healthcare Reform Cost; Manchester Bombing; Montana-House Special Election; Facebook-Media Investment; Wall Street News.
FOX: Manchester Bombing; Healthcare Reform Cost; Congressman Bodyslams Reporter.
NPR: Healthcare Reform Cost; Manchester Bombing; California-Prison Fight.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Trump felt very at home at the Vatican. He said it reminded him of one of the bathrooms at his house."

Jimmy Kimmel: "The Pope made it clear he would like our President to join him in promoting peace, giving aid to the poor, and protecting our environment. The Pope is very persuasive. Unfortunately, Trump is only in year 70 of his 100-year deal with the devil right now. And he's got a no-trade clause."

Jimmy Kimmel: "So after their meeting, Trump said he would never forget what the Pope told him. Then he immediately forgot what the Pope told him."

Stephen Colbert: "President Trump is still on his semester abroad, getting his extra credits. And he might want to stay over there for a while until firemen can put out his budget proposal. Because not only does nobody like it, but it turns out it has a huge mistake in it. Not the part about cutting funding for cancer research. That's one of his passion projects. It turns out that the entire budget is based on a $2 trillion math error. Yes, that's trillion, with a 't.' Now, there's a simple explanation for how this happened: Donald Trump is an idiot."

Stephen Colbert: "Here's a basic math lesson for Donald Trump. If a train leaves Washington, DC, traveling at 40 miles an hour, please get on it."

Stephen Colbert: "Trump visited the Vatican. That's exciting. It's one of the few places on Earth with more old men than his cabinet."

Stephen Colbert: "When asked for his impression of the Pope, Trump said, 'He is something.' That is true. Hard to argue with that. The Pope is, indeed, something. As Jesus himself said, 'Blessed are the vague for they shall inherit, you know, stuff.'"

James Corden: "[President Trump] met with the Pope today in Rome. It was a good meeting, but it got awkward when the Pope asked Trump if he wanted to confess, and Trump was like, 'I don't know anything about Russia.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Trump met with the Pope. It got weird when Trump was like, 'Jesus only had 12 followers? Sad! His tweets must have been terrible.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "In that photo, Trump looks like a guy who just flew on Air Force One, and the Pope looks like a guy who just flew United."

Seth Meyers: "Pope Francis met with President Trump today at the Vatican. 'Bless you my child,' said the Pope to the driver that took Trump away."

Conan O'Brien: "President Trump was at the Vatican meeting with Pope Francis. The world leader who believes himself God on Earth said he's a big fan of the Pope."

Conan O'Brien: "During her visit to the Vatican this morning, Melania Trump wore a black dress and black veil. According to experts, that means she and Donald Trump had sex last night."

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Conan O'Brien: "Big news from Washington: According to the Senate, President Trump's budget is dead on arrival. That's what they said. In other words, Trump's budget is covered by Trump's healthcare plan."

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